



First 5 Riverside Revised Strategic Plan 2006 – 2011

Vision

All children in Riverside County are healthy and thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving environments and enter school ready to learn and embrace lifelong learning.

Mission

First 5 Riverside invests in partnerships that deliver results in these areas: physical health, social-emotional health, cognitive development, a stable home environment, and schools that are ready.

Definitions Used in This Document

- **Goals:** Broad areas of results that matter to children and families
- **Objectives:** What the Commission wants to see change as a result of its work
- **Strategies:** What works to meet the objective
- **Operating Principles:** Values that are applied to the way in which the Commission operates
- **Commission Actions:** Actions directed by the Commission
- **Leveraging:** Using given resources, such as funds or in-kind support, to magnify the potential positive outcome.

Guiding Principles

The work of the Commission, in all of its roles, is shaped by the following principles:

- Respect the social, cultural, and ethnic diversity of families and communities.
- Support access to services for all families in an environment of support and respect.
- Support and encourage outreach to geographically and socially isolated families.
- Support families to meet the developmental needs of their children.
- Provide appropriate services and support to children with disabilities and other special needs and their families.
- Support and encourage collaboration and leveraging opportunities among grantees.
- Support promising practices and evidenced-based models.
- Recognize and promote services and support for children ages 0 through 5 as the foundation for a lifetime of growth and success.

Commission Actions

In addition to the Operating Principles, the Commission has identified a number of activities to pursue. These activities are entirely Commission directed and are directed toward changing the system to be more supportive of the needs of children ages 0 through 5 and their families. (See Appendix A for the Commission's Action Plan for achieving these results)

- The Commission will pursue marketing strategies and awareness campaigns that strive to increase public awareness about the importance of the first 5 years of a child's life.
- The Commission will seek collaboration opportunities with other public entities and agencies to develop systems integration and information sharing opportunities to maximize the benefits for all children in the county.
- The Commission will pursue leveraging opportunities presented by other State agencies, such as Proposition 63 and charter grants, to increase its reach and depth of impact.
- The Commission will advocate to improve, enhance, and integrate the service system for young children 0 through 5 and their families.
- The Commission will support the development of information and referral systems to facilitate the ability of services to assist families of children ages 0 through 5.
- The Commission will conduct an ongoing assessment of the difference First 5 funded activities are making for children 0 through 5 and their families and the larger community.
- The Commission will partner with the State First 5 Commission in upcoming initiatives if the initiative furthers Riverside First 5's vision, mission, and goals.
- The Commission will encourage payment of wages for family center based Child Care providers commensurate with the skills of the providers, and common in the marketplace.

HEALTH

Goal

Foster a healthy community and provide access to affordable, comprehensive and preventive mental and physical health services.

Objective

- 1.1 Increase access to health care
Strategy Code: 1A,B,D,E,F, G
- 1.2. Improve the social-emotional and developmental status of children ages 0 through 5
Strategy Code: 1B,C,E
- 1.3. Improve the dental health of children ages 0 through 5
Strategy Code: 1A,G
- 1.4. Improve the health status of children ages 0 through 5 through effective prevention strategies directed at the fundamental determinates of health
Strategy Code: 1B,E,F,G,H

Strategy

- 1A) Fund health insurance enrollment
- 1B) Support the medical home concept with the assessment of physical, mental, and developmental status as a routine part of pediatric care
- 1C) Support a system of coordination, case management, and follow-up for children and families with significant social and emotional risk (includes referral assistance to existing systems for care of physical and developmental problems)
- 1D) Fund gaps and strengthen existing services for care of children and families with physical, mental, developmental, social, emotional risk or confirmed problems
- 1E) Develop a targeted home visitation program to higher need families based on results of screening and assessment.
- 1F) Develop an immunization campaign (access to services and parent education)
- 1G) Develop an oral health campaign (access to services and parent education)
- 1H) Fund prevention strategies addressing breastfeeding, nutrition, injury prevention, and physical activity

CHILD CARE

Goal

Expand the availability of quality, accessible and affordable Child Care services.

Objective

- 2.1. Increase the quality of family and center-based Child Care for children 0 through 5-
Strategy Code: 2A,B,D,F,G,H,I
- 2.2. Improve access and affordability of child care services for families with high
needs and with special needs.
Strategy Code: 2C,E

Strategy

- 2A) Provide trainings to increase family and center-based Child Care providers' knowledge, skills, and qualifications.
- 2B) Support and enhance Child Care centers that link children and families to health, education and other needed services.
- 2C) Support and enhance comprehensive Child Care centers that meet the needs of parents who work non-traditional hours and/or who have children with special needs.
- 2D) Support coordinated and organized county-wide effort to integrate systems and services through training, capacity building, planning and partnerships.
- 2E) Fund Child Care spaces for families with high need, including low and moderate income families.
- 2F) Build county-wide infrastructure to increase comprehensive wrap-around Child Care services.
- 2G) Building a stable network of Child Care providers by improving recruitment and retention in the field.
- 2H) Provide compensation or incentives to Child Care providers linked to formal educational attainment.
- 2I) Assist providers to obtain licenses or become an accredited center.

EDUCATION

Goal

Educate Riverside County residents regarding the life long implication of optimal development through age 5.

Objective

- 3.1. Improve parents ability to support their children's learning and development.
Strategy Code: 3A,B
- 3.2. Increase the availability of affordable preschool that meets state standards.
Strategy Code: 3C
- 3.3. Increase early education opportunities for children.
Strategy Code: 3D,E

Strategy

- 3A) Parenting education activities.
- 3B) Augment services to provide family literacy training activities.
- 3C) Increase the number of preschool spaces.
- 3D) Support the State's School Readiness initiative.
- 3E) Support evidence-based programs for early education services for children ages 0 through 5 with specific emphasis on seizing funding opportunities for children ages 0 through 3.