

FIRST 5 & THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's latest budget proposal threatens critical early childhood developmental services by diverting \$550 million in Proposition 10 (California Children and Families Act of 1998) funding to the state general fund.

Thousands of children in First 5 programs, including those funded by the Riverside County Children & Families Commission (First 5 Riverside), could lose access to health, child care and early education by such an action.

THE PROPOSAL:

- Takes \$308 million through a one-time take-away from current reserves
- Redirects 50 percent of Proposition 10 revenues (About \$242 million in 2010-2011) currently directed to state and local accounts within the Commission's budget
- If the legislature approves the Governor's proposal, a new proposition to redirect Prop 10 funding will be included in the June 2010 election.

IMPACT ON RIVERSIDE COUNTY:

-First 5 Riverside currently provides **more than \$34 million** in funding for services for children through age 5 including:

- \$11.7 million for Health-Related Services
- \$12.6 million for Early Education-Related Services
- \$9.9 million for Child Care-Related Services

-Current funding supports **more than 550 jobs** in Riverside County.

-Last fiscal year (2008-2009), funding resulted in services such as the following:

- **18,994 children** received oral health services including screenings, education and treatment
- **5,723 children** received comprehensive screenings and assessments to identify needs and provide referrals for proper interventions
- **2,349 children** benefited from preschool services or early education programs
- **1,605 subsidized infant, toddler and preschool spaces** were made available

-If the Governor's proposal is ultimately approved, First 5 Riverside could receive as little as \$12 million in fiscal year 2010-2011 to fund services for young children.

WHAT ADVOCATES SHOULD KNOW:

- **The Governor is proposing an idea that already failed.**
Prop 10 has been supported by the voters three times now: when it was originally passed in 1998; two years later when the tobacco industry put a measure on the ballot to repeal it; and last year, with the defeat of Prop 1D. To assume voters have changed their mind is an unrealistic premise to base a budget on.
- **The Governor's proposal takes much more than 50% of First 5 revenues.**
- **The Governor's proposal rips resources directly out of local communities to fund state responsibilities.**
- **Prop 10 fills in where no other public dollars can.**

UPDATE:

The proposal could be considered by Senate and Assembly budget committees late March, early April. In May, the Governor will present a revised budget proposal and negotiations will become more intense as the Legislature and Governor try to agree on a balanced budget by July 1. It's important that all members of the Legislature hear what their constituents think.