

Executive Director Report

MARCH 2016

small hands,
BIG RESULTS



KAREN E. SCOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A Message from the ED



 Happy Social Worker Month!! First 5 San Bernardino celebrates the amazing contributions of social workers during National Social Work Month this March. First 5 is especially thankful for the child, family and

school social workers that provide assistance to improve the social and psychological functioning of children and their families. They provide assistance to single parents, help children find new families through adoption, or find foster homes for children who have been neglected, abandoned or abused. Social workers in schools also work with families and the schools to ensure students reach their full academic and personal potential. That certainly is a major goal of First 5 San Bernardino. To the many social workers in San Bernardino County—we salute you!



No doubt you've heard First 5 San Bernardino and others refer to QRIS much over the past year or so. What is QRIS? How does it affect education? What does it mean to parents and service providers?

Research shows that a child's brain develops most rapidly during the first 5 years of life. What happens during this time period is critically important to a child's social-emotional and cognitive development, and impacts their readiness for school. Early care and education experiences help to build a foundation for learning and prepare children for kindergarten, lifelong learning, and college and career readiness.

All early care and education is not equal and therefore as a "stand alone" offering to children, is not enough. Research demonstrates that high-quality early learning opportunities have a lasting effect on a child's language development, critical



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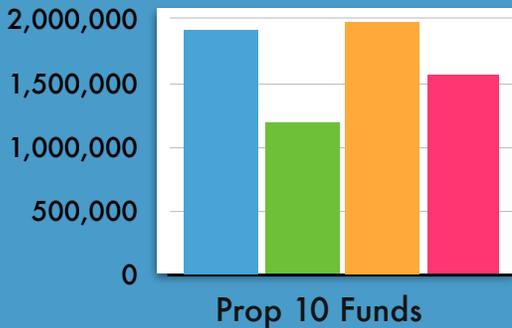
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Updates

Fiscal Update

F5SB received the monthly revenue from Prop 10 funds in the amount of \$1,572,486 for December 2015. This revenue funds First 5 San Bernardino programs and services.



- September - \$1,907,329
- October - \$1,196,190
- November - \$1,971,791
- December - \$1,572,486

Follow us on LinkedIn

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Auditing Services RFQ Deadline is Approaching!

Visit our website's Procurements page to learn more about our request for a qualified group or individual to conduct and prepare an Annual Audit and Report; and render an opinion of the Commission's financial statements.

Deadline is March 18, 2016 at 4:00p.m.

Photos: Early Learning & Child Care Policy Breakfast



In January, California State Senator Connie Leyva (District 20), First 5 California Executive Director Camille Maben, Child Care Resource Center Executive Director Dr. Michael Olenick, California State San Bernardino President Dr. Tomás Morales and First 5 San Bernardino Commissioner Linda Haugan attended the Early Learning & Child Care Policy Breakfast with First 5 San Bernardino Executive Director, Karen E. Scott to discuss policy updates and directions impacting children and families. A crowd of 100 attendees representing the early childhood sector in the Inland Empire region were brought up to date on the governor's budget and future directions of First 5 and Child Care Resource Center. We send a special thanks to Child Care Resource Center for their partnership!



Funders Forum 2016 Recognizes 9 Inland Empire Nonprofit's Journey in Capacity Building



A congratulations is in order to the fifth cohort of Capacity Building Academy. No Drugs America, Moses House Ministries, Another Level For Women, Giving 365, Mountain Counseling And Training, National Emergency Communications Organization Network Inc., Victor Valley Family Resource Center, Agape Community Christian

Church, and Veterans Partnering With Communities completed their program at the Funders Forum on January 28, 2016.

Supervisor Josie Gonzales of San Bernardino County's Fifth District joined as special guest speaker and shared words about the value of collaboration and capacity building. She congratulated the nonprofits on doing what it takes to improve their impact of service.

Panelists Stacy Iverson of Children's Fund, Marisol Inzunza of San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Otis Greer of County of San Bernardino and Jonathan Weedman of Wells Fargo Foundation gave feedback on the nonprofit's impressive presentations and echoed the importance of collaboration to increase viability of funding proposals. For more information on First 5's capacity building efforts, visit our website at www.first5sanbernardino.org.

ED Message: Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) *continued from front page*

thinking skills, and ability to engage and cooperate with others. The quality of early learning opportunities is critically important to a child's long-term success in school and in life.

The quality of early learning opportunities is critically important to a child's long-term success in school and in life. We also know that there must be alignment between high quality early childhood systems and high quality elementary school experiences.

When there is coordination between parents and caregivers, early care and education providers and elementary schools, children experience a smoother transition and are better prepared to enter school.

Despite what we know about the importance of the first years, the majority of early education programs in California, and across the nation, are considered to be low quality. Nearly 60 percent of U.S. early childhood education

centers are found to be of "inadequate or minimal" quality. A RAND Institute study showed that only 13 percent of California's low-income children are in high quality early education programs. Low quality early education negatively impacts all children, but for children who are economically disadvantaged, low quality early education puts them at a long-term disadvantage.

Over the past decade, states across the country have started to develop frameworks for organizing and communicating standards of quality in early care and education. A Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) is a system that:

- Defines quality standards for early care and education programs
- Measures programs against these standards

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- Offers and connects educators to training and professional development opportunities
- Helps parents & caregivers find quality programs for their children

With a QRIS, communities have a new tool to increase access to quality early learning experiences for children 0-5. The QRIS supports existing and aspiring early care and education providers by helping them recognize what they can do to best support the development of young children in their care. The framework also serves as a tool to help early learning programs determine their level of quality and identify a plan for improvement to meet higher standards of quality. In addition to helping programs and providers, the QRIS offers parents and caregivers a tool for recognizing quality settings and selecting programs that best fit the needs of their children.

First 5 San Bernardino is proud to release our county's first Strategic Plan to guide the development of a local Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS). The QRIS presents an opportunity to integrate and align our current quality improvement services and investments into one coherent system. Developing this system is also an opportunity to support and strengthen the 0-5 focus of our Countywide Vision by promoting the success of our county's children from cradle to career.

This plan is the first step in building a system to ensure San Bernardino County's youngest children have access to high quality early learning experiences that will give them a strong

developmental foundation and prepare them for school and, ultimately, college and career success.

In April 2015, First 5 San Bernardino convened a group of both new and traditional early learning partners to launch the QRIS strategic planning process. Through a diverse partnership including community partners, service providers, and members of our Early Childhood Education (ECE) workforce, we developed a shared vision of what a successful QRIS could look like in our county.

This QRIS plan is exemplary of the power and potential that exists when partners are engaged and united around a common goal. The plan is truly a product of their hard work, collaboration, and commitment to children 0-5 in our county. We appreciate the significant time investment participants in the QRIS strategic planning process have made over the past 8 months.

San Bernardino County's QRIS Strategic Plan establishes our direction and priorities for the QRIS in the coming years. This plan marks the beginning of our county's QRIS development, and we recognize that it will take continued partnership and commitment from all sectors to make high quality early care and education a reality for all of our children. We invite you to be a part of this exciting new endeavor. To gain a better understanding of San Bernardino County's QRIS mission, values, goals and objectives, visit the First 5 San Bernardino website at www.first5sanbernardino.org to access the Executive Summary and full QRIS Plan!

Local Outcomes Report 2014-2015

See what First 5 San Bernardino investments accomplished in fiscal year 2014-2015. Outcomes for Family, Education and Health Strategies are featured online at www.first5sanbernardino.org.