

## First 5 Tehama 2017-2022 Strategic Plan Executive Summary

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First 5 Commission is a policy making commission that guides long term investments from a systems level perspective and provides the organization and leadership for the Early Intervention Partnership System of Care for children ages 0-5.

Our vision is a County fully committed to the health and overall well-being of families. We see a time when all systems – public, non-profit, community-based, faith-based, private – act in collaborative and coordinated ways for the highest good of all. We are deeply engaged in and committed to, integrated early childhood systems of care, acknowledging that the first five years of a child's life is critical to life-long health and well-being. We are a community that insists on evidence based and evidence informed practices with family engagement every step of the way. We will collect data that reflects results, not simply what we have done, but what has been accomplished. Data will be used to adjust, as needed, keeping children and families at the center of our decision-making. Our focus will be on prevention, early intervention and treatment in ways that demonstrate respect, partnership and mutual accountability to the children of Tehama County.

The adoption of the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan, placed First 5 Tehama as the organizer and driver of the Early Intervention Partnership. In 2014, this Partnership became the prevention committee of the newly formed Blue Ribbon Commission championed by the Juvenile Justice Court Judge. In the Partnership, administrators with direct influence on organizational systems, work collaboratively to promote the best outcomes for children and families. The First 5 Tehama overriding goal is for a comprehensive, sustainable network of integrated services to support early childhood development and strong families.

Objectives are focused around:

- School Readiness as the Prevention Net
- Strengthening Families Framework,
- Early Intervention System of Care for Children and Families, and
- Stable and Effective First 5 Tehama Infrastructure & Funding.

County agencies, non-profits and other local partners work collaboratively to ensure positive outcomes for children and families. This is accomplished through integrated service, early access, universal developmental screening, effective transitions, maximizing resources and identifying and filling service gaps to create a comprehensive early intervention system. First 5 Tehama has been a facilitator and leader in the development and promotion of the Early Intervention Partnership System of Care and has been integral in the North State Consortia that is currently in the design and implementation phase of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The QRIS is a method to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education settings. This process has involved bringing together multiple collaborative partners across seven counties and leveraging multiple funding sources.

At the December 9, 2016 and May 18, 2017 strategic planning sessions, First 5 Tehama approved the continuation of their Action Plan goals:

1. Sustainability and expansion plans for School Readiness, First 5 Tehama's direct services funding priority:

School Readiness as the Prevention Net

- **Evidence-based Home Visiting:** Home visitors use the Parents as Teachers curriculum and assist families obtaining access to health and dental care.
  - **Evidence-informed Playgroups and KinderCamp:** Designed for children with no prior early care and education program experience.
  - **Preschool Find:** Identify and refer children, ages 3 or 4 who have not had early care and education program experience, to preschool programs.
  - **Parent Cafes:** Parent education opportunities supporting programs and communities in engaging parents, building protective factors, and promoting deep individual self-reflection and peer-to-peer learning.
  - **Developmental Screenings, referral and follow-up:** Ages and Stages Questionnaire completed by School Readiness staff.
  - **Increase Health Access** to prevention and primary health care services for pregnant women and children.
  - **Resource Visits and Case Management** services are offered to all families.
2. Countywide implementation of the Strengthening Families (SF) Framework
- Provide the organization and leadership for the SF Leadership Team, a subcommittee of the Early Intervention Partnership.
  - Provide support and leadership for the newly formed Home Visiting Collaborative, a subcommittee of the Early Intervention Partnership.
  - Partner with Tehama County Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council.
  - Support and expand family engagement, parent involvement, and parent leadership strategies.
3. Early Intervention System of Care for Children & Families
- Developing strong working relationships between all agencies and Community Based Organizations to ensure children and families are connected to services.
  - First 5 provides leadership and organization to strengthen and sustain the framework developed with partners for the Early Intervention Partnership System of Care.
  - Ensures stable baseline services and connections to include early access to services and active promotion of parent engagement.
  - Direct services are delivered in a framework that plans for, implements and sustains positive systems change for children and families with seamless transition among programs.
  - Support universal developmental screenings countywide.
  - Promote the best and shared outcomes for children and families.
  - Advocate for Path I program funding. Participate in the Child Welfare Services System Improvement Plan and assist in planning and coordinating of Child Abuse Prevention Intervention and Treatment, Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs.

- Advocate for funds to connect Path I families to appropriate community services and to define and monitor Path I engagement and success.
- Families engage in offered services. Families who decline services are offered alternatives.
- Other community collaborative leadership and participation, Strengthening Families Leadership Team, North State Consortia (Quality Rating and Improvement System), Region 2 IMPACT Hub, InterAgency Coordinating Committee, Blue Ribbon Commission, Home Visiting Collaborative. Participation includes keeping sight of building an ideal system of care and imbedding Strengthening Families Framework.

#### 4. Stable and Effective First 5 Tehama Infrastructure & Funding

The Commission determined to actively leverage funding and continue its' role in maximizing revenue streams to fulfill the stated objectives. To that end, they commit to:

- Secure needed funding to continue current services, as well as program expansion.
- Develop strategies to proactively fill the funding gap.
- Advocate for continuing Small Population County Funding Augmentation.
- Identify and pursue leveraging funding opportunities.
- No longer sole funder of services, use our flexibility to put funding out as a leverage (cash match services should be a goal now vs. sole funder).



## Vision, Mission, Statement of Values, and Commitments

### ***Vision***

*In partnership with the community, Tehama County children will be born healthy and thrive in safe, supportive, nurturing and loving environments; and will enter school cognitively prepared and be healthy, active, socially appropriate learners.*

### ***Mission***

*Tehama County children will thrive, be healthy and enter school ready to learn.*

### ***Statement of Values***

The Commission approved the following Statement of Values designed to serve as a tool directing policy and planning efforts.

1. Respect the inherent value and worth each person and culture possesses
2. Work together with organizations/people who support common values and vision to achieve our goals
3. Advocate for social change to promote human dignity and to improve the quality of life
4. Safeguard the human and financial resources entrusted to us as we carry out our mission by leveraging funds to maximize community resources and program support
5. Demonstrate a commitment to inclusive collaboration in our work through teamwork and innovation

### ***Commitments***

First 5 Tehama is dedicated to creating models to fill systems and service gaps through the following commitments:

#### **First 5 Tehama Commitment**

1. Quality not quantity
2. Priorities not funding streams
3. Effective Evaluation
4. Focus on implementation and learning areas of investments
5. Replication and common application

A similar set of commitments is required from the awarded grantees and partners.

#### **Grantee and Partner Commitment**

1. Professionalism
2. Buy-in
3. Collaboration

## Service Delivery

In the past, Tehama County has identified problems, recognized what works best in the county and then built upon those strengths. First 5 encourages and supports a more comprehensive network of integrated services and accountability measures to ensure that the desired outcomes for early childhood development and strong families are achieved.

The Early Intervention Partnership, a subcommittee of the Blue Ribbon Commission, is committed to integrating the service delivery systems with a focus on: 1) TCDE's School Readiness Program as a prevention net by reaching families early; 2) Monitoring Path I referral success by reaching the hardest to serve families; 3) the Strengthening Families Framework as a best practice strategy, and 4) Early Intervention Partnership System of Care leadership, facilitation and organization.

### 1. School Readiness (SR) as the Prevention Net

- Partners and family serving organizations develop formalized SR program referral systems.
- School Readiness as a Path I community agency referral source for families with children ages 0-5.
- Providing developmental screenings countywide, referrals and follow-up.
- Increase health access to prevention and primary health care services for pregnant women and children.
- Identifying and making preschool referrals.

### 2. Strengthening Families Framework

- Research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.
- Based on engaging families, program and communities in building protective and promotive factors.
- These factors are: parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, social and emotional competence of children.
- This comprehensive approach is adapted to different contexts, programs and service systems.
- Path I is utilized when the risk is low and no safety factors are present, yet information indicates some family stressors.
- Path I families are connected to appropriate community services.
- Families engage in offered services. Families who decline services are offered alternatives.

### 3. Early Intervention System of Care for Children & Families

- First 5 provides leadership and organization to strengthen and sustain the framework developed with partners for the Early Intervention Partnership System of Care.
- Ensures stable baseline services and connections to include early access to services

and active promotion of parent engagement.

- Direct services are delivered in a framework that plans for, implements and sustains positive systems change for children and families with seamless transition among programs.
- Support universal developmental screenings countywide.
- Promote the best and shared outcomes for children and families.
- Facilitate the development and implementation of a county-wide, universal 0-5 program referral and application system.
- Monitor the “Help Me Grow” at the State and local level.

