

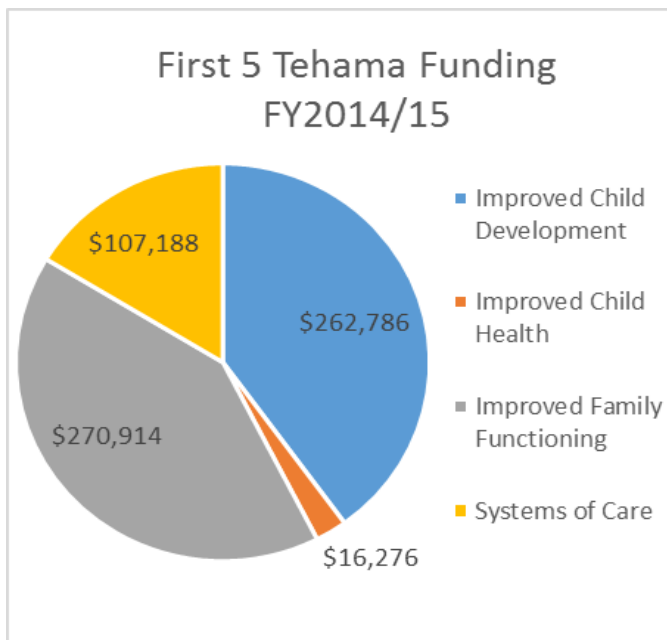
What is First 5?

Ninety percent of children’s brain growth occurs by age five, as well as major development of physical, emotional and social skills. Because the beginning years of life are so critical, First 5 helps to ensure that children ages 0 to 5 and their families are healthy and thriving. Created in 1998 by the passage of Proposition 10, First 5 Tehama uses state tobacco tax funds under the guidance of the Tehama County Children and Families Commission to achieve four goals:

1. Improved Child Health
2. Improved Child Development so that children are learning and ready for school
3. Improved Family Functioning to support strong families
4. Integrated Services so that children and family services are more coordinated and accessible

First 5 Tehama Investments

First 5 Tehama has invested 10.7 million during the last fifteen years to help Tehama County’s children and families, including \$550,684 in program funding last year.



First 5 Tehama supports children and their parents in all settings – in the home, in child care programs and in the community. Services funded by First 5 include:

- ▶ Home visits that support parents in their homes with child development, parenting skills and accessing community resources.
- ▶ Partnerships with schools to assist children with early learning, transition to kindergarten and access to health services.
- ▶ Extensive training and support to early educators to improve the quality of early care and education programs.
- ▶ Family Resource Centers at Los Molinos Elementary and at Jackson Heights in Red Bluff offer support services in one location.
- ▶ A mobile dental clinic to make oral health exams and treatment available for children ages 1 to 7 and pregnant women throughout the county.
- ▶ Information for parents such as a community resource guide and a “Parent Kit” for expecting and new parents.
- ▶ The “Read, Sing, Play” Campaign supporting “Tehama Reads” and countywide goal of all children reading by third grade.



In all cases, First 5 works to build on existing services, fill gaps in current services, and focus on the greatest needs in each community. The emphasis is on quality, not quantity, of services. A deep commitment to collaboration with other local organizations exists, striving to build a more comprehensive and sustainable network of integrated services to support early childhood development and strong families.



Health care: For the past seven years, there have been steady increases in children’s access to health care in three target school districts for the School Readiness Project: Corning, Gerber and Los Molinos. In Corning, the proportion of entering Kindergarten students with health insurance rose from 70% to 98%, those with a physical exam grew from 81% to 100% and entering Kindergarten children with oral health care grew from 73% to 99%. In Los Molinos and Gerber, 95% of entering Kindergarten students in the fall of 2014 had health insurance, 98% had a physical exam and 88% had an oral health exam.

Fiscal leveraging: Over the past ten years, well over \$3 million in additional funds have been secured as a direct result of leveraging First 5 funds.



First 5: Making a Difference

First 5 services are consistently evaluated for effectiveness. The evaluation results show that these services are making a difference for children and families in many ways.

Reach: 814 children ages 0-5 received free services last year. About one-fifth of all Tehama County children ages 0-5 were reached by First 5 programs last year. In addition, 596 parents of children ages 0-5 received free support.

Parenting: Participants in First 5 parent support programs report significant increases in their knowledge of child development and health and in their parenting skills. Ninety-three percent of participants across First 5 programs reported they learned parenting skills and felt more confident as parents.

Children ready to learn: In Gerber and Los Molinos, the portion of entering Kindergarten students with prior early care and education experience, a critical preparation for success in school, was 91%. In Corning, the portion of children entering Kindergarten with prior early care and education experience grew from 43% to 96% due to School Readiness Project Kindergarten transition activities.

Child care availability and quality: Last year, 100 early educators participated in an intensive professional development program to improve the quality of early care and education programs.

For More Information

For more information about First 5 or any of our activities, please contact us at:



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