



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First 5 Yolo Special Project Funds to Help Often Forgotten Kids

Commission says yes to nine new programs and partnerships across count.

(Woodland, CA) First 5 Yolo has approved the funding of nine new programs benefiting young children and their families, including a pilot project for teen parents inside the Yolo County Juvenile Detention Center. As a condition of probation, young mothers and fathers involved in this innovative series of parenting skills courses will continue working with mentors as a requirement of probation following release from the facility. According to First 5 Yolo Executive Director Julie Gallelo, this new partnership with the Yolo County Probation Department targets a high-need, high-risk audience with curriculum and services tailored to both underage parents and their children.

Two additional programs aimed at increasing the available pool of Yolo County foster parents also got the green light. Partnering with Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services, First 5 Yolo will help provide childcare subsidies for qualified adults willing to foster children ages 0 through 5. A new collaboration with the Foster and Kinship Care Education Program will support new foster parents with a Placement Package for each child, including basics such as furniture, diapers and clothes for infants and toddlers.

“We are looking to do everything we can to lower the number of foster youth who are transferred outside of our county for care,” explains Helen Thomson, Yolo County Supervisor and First Five Yolo Commission Chair. “We believe these two new programs will encourage caring adults to participate in foster parenting. There is a critical need for more quality foster homes across the county because people lack the resources to help, not because they lack the heart.”

Special Projects of First 5 Yolo grants one-time funding to ground-breaking programs designed to become self-sustaining. At its June 13th, 2007 meeting, the Commission approved just under \$270,000 to back the start of nine programs during the next fiscal year, which begins July 1. Programs will be monitored and evaluated as well as provided with necessary assistance from First 5 Yolo.

In addition to the two foster home support programs and the teen-parenting classes for incarcerated juveniles, First 5 Yolo Commissioners approved Special Project funds for Winters Friends of the Library Family Reading Program, the RISE Special Projects Triad, the Yolo Family Services PCIT at Cache Creek Continuation School, CommuniCare’s Parenting Classes and Breastfeeding Support, Woodland Memorial Hospital’s Discharge Gift Bags, and the UC Davis Families Together Program.

First 5 Yolo is committed to improving the lives of children 0 through 5 years of age and their families in Yolo County. First 5 Yolo focuses on ensuring these children are healthy and ready to learn by providing grant funding to programs in Yolo County that benefit young children by improving their health and providing access to developmental activities.

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In November 1998, California voters passed a statewide ballot initiative to add a 50-cent-per-pack tax on cigarettes. The funds collected are utilized to fund education, health, and childcare programs that promote early childhood development from prenatal through age 5.