



Executive Summary

2013/14

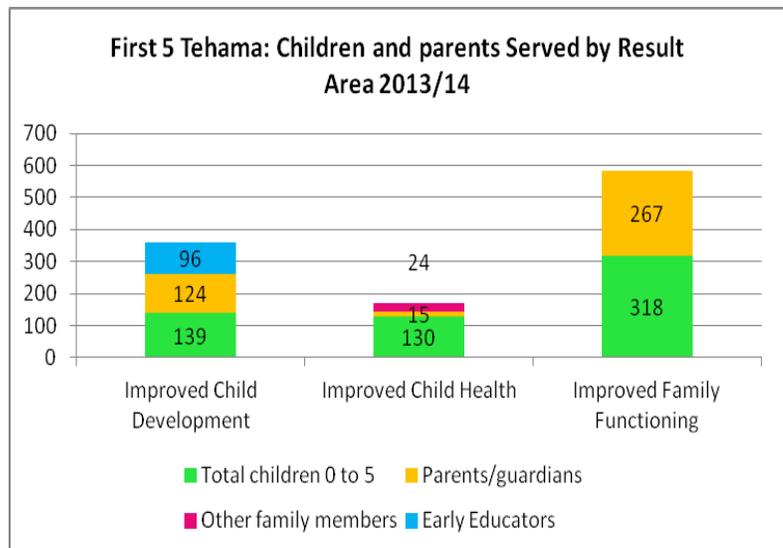
Annual Report

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.

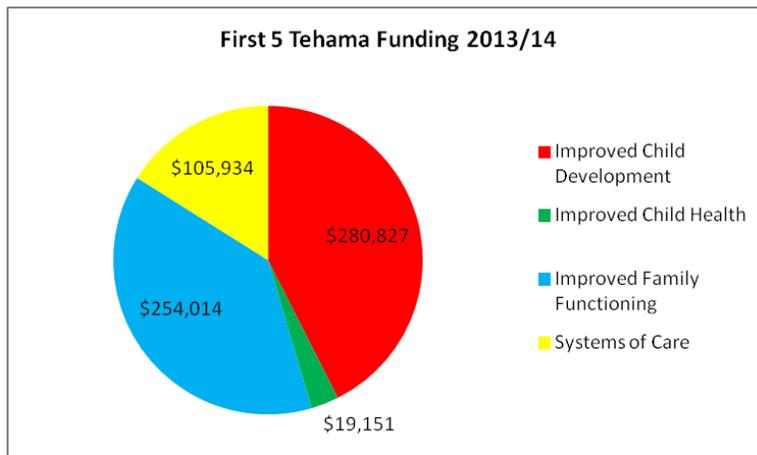
Children and Parents Served

In 2013/14, programs funded by First 5 Tehama served: 587 children ages 0 to 5, 406 parents, and 96 early educators. Programs in the result area Improved Family Functioning served the most children (318) and parents (267). Next in size were the programs designed to Improve Child Development, which served 139 children, 124 parents and 96 Early Educators. In the result area of Improved Child Health, a funded program provided services to 130 children, 15 pregnant women and 24 other family members.



Funding

In 2013/14, First 5 Tehama distributed \$609,926 in project grant awards. The largest area of investment for First 5 Tehama in 2013/14 was Improved Child Development, with 46% of the funds, followed by Improved Family Functioning, with 42% of the funds, Improved Systems of Care (17%) and Healthy Children (3%).



Services

Programs funded in the area of Improved Child Development included the School Readiness Project, CARES Plus and the Child Signature Program #2. School Readiness implemented the “READY! for Kindergarten” program, KinderCamp programs for children with no prior early learning experience, play groups, and developmental assessments.

In 2013/14, 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 2013/14. 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 2013/14, 73 early care educators working in 48 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 130 children in 403 office visits. The MDC provided prevention services, including 177 exams and 410 x-rays, 131 cleanings, 62 sealants, 147 fluoride varnish treatments. The MDC provided oral health treatment, including 110 fillings, 4 extractions, and one root canal. MDC staff provided oral hygiene instruction in 150 sessions and made 15 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, First 5 Glenn, Northern California Child Development, Inc. and E Center. The clinic bills insurance plans (including MediCal) and also treats children without insurance.

In the result area of Improved Family Functioning, home visits, parenting classes, and case management were implemented by the School Readiness Project in Los Molinos, Gerber and Corning School Districts. The Corning Family Resource Center implemented by Northern Valley Catholic Social Service provided direct services as well as resource and referrals to children and families in the West Street School attendance area.

First 5 Tehama Funded Programs 2013/14					
Direct Services to Children and Parents					
	Home Visits	Classes*	In person services	Case management	Assessments
School Readiness	1,533	122		295	304
Mobile Dental Clinic			1,209		

* includes Nurturing Parenting classes, KinderCamp sessions, playgroups and “READY! for Kindergarten” sessions

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. First 5 Tehama spearheads the Early Intervention Partnership among public agencies and nonprofit organizations that serve children 0 to 8 and their families. The Partnership strives to improve communication, coordination and integrated service delivery between participating agencies by identifying and filling gaps in services and systems.

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, 96% of the core families had health insurance (compared to 95% at program entry) and 98% had a regular doctor (compared to 95% at program entry). Ninety-eight percent of the children received preventive health care (compared to 73% at program entry) and 81% received oral health care, (compared to 58% at program entry). Ninety-three percent of the families receiving home visits reported reading to their children at least 3 times a week, compared to 71% 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 2014 had greater access to health care, dental care and early childhood education programs than in previous years.

- In Corning, between 2007/08 and 2013/14, the proportion of entering kindergarten students with health insurance grew from 70% to 96%, students with a physical exam grew from 81% to 99%, and students with an oral health exam grew from 73% to 96%.
- In Los Molinos and Gerber, 97% of entering Kindergarten students in the fall of 2014 had health insurance, 97% had a physical exam and 92% had an oral health exam. Access to oral health care increased from 69% to 92% of entering kindergarteners.
- Also, 94% of entering Kindergarten students in Los Molinos and Gerber in 2014 had some form of prior early learning experience before entering school: 87% attended an early childhood education program, 1% attended KinderCamp and 6% had no prior early learning experience. Early childhood education programs include preschool, Head Start, child care center, or a licensed Family Child Care Home.
- In Corning, 98% of entering Kindergarten students in 2014 had prior early learning experience: 88% attended an early childhood education program and 10% attended KinderCamp, 2% had no prior early learning experience.

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

- 92% rated the online classes as good or excellent,
- 75% said that CLASS was extremely helpful in improving their knowledge of high quality teacher-child interaction, and
- 80% stated they applied what they learned in CLASS to improve their child care program.

Success Story

A family of two parents and three children served by the School Readiness Project were new to the area. The mother told the AmeriCorps home visitor that she felt lost because she didn't know anyone in the town. The home visitor invited her to weekly playgroups and took her resources on other programs and activities. Mom started attending the play groups with her children and met other mothers.

The home visitor did developmental screenings (Ages and Stages Questionnaire) on the 3 children. The youngest child scored low in several developmental areas and was referred to Far Northern Regional Center. He was assessed and received therapy. He was enrolled in the Early Head Start full day center. Her four-year old son was enrolled in KinderCamp and mom reported he is doing very well in kindergarten. The mother completed her course to be a medical assistant.