



Executive Summary

2012/13

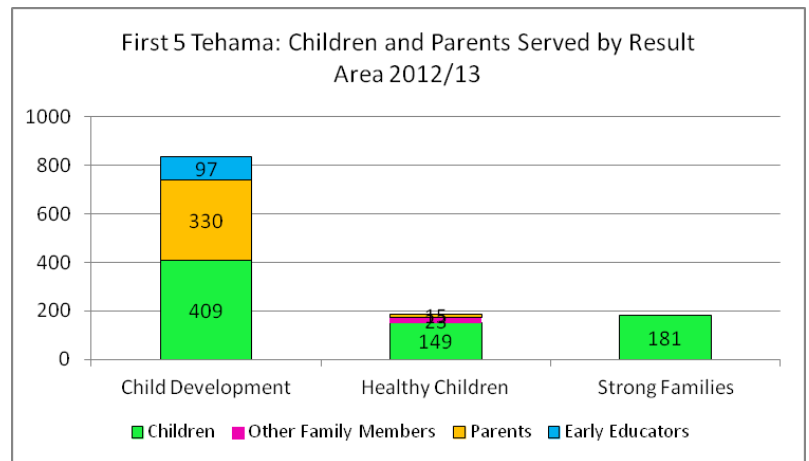
Annual Report

The First 5 Tehama Strategic Plan has four desired results and five objectives:

1. Strong families:
 - Parents will receive support to increase their knowledge of child rearing, family relationships and community resources.
2. Children learning and ready for school:
 - Increase access to quality early care and education programs that integrate cognitive, social and emotional development for all three and four year old children.
3. Healthy children:
 - Increase health access to prevention and primary health care services for pregnant women and children.
4. Improved systems of care for families:
 - Families from all cultural backgrounds are easily able to access multiple services and resources through an integrated system;
 - Increase administrative capability and project sustainability.

Children and Parents Served

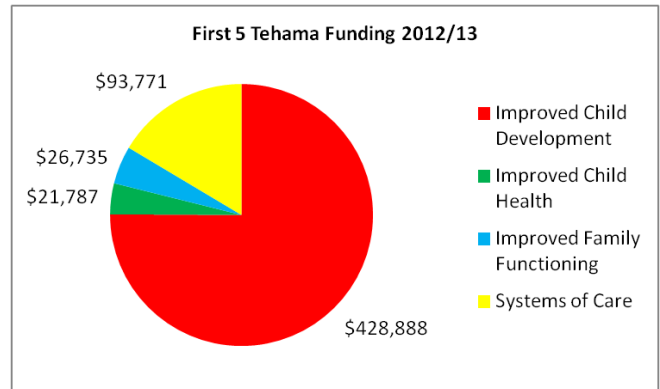
In 2012/13, programs funded by First 5 Tehama served: 739 children ages 0 to 5, 345 parents, and 97 early educators. Programs in the result area Child Development served the most children (409) and parents (330), early educators (97). These programs included School Readiness projects in Los Molinos, Gerber and Corning School



Districts and CARES Plus, a professional development program for early educators and Child Signature Program #2, a program to improve quality in preschool programs. In Child Health, the Mobile Dental Clinic provided oral health services to 149 children, 15 pregnant women and 23 other family members. The Northern Valley Catholic Social Service Corning Family Resource Center programs in the result area Strong Families served 181 children.

Funding

In 2012/13, First 5 Tehama distributed \$571,221 in project grant awards. The largest area of investment for First 5 Tehama in 2012/13 was Children Ready for School, with 75% of the funds, followed by Improved Systems of Care (16%), Strong Families (5%) and Healthy Children (4%).



Services

Programs funded in the area of Children Ready to Learn included the School Readiness Project and CAREs Plus. School Readiness implemented the READY! For Kindergarten program, parenting classes, KinderCamp programs for children with no prior early learning experience, play groups, home visits and developmental screenings.

In 2012/13, First 5 Tehama participated in a California First 5 initiative to provide professional development to early educators. The program, called CARES Plus involved participants meeting with a Professional Growth Advisor and a College Counselor, taking online classes on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) instrument for improving the effectiveness of teacher-child interactions, and/or enroll in six units of Early Childhood Education college classes. First 5 Tehama staff administered the program. Twenty-three participants met all the requirements for the program and were awarded a stipend.

First 5 Tehama participated in First 5 California's Child Signature Program #2 in 2012/13. First 5 Tehama contracted with the Tehama County Department of Education to implement the program. The goal of the Child Signature Program #2 is to enhance the quality of preschool programs through systematic assessment of the classroom environment, support from Early Learning Systems Specialists, and online classes in the CLASS assessment tool. In 2012/13, 74 early care educators working in 34 classrooms in State Preschools, Head Start programs and Early Head Start Programs, participated in the quality enhancement project.

In the result area of Improved Child Health, The Mobile Dental Clinic (MDC) served 149 children in 487 office visits. The MDC provided prevention services, including 232 exams and 475 xrays, 182 cleanings, 47 sealants, 200 fluoride varnish treatments. The MDC provided oral health treatment, including 340 fillings, 3 extractions, 4 root canals, and 2 pediatric crowns. MDC staff provided oral hygiene instruction in 183 sessions and made 17 referrals to a hospital or a higher level of oral health care. The Mobile Dental Clinic is a partnership with Northern Valley Indian Health, First 5 Butte and First 5 Glenn. The clinic bills insurance plans (including MediCal) and also treats children without insurance.

In the result area of Strong Families, the Northern Valley Catholic Social Service provided classes and other services for 181 children in the Corning Family Resource Center.

First 5 Tehama Funded Programs 2012/13					
Direct Services to Children and Parents					
	Home Visits	Classes*	In person services	Case management	Assessments
School Readiness	1,096	117		408	445
Mobile Dental Clinic			1,673		
Northern Valley Catholic Social Service			181		

* includes parenting classes, KinderCamp sessions, and parent/child activities

First 5 Tehama County gathers information on improved systems of care at three levels: at the individual level, programs co-serve families in joint case management; at the program level, agencies engage in shared planning, shared outreach, shared activities and leveraged funding. At the county level, the Commission encourages strong linkages with other organizations that serve children in the county to ensure a countywide system of care for children 0 to 5. Monthly Health Partnership and quarterly Early Intervention Partnership meetings provide opportunities for program staff to network, share ideas, collaboratively plan new approaches and discuss systems changes.

Outcomes

Families receiving home visits from the School Readiness Project reported improved access to health care and increased time reading to their children. After six months in the home visiting program, 97% of the core families had health insurance (compared to 94% at program entry) and 98% had a regular doctor (compared to 87% at program entry). Eighty-three percent of the children received preventive health care (compared to 85% at program entry) and 96% received oral health care, (compared to 65% at program entry). Ninety-seven percent of the families receiving home visits reported reading to their children at least 3 times a week, compared to 79% at program entry.

According to surveys of parents registering their children for kindergarten in the target area of the School Readiness Project, children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2013 had greater access to health care, dental care and early care and education programs than in previous years.

- In Corning, between 2007/08 and 2012/13, the proportion of entering kindergarten students with health insurance grew from 70% to 96%, students with a physical exam grew from 81% to 97%, and students with an oral health exam grew from 73% to 98%.
- In Los Molinos and Gerber, 94% of entering Kindergarten students in the fall of 2013 had health insurance, 100% had a physical exam and 100% had an oral health exam. Access to oral health care increased from 69% to 100% of entering kindergarteners.

- Also, 95% of entering Kindergarten students in Los Molinos and Gerber in 2013 had some form of prior early childhood education experience before entering school: 90% attended an early learning program, 5% attended KinderCamp and 5% had no prior early learning experience. Early learning programs include preschool, Head Start, child care center, licensed Family Child Care Home and KinderCamp programs.
- In Corning, 94% of entering Kindergarten students in 2012 had prior early childhood education experience: 87.2% attended an early learning program and 7.4% attended KinderCamp, 5.4% had no prior early learning experience.

Feedback was very positive from CARES Plus participants in the first year of implementation of the program:

- 87% rated the online classes as good or excellent,
- 78% said that CLASS was extremely helpful in improving their knowledge of high quality teacher-child interaction, and
- 83% stated they applied what they learned in CLASS to improve their child care program.

Norma’s Success Story (as told by School Readiness-AmeriCorps Worker)

Working in school readiness has been a great opportunity to learn and to meet all types of people and families. It is very exciting to see the little changes that help the families you meet, making a huge impact for the rest of their lives.

This is a story about a family of two parents and three children and who has accomplished a lot. I met this family last year; it was during the first two months of starting my work as an AmeriCorps member in the School Readiness program. The family was new to the area and mom stayed at home with the three children while the dad worked. I started doing home visits with the family, mom started opening up to me and telling me that she felt lost because she didn’t know anyone in this town. I invited her to our weekly playgroups and took her resources on other programs and activities. Mom started attending the playgroups with her children; getting acquainted with the other moms there as time went on. I continued to do home-visits with her and during that time mom completed all three developmental assessments for her children. The youngest child scored low in several developmental areas and was referred to Far Northern Regional Center; he was assessed and is receiving therapy. He was also enrolled in the Early Head Start full day center. He is receiving the help he needs to reach his full potential.

The family’s four-year old son only attended about one month of preschool so he was enrolled in KinderCamp and mom said he is now doing very well in kindergarten.

As mom was getting more comfortable and familiar in the town, I encouraged her to attend a training at the job center for a medical assistant. Mom loved it and continued the courses and is now almost done with her internship program. Soon she will be working as a medical assistance and is very proud of herself and all her accomplishments. She is also very grateful for all the help and support she has received and the encouragement of always pushing her and telling her she can do it!

Paz's Success Story – (as told by School Readiness Staff)

When I first started to visit this Gerber area family, the mother was having a lot of transportation issues and she was refusing to use the bus (TRAX). She was very fearful of not arriving to the destination and the schedule and language barriers were confusing to her. There was no other transportation available within her family so I began transporting her and her children to doctor and dentist appointments. I finally convinced her to use the bus and little by little, with support and encouragement and even riding the bus with her, she was convinced to try. Now she is riding the bus almost every day to and from all appointments in Red Bluff. She tells other moms here experiences with the public transportation and how easy it is to use.

During this time there has also be a noticeable improvement in her son's speech. Last year, we did a developmental assessment on him and it was clear that he was very low on the speech area. He was referred to Special Education through the Tehama County Department of Education. After being assessed he then began to receive therapy.

There were ongoing issues with transportation to the therapy appointments but we continued to work with both of them to remove any barriers. We even convinced the school to provide bus transportation so he could attend his speech therapies. Now he is receiving his speech therapies once a week and making great improvements; as noticed by everyone around him. He is talking a lot and is also trying to speak English now.

He is four years old but is unable to attend pre-school as they do not have reliable transportation; but the family is receiving home-visits and mom makes sure that they are attending our weekly play groups. With our continued reminders and encouragement, Mom is reading, singing, and telling stories everyday to him and his baby brother