

January 2020



Annual Evaluation Report

Fiscal Year 2018-19

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

Research shows that healthy development in the early years, especially birth to age three, provides the foundation for educational achievement, economic productivity, responsible citizenship, lifelong health, and strong communities.¹

Informed by current research, First 5 Yolo's new Strategic Plan, which began in Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (FY18-19), focuses on reaching families in greatest need and earlier in life (prenatally through the first three years). It does so by implementing true systems change to improve the continuum of care and leveraging investments to strengthen collective impact and enhance sustainability. This approach offers the best opportunity to maximize First 5 Yolo's limited resources while improving the lives of young children and their families.

In FY18-19, First 5 Yolo invested over **\$1.3 million in programs and services that address the Commission's four priority areas: 1) Improved Child Safety, 2) Improved Child Health, 3) Improved Quality Early Learning, and 4) Improved Systems and Network.**

In line with the guiding principles of First 5 Yolo's Strategic Plan (Fiscal Years 2019-2021), First 5 Yolo invested in programs that cross multiple priority areas in order to achieve the greatest impact with a more deeply defined focus, rather than broad and shallow investments scattered across disconnected grants.

To see a detailed view of how each of the funded programs in FY 2018-2019 aligned to the Strategic Plan Goal Areas, please see Appendix B.

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 on an ongoing basis to analyze data for continuous program improvement, as well as ensures 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's Strategic Plan Priority Areas and program funding. Results draw on data collected from First 5 Yolo funded programs and program participants. First 5 Yolo and each of its funded partners used performance measures specific to funded strategies to determine whether "anyone is better off" as a result of program services, and to gauge the quality and efficiency of those services.

¹ Center on the Developing Child, Harvard

The performance measures answer the three fundamental questions of the Friedman Results Based Accountability Framework (RBA):

How much did we do?

How well did we do it?

Is anyone better off?

First 5 Yolo uses RBA performance measures to evaluate funded programs, as well as to build capacity and assist funded partners in improving the quality of programs and services on a continual basis. Performance measures are developed collaboratively with the agencies and personnel who implement the programs. The RBA process supports and encourages continual quality improvement.

Collected data from funded programs was reviewed throughout the year by First 5 Yolo, and additionally, First 5 Yolo engaged LPC Consulting Associates, Inc. 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, as well as voluntary client consent, 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 and data, please refer to the Appendix A.

First 5 Yolo's Mission

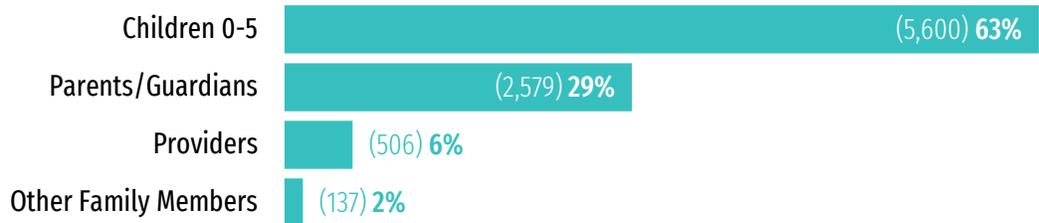
First 5 Yolo will assist our community to raise children who are healthy, safe, and ready to learn.



How Much Did We Do?

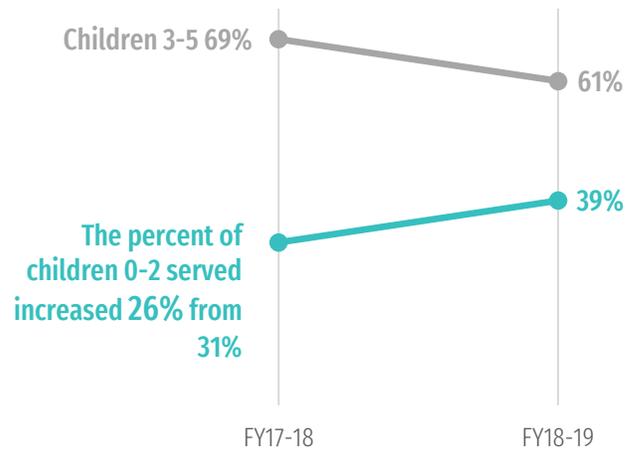
Yolo County Children and Families Served in FY18-19

In FY18-19, First 5 Yolo served a total of 8,822 participants countywide, including 5,600 children ages 0-5.



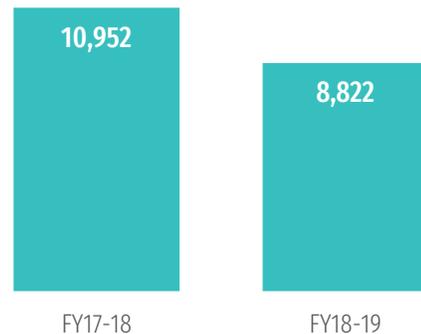
The percent of children served between the ages of 0-2 increased 26% from the previous year².

This is attributed to the new strategy to focus on serving children earlier in life through programs such as the CHILD Pilot and Healthy Families America home visiting, which engaged women prenatally or shortly after giving birth. First 5 Yolo expects to see a continued uptick in this statistic in the next fiscal year as The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience (R2R) will expand early, intensive home visiting services, and as other programs are able to engage with families earlier through systems integration efforts led by both Help Me Grow and R2R.



Total Number of Clients Served

As the focus of the Commission’s work shifts to deeper investments in more intensive services to create stronger, more meaningful impact the total number of funded programs and services, and the sheer number of clients has decreased. First 5 Yolo serves all children in some programs and focuses on higher-need populations in others.



² Data on children by age group excludes children ages 0-5 with an unknown age. 0-2 includes the child’s 3rd birthday.

How Much Did We Do?

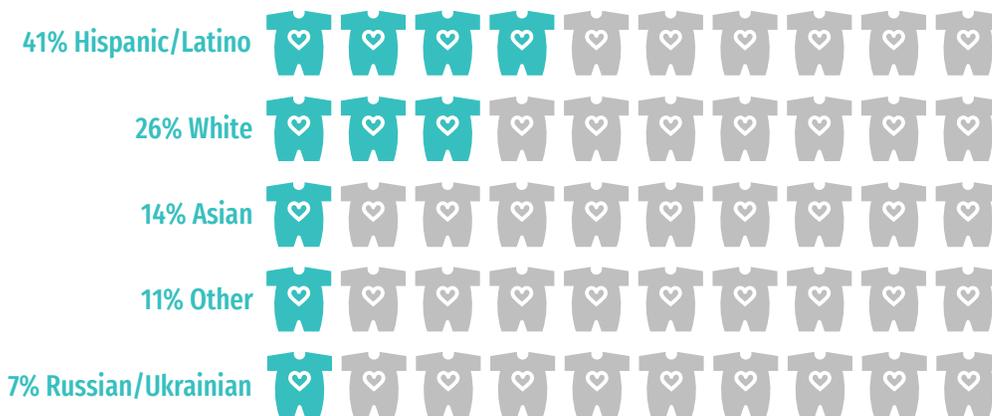
Yolo County Children and Families Served in FY18-19

First 5 Yolo served a diverse range of children, a majority (64%) of whom relied on Medi-Cal as their primary form of health insurance coverage.

First 5 Yolo aims to serve families with the greatest needs or at higher risk. New in FY18-19, The CHILD Project Pilot tested an innovative approach to identifying higher-risk families using an administrative data screen based on research by Children’s Data Network and pioneering work at First 5 Orange County and First 5 Los Angeles. In the first nine months of the Project, **108 women were screened** at CommuniCare’s Perinatal Clinic in Davis.

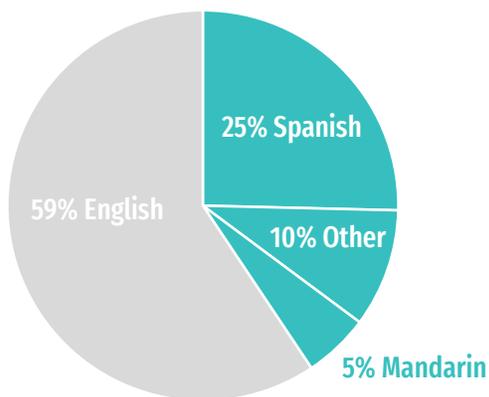
Demographics of Children Served in All Funded Programs (n=5,600)

Race/Ethnicity



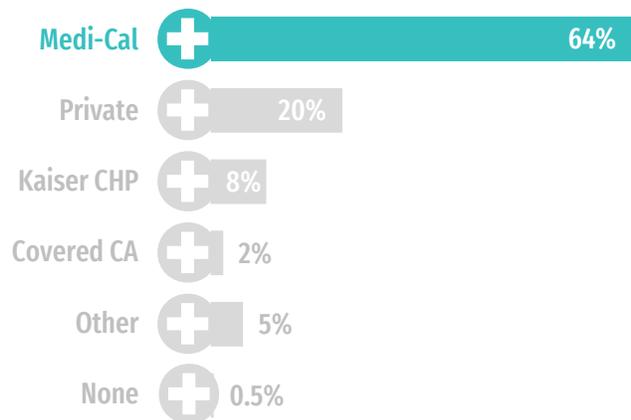
Primary Language Spoken in the Home

40% of children spoke a language other than English.



Primary Form of Health Insurance Coverage

Most children (64%) relied on Medi-Cal.



How Much Did We Do?

Yolo County Children and Families Served in FY18-19

First 5 Yolo reached children across Yolo County.

The greatest number of children served lived in West Sacramento, Woodland, and Davis, 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., Capay/Esparto, Clarksburg, Knights Landing, and Yolo).¹

Locations of Children Served

Area	FY17-18	FY18-19
West Sacramento	2,246	1,523
Woodland	1,985	1,560
Davis	1,200	1,326
Winters	547	405
Other	371	391
Capay/Esparto	280	292
Knights Landing	70	29
Clarksburg	26	33
Yolo	11	12
Total	6,736	5,571



How Well Did We Do It? And Is Anyone Better Off?

The Power of Our Partners

Our funded partner agencies who provided direct services for First 5 Yolo programs:

First 5 Yolo partners with local community-based organizations and agencies to deliver its programs. Our partners deeply understand the needs of their communities and have proven track records for providing quality services to children and families in Yolo County. The work of First 5 Yolo is not possible without its funded partners.

Program	Partner Agency
ABC Home Visiting Joint Project	Child Welfare Services, Yolo Crisis Nursery
The CHILD Project Pilot	CommuniCare Health Centers, Yolo County Children's Alliance
Crisis Nursery Intervention Services	Yolo Crisis Nursery
Early Literacy for Families	Yolo County Library
Family Hui	Lead4Tomorrow
Help Me Grow (HMG)	CommuniCare Health Centers, Northern California Children's Therapy Center (lead service provider), RISE Inc., Yolo County Children's Alliance, Yolo Crisis Nursery
IMPACT	City of West Sacramento
Nurturing Parenting Program Pilot	Empower Yolo, RISE Inc.
Play School Experience	Empower Yolo, RISE Inc., Yolo County Children's Alliance
Imagination Library*	United Way California Capital Region

*No performance measure reporting applied to this grant.



How Well Did We Do It? And Is Anyone Better Off?

First 5 Yolo Priority Areas | Program Highlights

Program highlights align with the priority areas in First 5 Yolo's Strategic Plan and illustrate the extent to which children and families served are better off after participating in funded programs delivered by its partners.

First 5 Yolo Priority Areas



Improve Systems & Networks

First 5 Yolo investments, services, and advocacy efforts support and enhance a system of care that is coordinated, responsive, and delivered by effective providers.



Improve Child Safety

First 5 Yolo investments and services support and strengthen parents, caregivers, and families to provide safe environments and relationships to allow children 0-5 to thrive.



Improve Child Health

First 5 Yolo investments and services provide prevention and early intervention so that children prenatal through 5 are supported in reaching their optimal developmental outcomes.



Improve Quality Early Learning

First 5 Yolo investments and services improve access and opportunity for quality early learning so that children enter kindergarten ready to learn.





Priority Area 1: Improve Child Safety

First 5 Yolo helped families avoid the need for entry/re-entry into Child Welfare Services and established partnerships between multiple agencies to provide evidence-based prevention or early interventions for families.

Four 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. Yolo Crisis Nursery (YCN) Intervention Services, Attachment Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC) Home Visiting, Healthy Families Yolo County Home Visitation (HFA), and The CHILd Project Pilot all work to prevent the need for entry or re-entry into CWS, 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. Increasingly, research demonstrates early learning is bolstered by services that strengthen and support families.



Notable Program Outcomes

544 families were served by YCN Intervention Services. (188 Mobile Client Navigator, 328 Respite Care, 28 Foster Care families)

99% of clients receiving YCN Intervention Services avoided the need for CWS entry/re-entry.

96% of families reported feeling less stressed upon picking up their children after receiving overnight respite care and care coordination provided by YCN staff. This was a 15% improvement over the previous fiscal year. Reducing parental stress is an important factor in reducing child maltreatment risk, as elevated parental stress is an indicator of risk for child maltreatment.

Funded Programs & Services

Trauma-informed, professional crisis care for children 0-5 whenever their parents/caregivers face challenges in providing safe care for them.

Intervention services including overnight emergency childcare, respite care, a mobile client navigator offering direct services to clients experiencing domestic violence or other crises, and Foster Parent Support. *Yolo Crisis Nursery's Intervention Services*

Evidenced-based, national model **home visitation programs** designed to strengthen families, encourage healthy child development, and aid in the prevention of child maltreatment. *Yolo County Children's Alliance's Healthy Families Yolo County, Yolo Crisis Nursery's and Child Welfare Services' ABC Home Visiting*

Evidence-based, family-centered, and trauma-informed curriculum to keep children safe by teaching parents/caregivers more **nurturing and positive parenting** and child rearing practices. The program is designed to meet the family's needs based on their parenting strengths and weaknesses. *RISE, Inc.'s and Empower Yolo's Nurturing Parenting Program Pilot*

Peer-led, trauma-informed support groups to **improve family resiliency** and build a strong sense of community. *Lead4Tomorrow's Family Hui program*

A **collaborative systems improvement pilot** designed to prevent conditions that contribute to child maltreatment, prevent or mitigate adverse childhood experiences, and provide for improved safety, health, and early experiences by identifying highest-risk mothers and infants and providing intensive, evidence-based programming early. *The CHILd Project Pilot, a coordinated effort of CommuniCare Davis Perinatal Clinic and Yolo County Children's Alliance*



Priority Area 1: Improve Child Safety



Notable Program Outcomes (continued)

100% of clients participating in ABC intervention avoided the need for CWS re-entry (n=8). ABC is an evidence-based home visiting, parenting intervention for caregivers of infants and toddlers who have experienced early adversity. This high-fidelity program was piloted in Yolo County in collaboration with the University of Delaware who provides intensive training and ABC Parent Coach certification for program staff. It enhances children's behavioral and regulatory capabilities and fosters the development of secure attachments between children and their caregivers. A certified ABC Parent coach offers real-time feedback to parents as they learn to bond with their child. Parents practice and get instant feedback on how to interact sensitively with their children. FY2018-19 was a development and training year with the program expected to reach full capacity in FY2019-20.



88% of families completed the 10 sessions of ABC home visits.



75% of families showed an improvement in sensitivity when comparing their pre/post assessments.

100% of CHILd Pilot participants avoided the need for CWS entry/re-entry while engaged in services (n=17). The Healthy Families Yolo County Home Visitation Program (also a key component of the CHILd Project Pilot) provides in-home, intensive parent education and comprehensive case management to at-risk families.





Priority Area 1: Improve Child Safety



Notable Program Outcomes (continued)

Parents increased their knowledge, confidence, and social supports after program participation.

91% of parents receiving HFA through the CHILD Pilot reported that they use all or most of the strategies learned in the program to prevent child secondhand smoke exposure and/or accidental consumption of substances such as alcohol and drugs (11 survey respondents).

74% of Nurturing Parent Program (NPP) participants in the 27-week program (n=21) improved their knowledge of power and independence and reduced their risk for oppressing children's power and independence by one or more category as determined by the Adult Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI). NPP is an evidence-based parenting education program that is expected to provide higher impact to families while continuing to provide family engagement opportunities.

 *91% finished the program in the lowest risk category in this area.*

96% of NPP participants reported feeling more socially connected as a result of attending family engagement nights (n=23).

100% of Family Hui participant survey respondents reported an improvement in integrating positive parenting skills into their approach to parenting, with positive impact on their children (n=5).



100% indicated that participating in Family Hui helped them to become more connected with other families.

100% of Play School Experience (PSE) participant survey respondents (n=86) indicated that it is easier to manage the daily stress of raising a child since participating. While the PSE program will not continue in its previous form in FY19-20, First 5 Yolo will be expanding NPP, implemented in Esparto by RISE Inc. and in Woodland by Empower Yolo in FY18-19.³ These pilot programs will also establish companion family engagement components.

³The total number of clients served by NPP compared to PSE are likely to be less.



Priority Area 2: Improve Child Health



Notable Program Outcomes

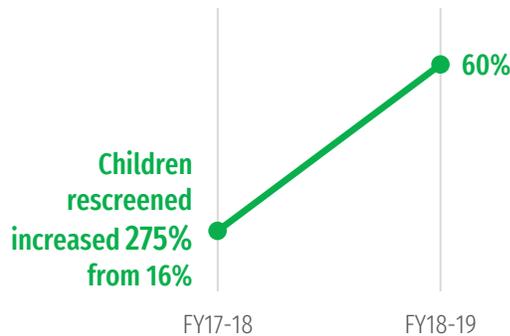
Multiple First 5 Yolo investments showed promising outcomes in child health.

Help Me Grow Yolo (HMG) increased access to developmental supports and services and expanded partnerships to create a stronger system of care.

1,044 unique children ages 0-5 received free developmental screenings through HMG. While this is a slight decrease (7%) compared to FY17-18 (n=1,125), the program has continued to expand its partnerships with most of the decrease attributed to preschool changes and closures. In addition, this number does not include the rescreens HMG completed. The ongoing follow-up with families after their initial screening has historically been under-represented in HMG's data yet, is an integral part of the work of HMG.

For example, in the second fiscal half-year of FY17-18 (when rescreens are typically completed) only 16% of children were rescreened after falling into the monitoring category. In the second fiscal half-year of FY18-19, 60% of children were rescreened after falling into the monitoring category (an increase of 275%). This tremendous increase in rescreen completion is due to HMG's continued and growing success with community outreach to raise awareness on the importance of rescreening and early identification and intervention, as well as ongoing improvements to the YesYolo Database/internal tracking systems to better reflect recommendations for rescreen and to provide improved messaging, automated, and timely reminders to clients for a rescreen.

In FY19-20, with improving data collection tools, data on the total unique screens, total rescreens in the same fiscal year, and total returning clients from prior years will be captured to tell a more complete story of the work HMG does in Yolo County to identify and provide ongoing follow-up and support to families.



Help Me Grow Yolo

First 5 Yolo is the lead agency for Help Me Grow Yolo (HMG), an early childhood mental health program co-funded in FY17-18 by First 5 Yolo and a County of Yolo Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) grant. The MHSA investment has allowed the program to continue to expand and enhance activities and outreach, becoming a model program for First 5 statewide.

HMG 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.

An affiliate of a national model program, HMG 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, HMG provides free developmental screening (as well as maternal mental health, autism, and safe environment screenings), connects children and families to appropriate resources, trains community members and child healthcare and education providers, and develops and expands partnerships that strengthen the early childhood development network.

HMG is part of the First 5 Network's statewide effort 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. The First 5 Association functions as the executive agency for Help Me Grow California.



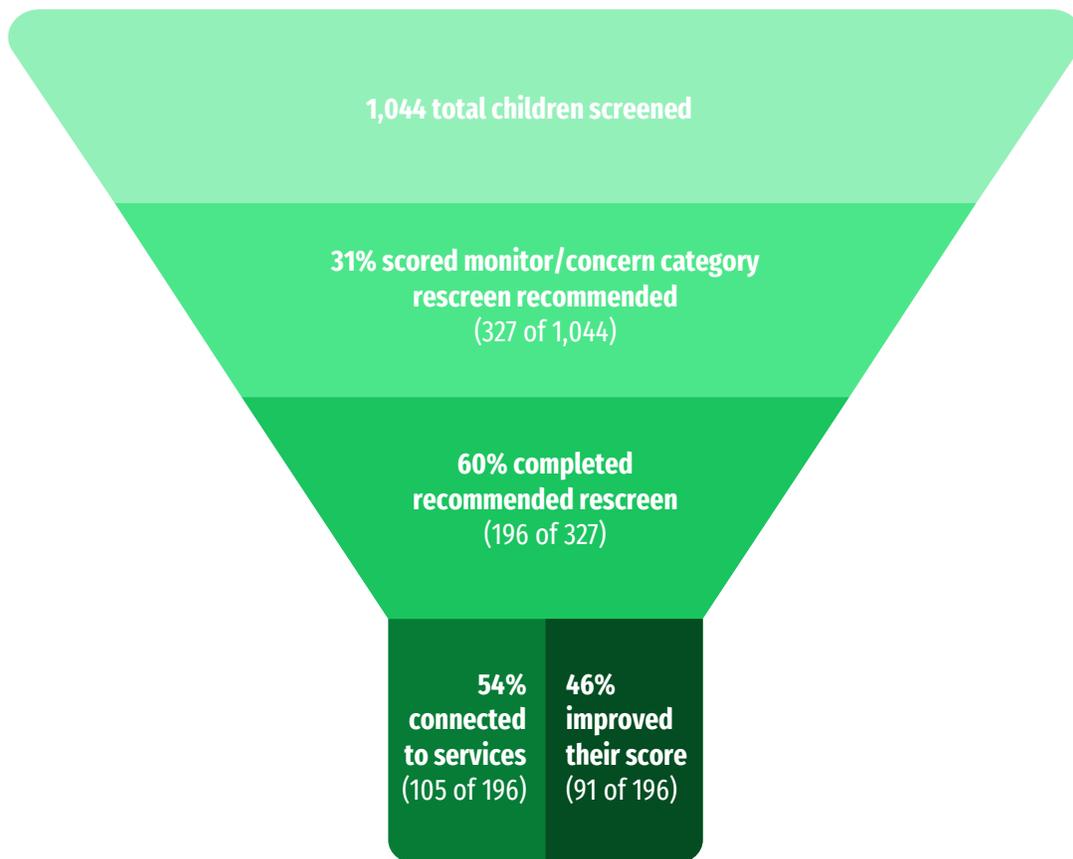
Priority Area 2: Improve Child Health



Notable Program Outcomes (continued)

Regular developmental screening helps children access supports and services when needed, earlier in life. If there is a developmental area that should be monitored for a child, HMG provides resources and activities and recommends a re-screen. In FY18-19, 60% (196) completed their recommended rescreen and 46% of those showed improvement. Those children who did not improve (54%) were connected to support services at the earliest point possible. 100% of children referred out were connected to at least one service provider or had a pending start date in FY18-19.

Children Ages 0-5 Screened by HMG



By identifying children who may have developmental delays, and children who need some additional support, not only does HMG facilitate access to early intervention, it also prevents the need for formal interventions for some children by 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.



Priority Area 2: Improve Child Health



Notable Program Outcomes (continued)

HMG's parent survey showed that most parents were satisfied with their participation in the program.

92% have a better understanding of their child's development.

92% feel confident that they can call HMG for resources.

90% said their needs were met by participating in the HMG program.

The HMG Call Center received 291 calls.

To meet the needs families, HMG staff have increased the use of text messaging as a tool for communication with families. Additionally, HMG established a Parenting Chat for families so that parents have a place to build social connections and express the needs they have in their communities.

Mothers received in-home therapy services through Help Me Grow's Early Access and Linkage-Maternal Mental Health Program in partnership with CommuniCare Behavioral Health.

CommuniCare Behavioral Health provided in-home therapy to mothers in need of services identified by or linked to HMG (n=9). These intensive services are critical to the ability of parents to care for their young children, as the mental health of a child can be affected by the mental health of the mother. Of the clients receiving services through this small but critical component of HMG:

81% of mothers referred for assessment received in-home therapy (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy).

100% of mothers showed improvements in function, skill development, and strengths.

100% of mothers reported they were able to access services because of the home visiting capability of the mental health therapists.



"I really appreciate their support. I love that they not only care about kids, but also care about the kids' caretaker."

-HMG Parent
Parent Satisfaction Survey



"...me encontraba en un momento de mucha desesperación por no saber cómo actuar pero gracias a este programa y a personas como Liz, ahora me siento mucho mejor y con las herramientas necesarias para seguir con el desarrollo de mi hijo."

Translation



"I found myself in a moment of despair, not knowing what to do, but thanks to this program (HMG) and people like Liz, now I feel much better and I have the tools I need to continue to support my child's development."

-HMG Parent
Parent Satisfaction Survey



Priority Area 2: Improve Child Health



Notable Program Outcomes (continued)

Healthy Families Yolo County Home visiting services supported optimal maternal and child health.

95% of mothers/children who received intensive HFA home visiting services (n=17) through the CHILD Pilot program, designed to serve highest-risk families, were current on prenatal visits or well child exams. The CHILD Pilot was designed and launched in FY18-19, with full capacity expected in FY19-20.

 *96% of mothers/children (n=56) were current on prenatal visits and well child exams in the countywide HFA program, as clients are supported to maintain critical medical services as part of the HFA model.*

The design of The CHILD Project Pilot, which is a partnership between YCCA's Healthy Families Yolo County and the Davis CommuniCare Perinatal Clinic, meant all clients enrolled in home visiting were already engaged in perinatal services. This partnership likely contributed to the strong outcomes for the CHILD Project Pilot, even while serving an overall higher-risk population.

It is important to note that the prenatal and well-baby visit data was obtained via Parent self-report. As a result, the measure is sometimes not possible to obtain when clients disengage or are

unreachable – often due to housing instability forcing some clients to move across county lines. Housing and transportation are increasingly cited by funded partners as significant barriers for clients to engage in needed services. Moving forward in FY19-20, these factors will continue to shape the design of programs to better serve families. Engaging clients prenatally may allow program staff, such as home visitors, more time to help clients navigate complex eligibility criteria for housing and other needs, which will help the youngest children in our county have better access to safe and stable homes.





Priority Area 3: Improve Quality Early Learning



Notable Program Outcomes

Improve Quality Early Learning programs have made strides to enhance early literacy, child development and program quality.

The Yolo County Library provides bilingual Storytime at all eight Yolo County Library branches. First 5 Yolo funds a portion of these programs, particularly with focus on rural areas where fewer resources are available. Storytime focuses on the five early literacy practices: read, talk, sing, write, and play. Parents who participated in Storytime reported increased participation in several early literacy activities.

After participating in Storytime:

81% of parents reported **reading** to their child more often (n=81).

This is a **19% increase** from FY17-18 in which 68% of Parents surveyed reported reading more often to their child. Early literacy skills, like those taught through the Storytime program, lay the foundation for learning developmentally appropriate skills and support school readiness.

Parents reporting they **talk** with their child more frequently increased by 40% from the first fiscal half year to the second.

Program staff successfully modeled behaviors for parents showing them how to have a conversation with children and had intentional asides directed toward parents/caregivers about the importance of talking to their child which helped contribute to this positive result within the same fiscal year. This was a new performance measure added in FY18-19 among others below which demonstrate how Storytime sessions impact more than early literacy. Parents strengthened the bond with their child and their community and became more confident in their parenting skills.

78% of parents reported **singing songs** with their child more often (n=83).

Additionally, as a result of participating in Storytime:



96% of parents feel more confident in themselves as a parent (n=82).



93% of parents are more connected with other families (n=83).

Funded Programs & Services

Early literacy programming and support.

Yolo County Library's Storytime, United Way California Capital Region's Imagination Library

Quality Parenting Improvement for parents/caregivers who are their child's first teachers and developmentally appropriate parent-child interaction.

Play School Experience (Yolo County Children's Alliance, Empower Yolo, and Rise, Inc.) and Nurturing Parenting Program Pilot (Rise, Inc. and Empower Yolo)

Quality enhancement efforts such as training, assessments, and other supports for childcare and preschool providers.

IMPACT



Priority Area 3: Improve Quality Early Learning



Notable Program Outcomes (continued)

Parents who participated in Play School Experience (PSE), 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. PSE was able to serve clients in rural areas in a culturally sensitive manner. Survey data from the Early Learning Parent Survey was used to measure the impact of the program across three participating agencies (RISE, YCCA, and Empower Yolo). Through this program:

Parents increased their knowledge of child development and children enhanced their social and cognitive skills in a culturally sensitive environment.



100% of parents reported they learned skills and behaviors appropriate to their child's age (n=86).



100% of parents learned new ways to keep their child healthy and safe (n=85).



100% of parents indicated that PSE was culturally competent (n=85).





Priority Area 3: Improve Quality Early Learning



Notable Program Outcomes (continued)

Improve and Maximize Programs and All Children Thrive (IMPACT) aims to enhance the quality of existing early learning childcare 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. Scores from three assessment tools (see right) were used to provide information about the quality of childcare and preschool sites, showing that classrooms participating in IMPACT are high quality:

Participating childcare and preschool sites are continually improving and enhancing the classroom environment.

715 site visits conducted by Early Learning Specialists to provide training, information, assessment, and follow-up (an increase of 56% from 458 site visits in FY17-18).

100% of early learning professionals attending at least one training (n=52) reported applying knowledge of skills gained to improve their teaching practice (an increase of 10% from 91% in FY17-18).

60% of sites showed movement on the QRIS matrix (n=39). Scoring on the matrix is considered valid for 2 years and the agency's goal is to assess 50% of sites per year. Therefore, further improvement is not expected until FY19-20 data is available.

A contributing factor to the positive survey results is that the early learning professionals who attend training are not attending a required class, but rather signing up for topics that interest them, and are motivated to attend. The trainers are all highly qualified and are trained in the art of presentation, so the trainings are interesting, relevant to early learning professionals, and help build the skills and knowledge of those trainees. IMPACT is implemented by City of West Sacramento.

IMPACT Quality Measures

Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Tier Score:

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.

Environment Rating Scale (ERS):

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.

Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS):

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.

Priority Area 4: Improve Systems & Networks

Notable Program Outcomes

First 5 Yolo has increasingly designed program investments to address systems and network improvements.



Help Me Grow’s Continuous Quality Improvement and Systems integration efforts led to creative solutions to serve Yolo county residents who might otherwise have been missed.

Through ongoing data analysis in FY18-19 and reporting to First 5 Yolo, **Help Me Grow Yolo was able to identify** a need for children who are not being served in a timely manner due to long wait times and eligibility requirements for available resources. In addition, there are children and families with milder or borderline concerns who would benefit greatly from early interventions and/or parent support but are not currently being served (which would help prevent the worsening of their condition). This data review, based on the Results Based Accountability framework, sparked a discussion that **led to a collaboration** between First 5 Yolo and Yolo County’s Health and Human Services Agency to support additional HMG services for families as identified by HMG, to be implemented in FY19-20. These additions will include implementation of developmental play groups and parent support groups to help mitigate the effects of current shortages in services for families in need, as well as promote overall health and well-being for all Yolo County children and families. The developmental playgroups and support groups will be customized for families based on identified needs from ongoing data and program review and will be staffed by infant-child development specialists at Northern California Children’s Therapy Center.

Help Me Grow National

All children benefit from an organized system of community resources to help them thrive, like health care, quality early learning experiences, healthy nutrition, and parent support. However, when the system is not well organized, it can be difficult for families to access resources for their children and challenging for service providers to connect families to needed supports. This can have long-lasting consequences on children’s health and well-being.

Help Me Grow is available to all children, including those whose families may have concerns or simply want to learn more about their child’s development.

HMG Services to be Implemented in FY19-20:

- Developmental play groups
- Parent support groups

Groups will be customized for families based on identified needs and staffed by infant-child development specialists.

Priority Area 4: Improve Systems & Networks

Notable Program Outcomes

The CHILD Project Pilot launched in FY18-19 and served higher risk families than previously reached through more traditional referral and connection pathways.

The CHILD Project Pilot is focused on identifying and serving families in the top 5% of risk through the HFA program, thereby addressing health equity issues and delivering the greatest degree of impact. As the pilot year for a new program design, some families beyond the top tier of risk were served but overall, the project was successful in reaching higher risk families than previous models. Prior to the start of the CHILD pilot the countywide HFA median risk score was “moderate,” and for the CHILD Project Pilot, the median risk score was “high.”



The CHILD Project Pilot

The CHILD Project Pilot is an innovative systems transformation jointly funded by First 5 Yolo and City of Davis. Designed by First 5 Yolo in collaboration with CommuniCare Perinatal and YCCA’s Healthy Families Yolo County Home Visiting (HFA), the CHILD Pilot is intended to meet the following goals:

- 1) Better identify the highest-risk births/families in Yolo County
- 2) Expand access to assessment for high-intensity home visiting services
- 3) Expand access to HFA home visiting services and strengthen linkage and access to auxiliary services
- 4) Include substance abuse and safety education, particularly focused on effects on pregnant and breastfeeding women and young children.

Home visiting for expectant and new parents has been shown to improve parenting practices, increase school readiness, connect families to medical homes, and empower parents and families.



Priority Area 4: Improve Systems & Networks



Notable Program Outcomes (continued)

HFA Yolo County and CommuniCare Health Centers learned new strategies for how to better engage higher-risk families in the CHILD Project Pilot.

CommuniCare Davis Perinatal Clinic screened **108 families** with an administrative data screen and 94% of those eligible who met the risk score threshold for direct connection to HFA in-clinic were connected (n=63), thus opening access to high-intensity services for families in great need.

Connection made directly at the medical provider, rather than through typical “cold” referrals, is a systems improvement created by The CHILD Project model.

68% of clients (n=59) received direct connections to services and resources specific to their needs during their initial visit. There was a 58% increase from Quarter 2 to Quarter 4 in this performance measure. The work with families in-clinic demonstrated the value of immediate connection to services, even before the family consents to home visiting, and even if the family chooses not to participate in home visiting.

Integrated home visiting services in the Davis CommuniCare Perinatal clinic engaged women earlier in their pregnancy.

Healthy Families Yolo County was able to increase prenatal engagement in services by integrating home visiting into perinatal clinics. This has also allowed engagement of women earlier in their pregnancy than in prior years. Since the CHILD Pilot, Healthy Families Yolo County has **nearly doubled the proportion of clients they serve prenatally.**



Lessons learned from the CHILD Pilot were used to design the expansion of the program to The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience (R2R).

For example, providing services in-clinic, when families may not be ready for more intensive services, is an impactful component of the CHILD Pilot program and will be expanded in The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience (R2R) grant for FY19-20. In-clinic navigators will train in leveraging resource and referral in the clinic setting and will be co-located in the perinatal clinics of Davis, West Sacramento, and Woodland. R2R will be able to provide more comprehensive services for families in the coming year. Additionally, ongoing data and literature review will continue to inform the project team on how to best serve higher-risk families.



Priority Area 4: Improve Systems & Networks



Notable Program Outcomes (continued)

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.

First 5 Yolo worked with partners in 2018-19 to streamline reporting practices to align with other agency requirements where possible, as well as First 5's mission to serve children 0-5 and their families to reduce redundancy and provide clarity to reporting instructions where necessary. For example, partners will no longer report detailed demographic information for those in the "other family member" category. Historically, this field was largely used by partners to capture siblings who were 6-18 years old. A total count of these children will continue to be captured, but their full demographics will not be collected, thus helping to reduce the data fields partners report while aligning with the requirements for reporting to First 5 California.

First 5 Yolo plans to improve efficiencies with technical trainings on Clear Impact and Results Based Accountability by providing "just-in time training sessions" via webinar shortly prior to the six-month reporting periods. In addition, First 5 will provide recorded sessions and a resource library for ongoing access to funded partners. As always, First 5 Yolo staff will work with partners one-on-one as needed.

Additionally, First 5 Yolo worked to build the capacity of the Healthy Families Yolo County Home Visitation Program through translations of programmatic materials so that additional families could be served; embedded Help Me Grow Screening and/or linkage language into all relevant contracts to continue to promote systems integration and collaboration between agencies; and continues daily efforts to act as program collaborators with direct service partners to continuously improve services and systems for families.

Priority Area 4: Improve Systems & Networks

Notable Program Outcomes (continued)

Sponsorship Funds

First 5 Yolo is proud to help sponsor local events, trainings, and activities that focus on young children and families, and that align with First 5 Yolo’s Mission, Strategic Plan, Guiding Principles, and Priority Areas. Sponsorship requests of up to \$250 are available to support of the following types of activities that are offered in Yolo County: Community Events, professional development/trainings, family education events, and fundraising events. Listed below are the First 5 Yolo sponsorships awarded in FY18-19.

Event, Training, Activity	
25 th Annual Dinner and Auction	Movie Screening of “Resilience”
3 rd Annual Community Baby Shower	Spring Fling - El Rio Villas
All Staff Division Meeting	Spring Fling - Las Casitas
Circling Services	Spring Fling - Yolano
Community Carnival	Spring Fling Auction
CWS RFA Pumpkin Patch Day	World Café Training
Dia De Los Ninos Festival	Yolo County Safe Sleep Module/SIDS Awareness Month
Foster Care Appreciation Picnic	Yolo Crisis Nursery Krustaceans for Kids Crab Feed
HHSA Child, Youth, and Family All Staff Branch Meeting	
Human Trafficking & Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Benefit Concert	

Summary & Future Opportunities



Looking Forward

Through direct services and systems change efforts, First 5 Yolo is working to improve children's health and development while strengthening families. Data in this FY18-19 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 the need for 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 and fostering stronger collaboration between multiple different agencies, supporting parents to engage in early literacy efforts, and increasing the quality of early learning. **The future year will be focused on continuing earlier identification, access, and prevention with First 5 Yolo's two largest initiatives (R2R and HMG). These systems transformation initiatives are leading the way to strengthen networks and open access to needed services for our youngest children and their families.**

FY19-20 will be an exciting year for several collaborative efforts aimed at reducing adverse experiences and providing trauma informed care for those in need. Key highlights expected next year include the following:



Full Launch of The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience

In FY19-20, First 5 Yolo and direct service partners CommuniCare Perinatal and Behavioral Health, Yolo County Children's Alliance, and Yolo Crisis Nursery, will build on the foundation of The CHILD Project Pilot to launch The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience (R2R). R2R will serve some of the most vulnerable mothers and infants in Yolo County at a critical time for child brain development. Jointly funded with California Department of Social Services Office of Child Abuse Prevention, R2R expands and enhances the early partnership of First 5 Yolo and City of Davis in CHILD Pilot and will add CommuniCare Perinatal Clinics in the cities of Woodland and West Sacramento, as well as intermittent clinics in Winters and the County Jail, to better serve Yolo County residents. Referrals from more than ten R2R Network Partner agencies will be incorporated as well.

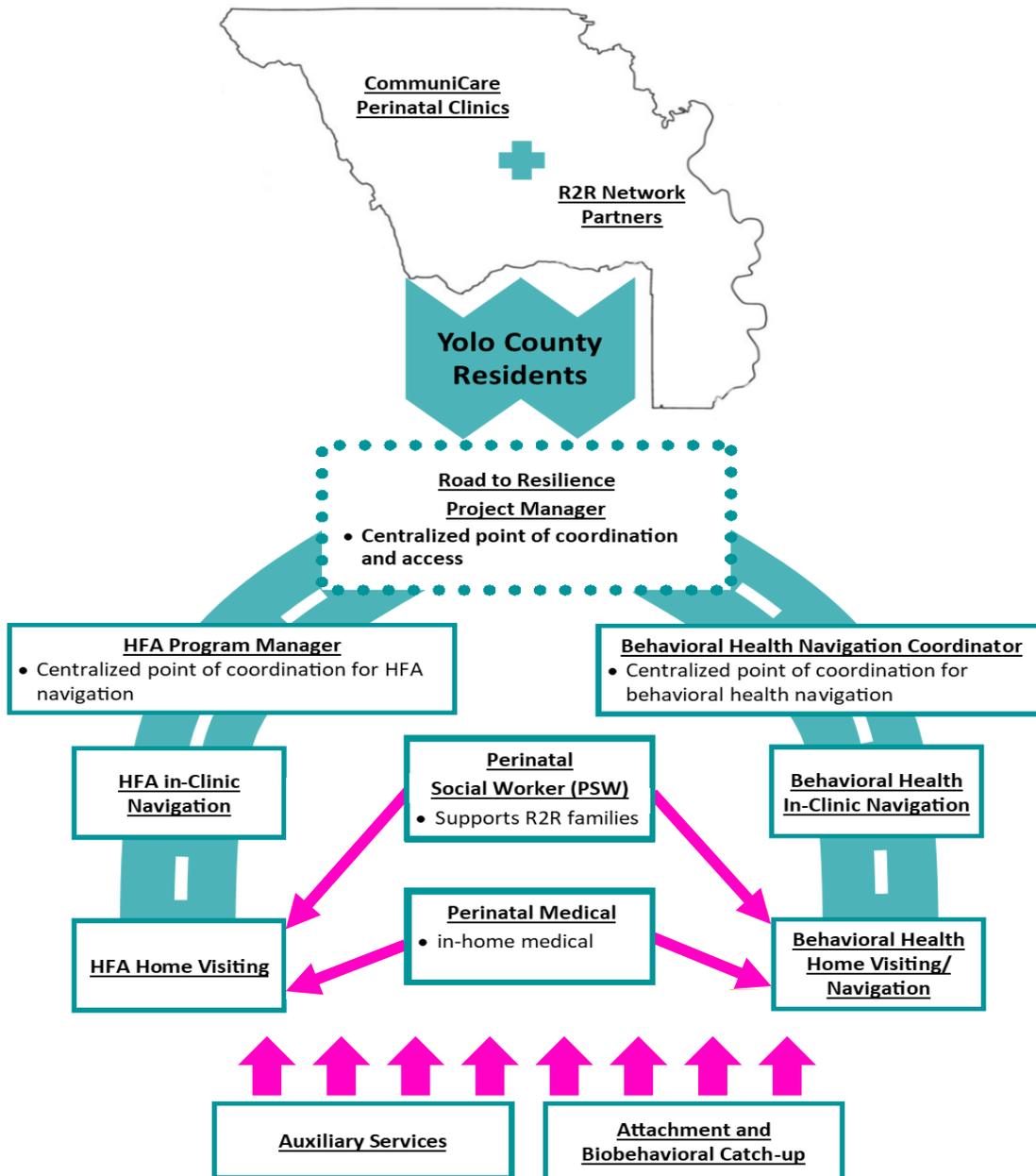
R2R is an innovative systems transformation designed to prevent conditions that contribute to child maltreatment, prevent or mitigate adverse childhood experiences, and provide a system for improved health, safety, and early experiences. Like CHILD Pilot, intensive R2R services will include in-home parenting and life skills, case management, and connection to needed community services. Additionally, services will expand to include more than one home visiting pathway, as well as in-home perinatal and behavioral health care.

The diagram on the following page is a snapshot of The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience.

Summary & Future Opportunities



The CHILD Project: Road to Resilience



Summary & Future Opportunities

Training & Development Opportunities Addressing Mental Health Provider Shortages

As a result of the work Help Me Grow Yolo (HMG) has done in identifying barriers to accessing intervention for services to infants and young children in Yolo County, HMG has partnered with First 5 Yolo and Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) to build a network of Early Mental Health Providers in Yolo County.

First 5 and HHSA have also partnered to fund scholarships for two highly regarded training opportunities for clinicians able to practice in Yolo County or provide services to Yolo County residents who are identified by HMG.

The first cohort will begin in January 2020, as 15 individuals train in the Napa Infant-Parent Mental Health Fellowship Program. The second opportunity, targeted to Master's level providers, will be for a local Child-Parent Psychotherapy Learning Collaborative expected to begin in Spring 2020.

Partnerships that Help Advance the Cause for Investing in Early Childhood.

First 5 Yolo and HMG have also established an agreement with Partnership Health to replicate the First 5 Alameda study in Yolo County in 2020 to explore whether Yolo County residents are also identified and served earlier in the healthcare system when engaged with HMG services. This will help further demonstrate the impact of HMG as a systems change agent in our community and at the state and national level.

First 5 Yolo is also finalizing data sharing agreements with Child Welfare Services (CWS) and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to track the number and percent of clients served who avoid the need for Child welfare entry or re-entry after services over time.

Possible Funding to Expand & Enhance Programs

New opportunities such as IMPACT 2020 may provide additional funding for alternative/non-traditional community- and home-based sites such as family resource centers, libraries, homeless shelters, and other settings. Quality improvement strategies could include, parent engagement activities and parental education to support parents as a child's first teacher, improving early childhood quality learning for Yolo County's youngest children.

Summary & Future Opportunities

Conclusion

The First 5 Yolo Commission adopted 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 safe, healthy, and ready to learn. First 5 Yolo will continue to concentrate on identifying and serving highest-risk families at the earliest points of leverage for the greatest prevention and intervention impacts. In alignment with The First 5 Network, increasing emphasis on coordinated services and activities that create systems change will also be a priority, as First 5's across the State become backbone agencies, program architects, and collaborators in accordance with State Statute (Proposition 10).

Moving forward, First 5 Yolo will continue to use data collected to make decisions related to investments, program improvement, 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.



One day, California's success will be measured by the wellbeing of its youngest children.



Appendix A

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). This data is submitted to First 5 Yolo twice a year.

Program-level data. In addition to client demographic data, each funded program collects data to assess program outcomes and to understand how services can be improved. Survey type and methodologies vary based on the tool and nature of each program with some surveys offered anonymously. This may result in a minimal level of survey duplication within in some programs (e.g., library storytime) however, demographic information and total number of program participants for each program are unduplicated. Program-level surveys, assessments, and reports that were referenced in this report are:

- Help Me Grow Yolo Caregiver Survey
- Yolo County Library Storytime Pre/Post Parent Survey
- The CHILD Project Pilot (Davis CommuniCare Perinatal Clinic and Yolo County Children's Alliance Healthy Families Yolo County) Administrative Data Screen (ADS) HFA Parent Survey, Retrospective Pre/Post Parenting Skills Ladder, Home Visit Record
- Nurturing Parenting Program (RISE Inc) Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory-2 (AAPI-2)
- HMG-CommuniCare Maternal Mental Health PHQ-9
- Yolo Crisis Nursery Parent Survey, ABC play assessment (coded data from University of Delaware reviewers)
- Family Hui Pre/Post Parent Survey

Appendix B

Priority area strategies as they relate to First 5 Yolo funded programs:

Goal Area Strategies		Programs												
		Help Me Grow	Healthy Families America	Yolo Crisis Nursery	Family Hui	Early Literacy for Families	Play School Experience	IMPACT	ABC Home Visiting	Nurturing Parent Visiting	The CHILD Parent Program	Imagination Library	Sponsorship Library	Clear Impact
Improve Child Health	Expand early childhood and infant developmental, environmental, and mental health screening	.	.	.			.	.	.	.	.
	Support effective, early identification of risk for adverse childhood experiences and referral to needed family supports	.	.	.					.	.	.
	Improve access to services focused on highest-risk/greatest need families, including children with special needs	.	.	.				.		.
	Address determinants of child health and research-identified risk factors (e.g., teen pregnancy, poverty, maternal health and wellness, family violence, and others)	.	.	.	.		.	.	.	.	.
	Support highest-risk families to stay current on well-child visits, prenatal care, and immunizations		.	.				.		.
	Improve maternal, child, and family health and nutrition		.	.				.	.	.
Improve Child Safety	Implement evidence-based or best practice, high-intensity early intervention to prevent child maltreatment (e.g., home visiting and other proven practices for healthy and strong/safe families)		.	.				.	.	.
	Provide results-oriented and coordinated parent education and support services ranging from low- to high- intensity		.	.	.		.		.	.	.
	Partner with Child Welfare to fill program/service gaps for foster children and system-involved children and families	.						.						
	Strengthen and promote communication about best practices to protect children across all agencies in Yolo County and develop a common language	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Target outreach and support (including access to quality legal, therapeutic, counseling services, etc.) to young children who are victims of family violence			.					.					
	Improve access to safety information packets and educational materials or programs for families at birth	.	.	.						.
Improve Quality Early Learning	Provide evidence-based or best practice early learning programs for at-risk or special needs children and their parents/caregivers			.		.	.		.	.
	Improve quality early learning for children through education, professional development, and support for providers	.						.						
	Promote trauma-informed and therapeutic early learning program support	.		.				.						
	Offer early learning opportunities that promote parent/child bonding, healthy child development, and cultural sensitivity				.	.	.		.	.	.	.
	Support quality early learning and preschool initiatives				.	.	.							
Improve Systems & Networks	Provide services along a continuum of care to address families' various needs and risk factors, such as poverty	.	.	.	.			.	.	.
	Reach highest-risk children and families at the greatest point of leverage, the earliest years, through expanded and improved assessment prenatally and at birth, and direction to high-intensity home visiting and auxiliary services	.	.	.	.				.		.
	Collaborate and actively strengthen partnerships with and among public agencies, community based organizations, and private industry	.	.	.	.			.	.	.
	Create tools or methods to identify children and families in-need who might otherwise be undetected	.	.							.				
	Build organizational or community capacity to serve children and families in Yolo County	.	.	.					.	.	.		.	.
	Support multiple points of entry for assessment or services, including non-traditional entry points, such as public safety	.	.	.	.	.			.		.	.
	Invest in systemic change with viable pilot projects and measurable results	.	.	.					.	.	.

Notes:

ⁱIn FY18-19, First 5 Yolo served fewer children in each area except in the city of Davis where the CHILD Project Pilot at Davis CommuniCare Health Center and Yolo County Children’s Alliance Home Visiting was conducted, and in the smaller communities of Clarksburg and Esparto where Help Me Grow, IMPACT, Play School Experience and the Library were able to serve numbers of clients similar to previous years.

Currently, Proposition 10 funding is declining annually at approximately 1% to 5%, as consumption of nicotine products continues to decline in California. Given the need to invest carefully, the new Strategic Plan focuses efforts on increasingly targeted and higher-impact investments in the earliest years (prenatal to 3 years old) which has resulted in an intentional decrease in the total number of programs funded in FY18-19. Additionally, in West Sacramento one preschool stopped including the HMG consent form in registration packets which negatively impacted outreach capacity. The preschool has since re-instated the consent form, but many of the children have left to enroll in a new charter school in West Sacramento. HMG has begun to establish a relationship with the charter school, but this is still in progress. The closure of a preschool in Knights Landing (due to declining enrollment) led to a significant drop in the number of clients served compared to FY17-18.

The “Other Family Members” category is comprised primarily of Help Me Grow Call Center phone calls and presentations at local Yolo County events, where demographic information is not always possible to collect. In addition, historically, this category was largely used for siblings ages 6-18 by most funded partners. First 5 Yolo clarified in FY19-20 reporting requirements that “other family members” category will only capture the children in the family served indirectly through First 5 Programs who are between the ages of 6-18, while adults acting as the primary caregivers (parents, legal guardians, foster parents, grandparents, and other family members) will be captured under the category of Parents/Guardians. This is aligned with reporting requirements for the State and allows First 5 Yolo to better understand the extent to which First 5 programs reach siblings and other children in the home.