Because the First 5 Years Impact a Lifetime

VCSBA
March 4, 2019
90% of a child’s brain development happens before age 5.

Source: Harvard Center for the Developing Child
About First 5 Ventura County

Proposition 10 passed by voters in 1998!

• 50 cent tax on tobacco products
• Comprehensive system of care: prenatal to age 5
• Innovative programs
First 20 Years

$195 Million invested in Ventura County’s Children
Ventura County Kids

16% of kids live in poverty

75% of families need licensed child care but it is unavailable

9% of kids 1–2 are reported for abuse or neglect

37% of kids 3–5 are not enrolled in preschool or kindergarten

60% of third graders do not read at grade level
By the age of 3, high-income children have double the vocabulary of low-income children.
Kids Who Start Behind, Stay Behind

Of 50 children who have trouble reading in first grade, 44 will still have trouble in fourth grade.

Source: Partnership for America’s Economic Success
First 5 Ventura County Investments

11 Neighborhoods for Learning (NfLs) and 25 family resource centers in underserved neighborhoods ($7 M)
  • Parent and Child Together classes
  • Family Support Services and Parent Education

Additional Countywide Services ($4 M)
  • Oral Health Prevention and Treatment
  • Developmental Screenings
  • Triple P Positive Parenting
  • Services for Mixteco Families
  • 2-1-1
  • High Quality Preschool
Direct Services to Systems Change

INVESTMENTS BY YEAR

$11 Million
FY 2017 - 2019
Laying the Foundation for Change

$6.5 Million
FY 2019 - 2021
New Strategies

$5.3 Million
FY 2021 - 2026
Focus on Capacity Building and System Change
  • Example: Preschool and Developmental Screening
  • Advocacy

Maintain NfL locations countywide
  • Parent and Child Together (PACT) Classes for 0-3 year olds
  • Family Support
  • New implementation partner – Interface Children & Family Services

All Income Levels: sliding family fees for those that can afford it
Public Support & Investments

- Governor Newsom’s Proposed Budget Includes a “Cradle to Career” Strategy
  - $1.8 billion early childhood
  - Key appointments

- Universal Preschool
  - All low-income 4 year olds
  - Full-day, full-year
  - Address workforce and capacity barriers

- Developmental and Health Screenings

- Home Visiting
How Can YOU Help?

- Facilities!
- Identify early childhood education in LCAP
- Advocacy
- Take 5 and Read!
Stay Informed!

• Email assistant@first5ventura.org to join our email list

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Thank You!

www.first5ventura.org
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