



A public entity funded from Proposition 10 tobacco tax funds

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## **Commission Establishes New Funding Opportunities**

(Sept. 24, 2009) RIVERSIDE, CA — Due to the increasing needs of young children, the Riverside County Children & Families Commission agreed this week to spend more than \$15.4 million on expanding education, child care and health services. With the new spending approved last month, the Commission will be providing an additional \$26.1 million in total for services for children through age 5.

About \$6 million of the allocation will go toward increasing services through current First 5 Riverside funded agencies. The rest of the allocation will support new child care capacity for high needs, health access and to maintain other health services reduced by economic conditions.

“The Commission is committed to ensuring all children are healthy and ready for school, especially during a time when their needs have been compounded by this difficult economy and unpredictable state and county budgets,” said Commission Chair Jerry Wengerd.

This week, the Commission also formalized plans to fund \$2.7 million in emergency needs and innovative community programs, along with another \$8 million for child care scholarships for eligible children on a waiting list. Emergency grants, available starting in October, include those created by unforeseen events that have or will significantly impact services that support children in Riverside County.

Approved grants are one-time and not intended to support ongoing operations. They must also meet Commission strategic plan goals and objectives. The tobacco tax initiative, Proposition 10, mandates that funds must be used to expand, increase participation or enhance services and not to supplant existing levels or funding for services.

All funding opportunities and details will be available at [www.rccfc.org](http://www.rccfc.org).

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*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](http://www.rccfc.org).*