



Riverside County Children & Families Commission

A public entity funded from Proposition 10 tobacco tax funds

MEDIA CONTACT:
Stella Smith
First 5 Riverside
951-248-0014
ssmity@rccfc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First 5 Riverside Funding Helps Families Connect to Critical Services

(APRIL 22, 2009) RIVERSIDE, CA — A boost in funding from First 5 Riverside, the Riverside County Children & Families Commission, is helping Riverside County's 2-1-1 telephone referral system continue to operate and maintain its valuable service to communities.

The Commission approved \$51,100 Wednesday to replace telephone and computer equipment.

“We don't want families to lose the opportunity to find support, especially during these tough economic times,” said Jerry Wengerd, chair of First 5 Riverside, the Riverside County Children & Families Commission. “By calling 2-1-1, families can get linked directly to programs and services funded by First 5 Riverside and other resources needed to help them.”

The 211 system includes information and referrals for services that are critical to families with young children such as rental assistance, emergency food, and family or health support services. About 22 percent of the calls received annually come from families with children through age 5, according to The Volunteer Center, which operates the 24-hour, 7 day a week service. Bilingual assistance is also available.

First 5 Riverside has invested more than \$1 million over the years to help launch and strengthen the infrastructure of the system. Today, the system links families to more than 2,000 programs across the county.

For more information on the referral services available in Riverside County through 2-1-1 visit www.211riversidecounty.org.

First 5 Riverside, the Riverside County Children & Families Commission, is a public entity funded by Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues and established by the County Board of Supervisors in 1999. First 5 Riverside provides funding of early education, health and child care services that help children through age 5 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 951-248-0014 or Toll Free 800-266-3880 or visit www.rccfc.org.