

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Major Funding To Expand Preschool For All & Early Care Efforts

(July 23, 2010) RIVERSIDE, CA — Nearly \$4 million will go toward serving more than 275 Riverside County children and creating additional child care infrastructure to accommodate more in the future under Preschool for All and New Capacity initiatives.

The [First 5 Riverside, the Riverside County Children & Families Commission](http://www.rccfc.org), agreed this week to devote an additional \$744,206 to expand its Preschool for All Small Flagship Project from one to two school Riverside County school districts. In total, the Commission approved \$1.9 million for this effort.

Another \$1.99 million was approved to increase child care in several high needs areas, including Wildomar, Menifee, Calimesa and Palm Desert. The Commission indicated that they intend to award additional New Capacity for High Need area grants at their August meeting.

Quality early care and education programs can provide significantly better outcomes for children, according to numerous studies. Such experiences have been known to provide a cognitive development and increased educational outcomes, especially among those that are disadvantaged. Research proves that there is a direct link between high quality early education services and children's success in school and beyond.

“The Commission believes that all children deserve the opportunity to benefit from such programs and provides funding to the greatest degree possible,” says First 5 Riverside Executive Director Harry Freedman.

Nuview Union School District, which is funded by First 5 Riverside, currently operates the only Preschool for All program in Riverside County. It will serve as a model and provide assistance for three years as new programs get started in the Murrieta Valley and Temecula Valley unified schools districts. Funding will allow both school districts to serve all preschoolers within the boundaries of select schools.

Assistance with child care in high need areas—areas in the County with a high percentage of families with children in poverty and percentage of population 0-5 years old—will help families that are economically stretched thin. New funding will provide greater child care capacity for more than 150 children through additional pre-kindergarten classrooms, upgraded or renovated facilities and other improvements. Funded agencies include Cafh Order at Wildomar, Inc., Learning Tree Preschool, New Life Christian Fellowship-Inland Preschool and Desert Community College District.

For more information about First 5 Riverside or the programs that it funds, visit www.rccfc.org or call 951-248-0014.

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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.