

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First 5 Riverside Commission Approves Revised Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year 2011 to 2016

(May 11, 2011) RIVERSIDE, CA — During May’s monthly meeting, the Riverside County Children & Families Commissioners voted and approved the revised proposed Strategic Plan for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

The Commission’s existing Strategic Plan is due to expire June 30, 2011, and in August 2010, First 5 Riverside began a comprehensive strategic planning process to guide future community investments. As part of this process, there was an extensive review of the Commission’s investments, financial plan, community data, and outcomes from previously funded efforts.

In addition to extensive Commission discussion, four public events were hosted for members of the public to provide input into First 5 Riverside’s strategic planning process. These events were offered in the cities of Riverside and Cathedral City, with a total attendance of 173 participants representing more than 16 cities. This included parents and caregivers of children 0-5, service providers, and other members of the public.

Upon a comprehensive review of all available materials, First 5 Riverside selected strategies to focus its investments in three areas: 1) Early Care and Education, 2) Health, and 3) Systems Change and Capacity Building. Servicing children with special needs is a priority for the Commission across focus areas and implementation efforts specific to this population will be incorporated into all strategies.

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First 5 Riverside, the Riverside County Children & Families Commission, is a division of the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services. It is funded by Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues. Established by the County Board of Supervisors in 1999, First 5 Riverside supports early childhood development through educational outreach, partnerships and funding for early education, health and child care services that benefit children, from prenatal to age 5, and their families. Research shows that support helps children develop a strong foundation for success in school and throughout their lives. For more information about First 5 Riverside programs and other funded services, call 800-266-3880 or visit www.rccfc.org.