



# First 5 Yolo Annual Evaluation Report

Fiscal Year 2017-18

Formed by voter-approved Proposition 10, First 5 has a California constitutional mandate to improve the coordination of care and invest in programs and services for California’s youngest children and families. Proposition 10 taxes cigarettes and other tobacco products.

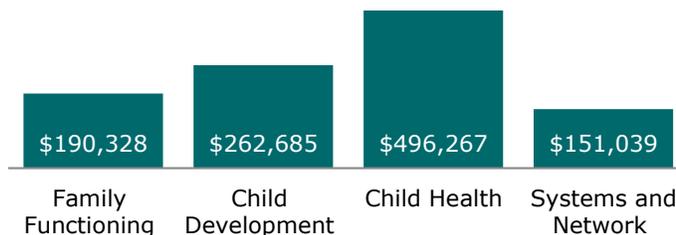
First 5 Yolo is part of the statewide First 5 Network comprised of county commissions with nearly 20-years of on-the-ground experience making children healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

The First 5 Yolo Children and Families Commission administers Yolo County’s Proposition 10 revenue allocation, funding direct services for children ages 0-5 and their families. The Commission’s investments and daily work also aim to strengthen countywide systems and networks that support these children and their families.

## Introduction

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18, First 5 Yolo invested over \$1.1 million in programs and services that address the Commission’s four priority areas: 1) Improved Family Functioning, 2) Improved Child Health, 3) Improved Child Development, and 4) Improved Systems and Network.

First 5 Yolo investments by priority area, FY 2017-18



## Evaluating First 5 Yolo’s Investment

First 5 Yolo is committed to ensuring that its investments in programs and systems change are effective in positively impacting program participants and the community. As part of this commitment, the Commission annually adopts a formal evaluation plan and works with each funded partner to ensure that evaluation tools and methodologies are in place. At the close of the fiscal year, data from all funded partners is collected and compiled into the First 5 Yolo Local Evaluation Report.

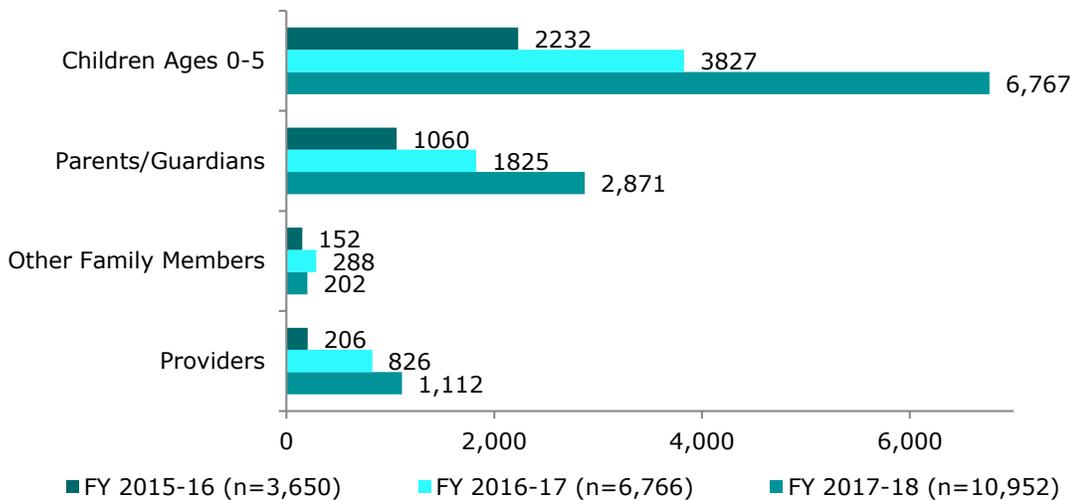
This report is organized around First 5 Yolo Strategic Plan Priority Areas and program funding. Results draw on data collected from First 5 Yolo funded programs and program participants. Collected data was reviewed throughout the year by First 5 Yolo, and additionally, First 5 Yolo engaged Harder+Company Community Research to review data collected from funded partners for integrity and accuracy in support of this evaluation. Due to the variety of tools and the manner in which they were administered, results may not always be representative of all program participants. However, they provide an important snapshot of the kinds of benefits that children and families experience as a result of their participation in First 5 Yolo funded programs. For a full description of evaluation methods, please refer to the Appendix.

## Characteristics of First 5 Yolo Clients

### First 5 Yolo served more than 6,700 children ages 0-5 countywide; approximately 61 percent were low-income

In FY 2017-18, First 5 Yolo served a total of 10,952 participants, including: 6,767 children ages 0-5; 2,871 parents; 202 other family members; and 1,112 providers. The majority of children served (69 percent) were ages 3-5, and 30 percent were ages 0-2.<sup>1</sup> As shown below, the numbers served across all participant types increased across the three-year Strategic Plan (2015-2018). The increase from FY 2015-16 to FY 2016-17 is attributed to Help Me Grow Yolo completing its first full year of implementation, as well as First 5 Yolo’s investment in First 5 California’s Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT). The dramatic increase from FY 2016-17 to FY 2017-18 is mostly attributed to the expansion of Help Me Grow Yolo,<sup>2</sup> made possible by First 5 Yolo’s collaboration with County of Yolo and Mental Health Services Act funding.<sup>3</sup>

#### First 5 Yolo participants served, by participant type:



First 5 Yolo aims to serve families with the greatest needs, including dual language learners and low-income families. In FY 2017-18, a relatively large proportion of First 5 Yolo children lived in low-income households (61% relied on Medi-Cal), spoke Spanish as their primary language (33 percent), or were Latino (37 percent).

In FY 2016-17, these percentages were lower than those in the prior year (FY 2015-16). The downward trend was hypothesized to be related, at least in part, to uncertainty surrounding immigration reform as service providers throughout Yolo County reported experiencing a similar downward trend as that seen in First 5 Yolo’s program participation.

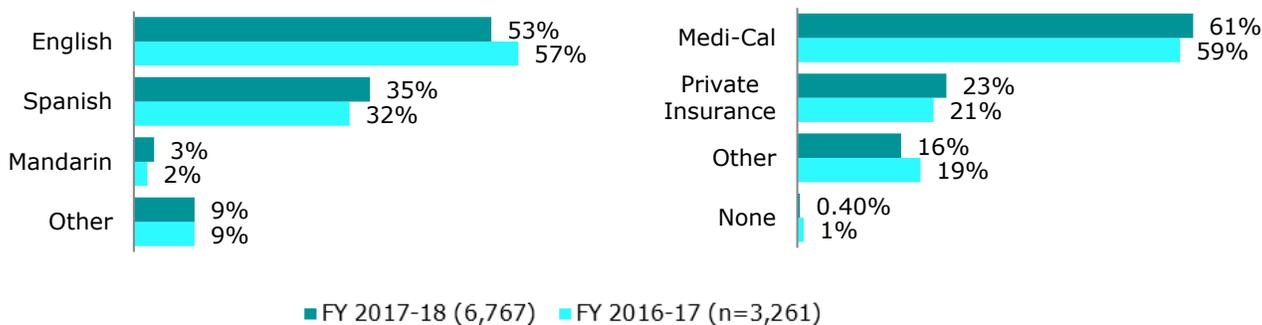
At the close of FY 2016-17 however, First 5 Yolo reviewed and modified some of its strategies in an effort to target higher need and/or higher risk families. The increase in service of dual-language learners and low-income families seen during FY 2017-18 over FY 2016-17, is partially a result of those ongoing efforts to reach the highest need and/or highest risk families in Yolo County.

<sup>1</sup> Data on children by age group excludes children ages 0-5 with an unknown age.

<sup>2</sup> For more information about Help Me Grow Yolo, refer to the Improved Child Health chapter of this report.

<sup>3</sup> For more information about IMPACT, refer to the Improved Child Development chapter of this report.

**Primary language and health insurance of children served\***



\* Data excludes children with an unknown primary language or an unknown health insurance type.

First 5 Yolo services reached children across the county in FY 2017-18. The greatest number of children served lived in West Sacramento, Woodland, and Davis, which are the cities with the highest populations in Yolo County. Programs also served families with young children in Winters, as well as rural and unincorporated areas (e.g., Esparto/Capay, Clarksburg, Knights Landing, and Yolo). In FY 2017-18, First 5 Yolo served substantially more children in each area except in the smaller communities of Yolo, Clarksburg, and Knight Landing.

Several factors may have contributed to the shift in cities served in FY 2017-18. First, as mentioned previously, Help Me Grow Yolo expanded appreciably. This program provides services countywide, which may be one reason for the overall increase in children served throughout the county. The increase in "Other" is due primarily to Help Me Grow phone calls and presentations at local Yolo County events, where demographic information is not easily collectible. The community of Yolo had decreased attendance during Library Storytimes. Storytimes were offered during business hours, likely impacting the ability of working families to attend. Moving forward, the Library will explore the possibility of afterhours Storytimes. Clarksburg had a decrease in the number of participants in Storytime and IMPACT.

**Children served by Area in Yolo County\***

Area	FY2017-18	FY2016-17
West Sacramento	2246	1102
Davis	1200	952
Woodland	1985	916
Winters	547	390
Esparto/Capay	280	180
Clarksburg	26	74
Knights Landing	70	71
Yolo	11	29
Other	371	101
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,736</b>	<b>3,815</b>

\* Data excludes children with an unknown city of residence. ✦

## Priority Area 1: Improved Family Functioning

First 5 Yolo aims to ensure that children are safe, parents are supported, and families are strong. Funded programs and services in the Improved Family Functioning priority area included:

- **Emergency overnight care** that offers safe, respite care for children (Yolo Crisis Nursery);
- Evidenced-based, national model **home visitation program** designed to strengthen families, encourage healthy child development, and aid in the prevention of child maltreatment (Yolo County Children’s Alliance’s Healthy Families America Step by Step);
- **Dual generation parent education and child engagement** programs for parents with children ages 0-3 (RISE, Inc.’s AVANCE); and
- Peer-led, trauma-informed support groups to **improve family resiliency** and build a strong sense of community (Lead4Tomorrow’s Family Hui program).

**All Children receiving services from the Yolo Crisis Nursery and Health Families America Step by Step avoided entry into Child Welfare Services during FY 2017-18.**



### First 5 Yolo helped families avoid entry into Child Welfare Services

Two programs funded by First 5 Yolo support and strengthen families in efforts to prevent child maltreatment and improve the safety and wellbeing of young children. Emergency Overnight Care and Healthy Families America Step by Step Home Visitation Program both work to prevent the need for entry into Child Welfare Services, particularly in very early childhood when the brain is rapidly developing. Avoidance of child welfare involvement may be particularly important in the effort to decrease adverse childhood experiences and trauma during the time of greatest brain development for children, 0-3.

The Yolo Crisis Nursery offers trauma-informed respite care to families with children ages 0-5 to keep children safe. First 5 Yolo funds overnight emergency child care at the Nursery, serving the most at-risk clients. The number of unduplicated children served by the overnight child care program nearly tripled over the past two years (from 11 children in 2015-16 to 30 children in 2017-18).<sup>4</sup> This increase may reflect a greater need for this service, as well as the Nursery’s expanded outreach efforts.

Among parents of the 30 children who received overnight care in FY 2017-18, 87 percent of surveyed parents (29 parents) reported feeling less stressed upon picking up their children after receiving overnight respite care and care coordination provided by the Yolo Crisis Nursery staff.<sup>5</sup> Reducing parental stress is an important factor in reducing child maltreatment risk, as elevated parental stress is an indicator of risk for child maltreatment (compared to 95 percent of the 19 children who received overnight crisis care in FY 2016-17).

The Healthy Families America Step by Step Home Visitation Program provides in-home, intensive parent education and comprehensive case management to at-risk families. In FY 2017-18, of the 73 children enrolled in the Healthy Families America Step by Step Home Visitation Program, 100 percent of children (73 children) who participated in the program avoided entry into Child Welfare Services. In the history of the Healthy Families America Step by Step program, nearly all children avoid entry into child welfare while receiving services (only two children have opened CWS services while enrolled in the program).

<sup>4</sup> In FY 2017-18, 67 overnight respite child care slots were utilized by 30 children.

<sup>5</sup> 34 parents completed the question in the exit survey.

## Parents increased knowledge, confidence, and social support after program participation

Healthy Families America Step by Step, AVANCE, and Family Hui aim to strengthen families by increasing parents' knowledge of age-appropriate child development, confidence in parenting skills, and access to support networks. After participating in programs to improve family functioning, parents are more supported, families are stronger, and children are better off:



All AVANCE participants (26 participants) reported gaining parenting knowledge and skills as a result of the AVANCE program.



100% of Family Hui participants (18 participants) reported resiliency activities were effective in helping them understand themselves and families better. Additionally, 100% reported that participating in Family Hui helped them gain a support network and become more connected with other families.



100% of Step by Step children were up-to-date on well child visits and current on immunizations; 100% of parents were up-to-date on mental health screenings



Of families referred by Step by Step for additional supports, 82% began receiving additional services.

Each program funded in the priority area of Improved Family Functioning is using their performance data to explore ways to better meet the needs of young children and families:

Yolo Crisis Nursery, understanding that parental stress is a proxy measure for the risk of child maltreatment, is focused on increasing both the quantity and quality of follow-up interactions with guardians to identify additional family needs and provide support and services. Families participate in the program for 6 months, during which time, the Crisis Nursery provides case management to help stabilize families in crisis and build resiliency. In addition, the Nursery will be increasing collaboration with partner agencies to help parents access needed resources sooner, as well as increasing referrals to the Nursery's emergency overnight care for families in crisis.

Family Hui is also considering ways to better meet the needs of the families they serve and provide additional support to families outside of program hours. One strategy includes utilizing a phone based application to regularly check in, provide support, and gather feedback from families. Additionally, Family Hui is exploring ways to increase training and support for Hui Leaders via web-based tools.

Healthy Families America Step by Step is working to increase collaboration with other agencies to reduce barriers for families needing additional support services (e.g., concrete supports, mental health, transportation etc.). By helping families directly connect with needed supports, Healthy Families America Step by Step improves family utilization of additional needed support and services.

While the AVANCE program is not continuing in FY2018-19, First 5 Yolo will be piloting the Nurturing Parent Program, an evidence-based parenting program that is expected to serve a larger number of families while continuing to provide high-quality parent education and child engagement. ✚

## Priority Area 2: Improved Child Health

First 5 Yolo is the lead agency for Help Me Grow Yolo, an early childhood mental health program co-funded for the first time in FY 2017-18 by First 5 Yolo and a County of Yolo Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) grant. The MHSA investment by Yolo County has allowed the program to expand and enhance activities and outreach.

Help Me Grow Yolo is collaboratively implemented by four direct service providers led by Northern California Children’s Therapy Center. Yolo County Children’s Alliance, RISE, Inc., and Yolo Crisis Nursery, all provide outreach support to bring screening and connections to services directly to neighborhoods and families. MHSA funds were used to build upon previous work and expand the scope of the program to include child health care providers, Child Welfare Services, and specific target populations.

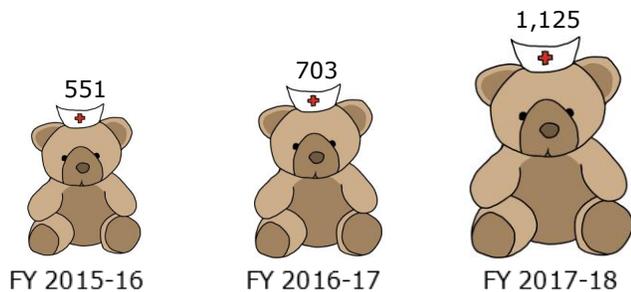
Part of a nationwide program, Help Me Grow Yolo strives to ensure that children reach age-appropriate developmental milestones and improve early childhood mental health by increasing access to developmental, behavioral, and mental health services, while identifying barriers to early detection and intervention. To achieve this goal, Help Me Grow Yolo provides free developmental screening (as well as maternal mental health, autism, and safe environment screenings, as appropriate), connects children and families to appropriate resources, trains community members and child health care and education providers, and develops and expands partnerships that strengthen the early childhood development network.

Help Me Grow Yolo is part of The First 5 Network’s statewide effort to provide developmental screening for children to improve the system of care, focusing on prevention and early intervention by creating access and linkage to various settings, including individual families, schools, medical providers, and other service providers.

### Help Me Grow Yolo increased access to developmental services and expanded partnerships to create a stronger system of care

In FY 2017-18, Help Me Grow Yolo provided free developmental screenings to 1,125 children ages 0-5, an increase of 60% compared to FY 2016-17 (n=702). Help Me Grow Yolo also trained 2,489 individuals (parents, providers, and staff from community agencies) on Help Me Grow services and developmental screening tools in FY 2017-18, an increase of more than 500% over the prior year.

#### Children ages 0-5 screened for a developmental delay



Of the children screened in FY 2017-18, 34 percent scored in the “concern” range on one or more developmental assessments. Over three-fourths of these children (77 percent) were successfully connected to at least one service. In addition, of the children who scored in the “monitor” range during their initial screening and were re-screened, 70 percent had an improved score after resources and supports were provided (231 children). By identifying children who may have developmental delays, and also children who need some additional support, not only does Help Me Grow Yolo facilitate access to early intervention, it also prevents the need for formal interventions for some children by

“...I needed support, I needed help, I needed guidance, and most of all, I needed to plan. [HMG] provided this and much more! I cannot sing your praises enough.”

—Help Me Grow Yolo Parent

providing resources and support before a developmental delay occurs. Earliest forms of intervention decrease the need for special education and more intensive, costly, and less effective services later in life.

Help Me Grow Yolo administers a survey to parents to measure outcomes and satisfaction with services provided by Help Me Grow Yolo. All responding parents (100 percent) reported that they feel confident they can call Help Me Grow for resources, and many parents (66%), reported they improved their understanding of their child’s development. As described by one parent, when their foster child was flagged for needed support in several developmental domains, “[HMG Staff] took the time to explain the results over the phone. I sincerely appreciated how she patiently listened as I described all my concerns with his development. She made sure I was comfortable with the plan moving forward, told me when I should fill out the next questionnaire, and gave me some ideas of activities to try with him at home.”

**Parent satisfaction with Help Me Grow Yolo**

**96%** Have a better understanding of their child’s development

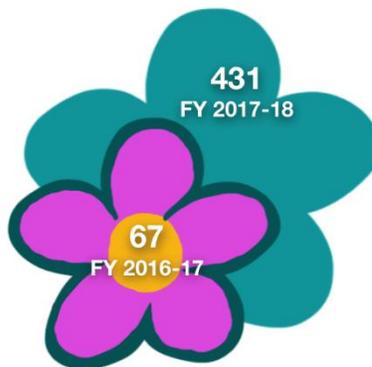
**96%** Would refer another family to Help Me Grow Yolo

**100%** Feel confident that they can call Help Me Grow Yolo for resources

In the past year, Help Me Grow Yolo more than doubled its number of partnerships with organizations throughout the county (87 partners in FY 2017-18 compared to 41 in FY 2016-17). While sustaining all of their existing partnerships, Help Me Grow Yolo developed new partnerships with medical providers, child care and preschool programs, community based organizations, and social services, including Child Welfare Services and family violence service providers. Compared to FY 2016-17, during FY 2017-18 Help Me Grow achieved the following:



**Agency Trainings**



**Calls to Call Center**



**Health Care Service Agency Partners**

The First 5 Yolo Priority Area Improve Child Health is implemented via Help Me Grow Yolo, and as a systems improvement, is also First 5 Yolo's largest funded program. Help Me Grow Yolo has made important expansions and improvements over the past year with the addition of funding from the MHSA grant. The grant continues for two more years, with the option for an additional two years. Help Me Grow Yolo anticipates even greater expansion in the coming years, as well as innovations in data tracking and client service with continued refinement of the Yes Yolo database developed specifically for the program.



## Priority Area 3: Improved Child Development

First 5 Yolo funds programs to improve early learning and child development, as well as to enhance the quality of existing early learning programs. Funded programs and services in the Improved Child Development priority area include:

- **Early literacy programming** for parents and children that focuses on talking, reading, singing, writing, and playing (Yolo County Library’s Storytime);
- **Developmentally-appropriate parent-child interaction** sessions in Clarksburg, Davis, Esparto, Knights Landing, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland (Yolo County Children’s Alliance, Empower Yolo, and RISE, Inc.’s Play School Experience); and
- **Quality enhancement efforts** such as training, assessments, and other supports for child care and preschool providers (City of West Sacramento’s IMPACT and City of Winters’ BOOST programs).

### Parents read more frequently to their child after participating in early literacy efforts

Storytime provides multilingual programs that focus on the five early literacy practices described above, and is offered at all eight Yolo County library branches. Parents who participated in Storytime reported increased participation in a number of early literacy activities. more often after program participation, including playing more with their child (67 percent), singing songs (77 percent), reading to their child (69 percent), and children learning letters, words, and numbers (70 percent). Early literacy skills, like those taught through the Storytime program, lay the foundation for learning developmentally appropriate skills and support school readiness.

### Parents who engaged in activities with their child more often after Storytime at Yolo County Library, FY 2017-18



67% play more with their child



70% engage in more letter, words, or numbers leaning with their child



77% sing songs more often with their child



69% read more often with their child

**Parents increased their knowledge of child development, and children enhanced their social and cognitive skills**

Parents who participated in Play School Experience, a program aimed at strengthening parent-child bonding and helping parents fortify their role as their child(ren)'s first teacher, learn and practice critical skills that support their child's development and social skills. Survey data is used to measure the impact of the program. Of surveyed parents (n=191), 95 percent learned skills and behaviors appropriate to their child's age, 92% learned new ways to keep their child healthy and safe, and 95% found participation in the program made it easier to manage the daily stress of raising a child.



## Participating child care and preschool sites are continually improving and enhancing the classroom environment

The programs funded in the Improved Child Development priority area have made strides to enhance early literacy, child development, and program quality.

Improve and Maximize Programs and All Children Thrive (IMPACT) aims to enhance the quality of existing early learning child care and preschool programs in Yolo County by providing training, assessments, and support to providers. First 5 Yolo leverages its local funds with a larger First 5 California grant. Three assessment tools are commonly used to provide information about the quality of child care and preschool sites: the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Tier Score, the Environment Rating Scale (ERS), and the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). Scores from these assessments showed that, overall, classrooms that participate in IMPACT are high quality. Highlights from IMPACT include the following:

- This fiscal year training opportunities increased, and the number of attendees went from 122 in FY 2016-17 to 406 in FY 2017-18.
- 94% of early learning professionals who attended at least one training reported applying knowledge of skills gained to improve their teaching practice.<sup>6</sup>
- 81% of sites rated in FY2016-17 experienced positive growth when rated during FY2018-2019.<sup>7</sup>

The City of Winters' BOOST program provides classroom support for preschool teachers to increase their capacity to provide all children, especially those with special needs, with a strong start. In FY 2017-18, BOOST supported preschool providers working with 164 children. Teachers participating in the BOOST program reported:

- The percent of children who had difficulty attending and behaving appropriately in "group times" decreased from 19 percent to 7 percent;
- The percent of children who had difficulty following the classroom routine decreased from 14 percent to 7 percent; and
- The percent of children with high social-emotional competence increased from 30 percent to 55 percent.

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### IMPACT Quality Measures

**QRIS Tier Scores:** Classrooms receive a score of 1 to 5 for seven elements (including child observation, group size, director qualifications, etc.). Based on the total score, classrooms are categorized into 5 tiers, with tier 5 as the highest program quality tier.

**ERS Scores:** Classrooms receive a score for seven domains related to their physical environment. Research suggests that an overall score of 5 or more is indicative of a program that can produce better outcomes for children.

**CLASS Scores:** This tool is used to rate teacher-child interactions. Each CLASS domain is scored on a scale of 1 to 7, with research suggesting that Instructional Support scores of 3 or above, and Emotional Support and Classroom Support scores of 5 or above, lead to greater gains for children.

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<sup>6</sup> 8% of training attendees who attended at least one training did not respond to this question

<sup>7</sup> Site rated by IMPACT are rated every two years

To continue to improve outcomes for children and families, programs are planning to make a number of enhancements in the coming year:

- Storytime will work on “parent asides” (take home materials for parents) that can be given to families to reinforce messages, songs, and early literacy tips from the Storytime program. They will also strengthen family reading habits with more frequent book giveaways, such as sending a free book home with children after 5 Storytime visits.
- Play School Experience will work to expand partnerships by seeking interns to support PSE classes thereby increasing staff’s ability to accommodate additional families and provide more individual attention. Additionally, PSE will explore ways to gather more feedback from families to guide lesson planning and resource sharing to strengthen families and build resilience.
- IMPACT will be offering workshops rather than lectures based on feedback from participating providers to improve participant engagement and support.

Boost concluded its program at the close of FY2017-18. At the close of the grant cycle, Boost succeeded in training targeted sites, and met their objectives. ✦



## Priority Area 4: Improved Systems and Network

For this priority area, First 5 Yolo provides, and invests in, services and advocacy to support systems of care that are coordinated, accessible, responsive, and effective. This includes funding systems change efforts, and education and training for capacity building. Funded programs and services in the Improved Systems and Network priority area include:

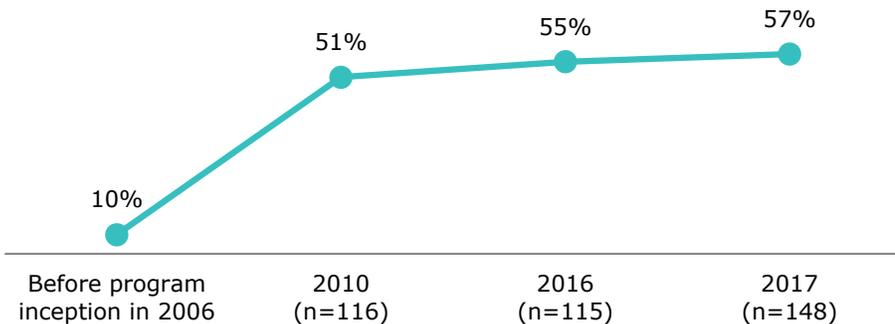
- **Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention** which recruits, trains and supports Yolo County Resource Families;
- **Mobile Client Navigator** Pilot Program at the Yolo Crisis Nursery aimed and improving access to Crisis Nursery services for victims of family violence in need of services
- Capacity building grants and investments (**Clear Impact and Translation Services**)

In FY 2017-18, in addition to the investment in Help Me Grow categorized under Improved Health, program funding in the Improved Systems and Network priority area was largely directed to the Yolo County Children’s Alliance’s Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Program. With additional funding from the Yocha DeHe Wintun Nation and County of Yolo, the program recruits, trains, and provides support to foster families so children are safe and placed locally. Local foster care placement allows children to remain connected to their communities, access services, and visit more easily with their families of origin. In addition, local placement is cost effective, reducing travel time for children and their social workers.

### First 5 Yolo is strengthening the foster care system, including increasing local placements and reducing costs

The Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Program is improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Child Welfare Services. In FY 2017-18, 100 percent of Yolo County foster homes (138 homes) remained approved, a 79 percent increase from FY 2016-17. In addition, data from Child Welfare Services showed that the percent of local foster care home placements (i.e., Yolo County children being placed within the County) increased over time. As of October 2017, 47 percent (193/412) of child placements were local, and 25 percent of the children placed outside of the county were placed with relatives or non-related extended family-- a preferred placement under state and federal law.<sup>8</sup>

#### Foster care children ages 0-5 who were placed locally in Yolo County, Calendar Years 2006-2017



<sup>8</sup> As a result of a large spike in cases at CWS, the County was unable to confirm numbers at the close of the fiscal year. Most current, available numbers are presented.

First 5 Yolo invested in other systems change efforts to support organizational capacity. At the end of FY2016-17, the State of California adopted changes to the approval process for foster families (Resource Families) which resulted in a significant backlog in processing families at Yolo County. First 5 Yolo funded Extra Help workers to support CWS in working through the backlog.

Data from the Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Program indicate that the foster care system in Yolo County has dramatically improved over the course of a decade: foster care homes have a high retention rate, more children are being placed locally, and there is increased access to education and support classes for social workers, foster parents, and others engaged in child welfare work. Over the course of FY 2017-18 and FY 2016-17, Yolo County Child Welfare Services increased its capacity to implement recruitment and retention services. Additionally, policy shifts at the State level have expanded the scope of training available and acceptable for resources families. With Child Welfare's increased capacity, it will be working with the current Foster Care Recruitment Program and Retention program and providers to transition several components into Child Welfare and therefore the First 5 Yolo contract concluded at the end of FY2017-18, though the services and impact of the program will continue.

**Mobile Resources improve access to services for high-need families.**

During FY2017-18, First 5 Yolo piloted a Mobile Client Navigator at the Yolo Crisis Nursery to improve access to Crisis Nursery services for victims of family violence in need of services but were unable to access services as a result of various barriers to transportation, support, etc. The Mobile Client Navigator is embedded in the Family Violence Coordination Pilot Project (a collaborative effort between Empower Yolo, Yolo County District Attorney, Yolo County Health and Human Services, and others) and provides trauma-informed crisis intervention, risk assessment, safety planning, case management, and navigation services to victims of family violence and human trafficking who have young children, 0-5. Families who received both Mobile Client Navigator and Crisis Nursery Services were surveyed and 99% of respondents reported that they were able to access needed services *because* of the on-site location of the Mobile Client Navigator.

**Capacity building investments are improving the ability of funded programs and First 5 Yolo to track, report, and use data.**

The First 5 Yolo Commission invests in Clear Impact, a data system to increase providers' capacity to collect, analyze, and report program-level data. This web-based, interactive software improves data sharing and collaboration between First 5 Yolo, funded partners, and the Commission. "Scorecards" generated via Clear Impact facilitate the dissemination of program performance information with stakeholders as well as provides First 5 Yolo with a deeper understanding of its programs through collaborative analysis with partners to identify trends, opportunities, and actions for continuous quality improvement.

In addition, First 5 Yolo worked to build the capacity of the Healthy Families America Step by Step Home Visitation Program through translations of programmatic materials so that additional families couple be served.

Moving forward, First 5 Yolo plans to continue the expansion of Help Me Grow Yolo as a true systems investment, and, in alignment with the new Strategic Plan, will seek to fully launch and then expand a new program, The CHILD (Coordinated Healthy Interventions for Lifelong Development) Project Pilot. The CHILD Project is a systems improvement to better identify and serve highest-risk families with intensive programs early, at the greatest point of leverage, and is a collaboration among multiple partners. ✦

## Sponsorship Funds

The Sponsorship Fund, established in FY17/18, allows First 5 Yolo continued involvement in community activities, public awareness of the mission of First 5 Yolo, and support of a variety of organizations with a limited cost in dollars and staff/commission resources.

First 5 Yolo awarded the following sponsorships in FY 17/18:

### FY17-18 Sponsored Events

Event/Training/Activity
Community Baby Shower
West Sacramento Community Domestic Violence Dialogue
Upstander Carnival
Krustaceans for Kids Crab Feed
Kick Count Magnets
Spring Fling (Winters)
Spring Fling (Woodland)
Spring Fling (West Sacramento)
Week of the Young Child Family Night
Maternal Child Health Case Review
Child Abuse Prevention Council Planning Retreat
Summer Solstice
YC-HHSA All-Branch Meeting

## Summary and Future Opportunities

Through direct services and systems change efforts, First 5 Yolo is working to improve children's health and development and strengthen families. Data in this FY 2017-18 Local Evaluation Report demonstrates that First 5 Yolo and its funded partners are positively impacting the lives of young children and families. Notable highlights included helping families avoid entry into Child Welfare Services and supporting positive parenting, increasing families' access to developmental services and early mental health supports, strengthening the system of care, supporting parents to engage in early literacy efforts, and increasing the quality of early learning programs.

Beginning in 2017, The First 5 Yolo Commission and Staff devoted time and talent to advancing the concept of dedicated funding from new revenue streams to support early childhood prevention and intervention as an "upstream" investment to build thriving communities. The policy brief, "Thrive by Five Yolo," was created and presented to local governments and in public forums.

The First 5 Yolo Commission adopted a new 3-year Strategic Plan in June of 2018. This new Plan firmly commits First 5 Yolo to both investments and agency activities, advocacy, and leadership that help ensure children 0-5 are healthy, safe, and ready to learn. Entering the first year of the new Strategic Plan, First 5 Yolo will concentrate on identifying and serving highest-risk families at the earliest points of leverage for the greatest prevention and intervention impacts. Increasing emphasis on coordinated services and activities that create systems change will also be a priority.

Moving forward, First 5 Yolo will continue to use data collected to make decisions related to investment areas and strategies and priorities for agency focus. First 5 Yolo is committed to increasing awareness of the critical nature of early childhood prevention and intervention, and leveraging options to increase funding to best meet the needs of children and families in Yolo County. ✦

## Appendix

This evaluation included data from the following sources:

- **Performance measures and client demographic data.** All funded programs collect information about their performance associated with their First 5 Yolo funding, the number of program participants served, and demographic information about these participants (gender, age, ethnicity, primary language, city, and child health insurance type). These data are submitted to First 5 Yolo twice a year.
- **Program-level data.** In addition to client demographic data and the Early Learning Parent Survey, each funded program collects data to assess program outcomes and to understand how services can be improved. Program-level surveys, assessments, and reports that were reviewed and used in this report include<sup>9</sup>:
  - Yolo Crisis Nursery’s Emergency Overnight Care Parent Survey (n=39)
  - Yolo County Children’s Alliance’s Step by Step/Paso a Paso Healthy Families America Parent Inventory (n=62)
  - Lead4Tomorrow Family Hui Parent Survey (n=23)
  - Play School Experience (n=192)
  - Help Me Grow Yolo’s program-level data (n=1,125)
  - Help Me Grow Yolo Caregiver Survey (n=57)
  - Yolo County Library Storytime Pre/Post Parent Survey (n=174)
  - Boost Teacher Assessment (n=7)
  - Boost Parent Survey (n=101)
  - Foster Care recruitment and retention program-level data (n=138) 15 surveys

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<sup>9</sup> Missing data (e.g., parents who left a specific survey question blank) were excluded from analysis