



## 2021 POLICY AGENDA

*First 5 Sonoma County advocates for public policy that supports the wellbeing of children & families farthest from opportunity, recognizing the disproportionate impacts that COVID-19, poverty & systemic racism have on low-income families & communities of color.*

### RESILIENT FAMILIES

#### POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Increase investments in family-centered, culturally responsive, community-based, trauma-informed supports, including home visiting & prevention-focused services that strengthen parent-child relationships.
- Improve family economic security through expansion of Earned Income Tax Credit, Paid Family Leave, Child Savings Accounts and other policies that promote asset-building and increase economic opportunity.
- Increase investments in community hubs, such as FRCs, to ensure access to basic needs and promote integrated systems resulting in more accessible and responsive services for children and families.
- Ensure access to services and benefits for all families, regardless of their immigration status
- Increase the number of diverse professionals trained to identify and support families exposed to mental illness, trauma, alcohol, drugs, and other stressors, as well as children with special needs.

### COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

#### POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Support the development of a State level prenatal-3 framework to integrate, scale and sustain work across health, development, early learning/child care, and family resiliency
- Improve the health, mental health and well-being of young children by advancing prevention, care coordination, screenings, and multi-generational supports through Medi-Cal, with a focus on policy and fiscal frameworks that support cross-sector systems of prevention, identification, response and mitigation of ACEs and the stressors and structural inequities families face.
- Increase availability and equitable access to safe and affordable housing, healthy food and outdoor recreation and other social determinants of health and optimal child development.

### EQUITABLE, HIGH QUALITY EARLY LEARNING SYSTEM

#### POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Address the devastating impact of the pandemic and recession on child care providers, as well as strengthen and expand infant-toddler care through addressing immediate and core needs
- Stabilize, strengthen and scale California's early learning system through advancing key elements of the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care, addressing long-standing structural issues, including inequities in access, workforce compensation and facilities.
- Expand supports and prioritize the needs of dual language learners and children impacted by trauma in early learning environments

### INTEGRATED & SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

#### POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Work with the statewide First 5 network to advance a multi-pronged sustainability initiative to ensure local First 5 Commissions can continue to provide the foundational infrastructure, leadership and partnership support in communities throughout California essential to realizing improved opportunity and outcomes for our youngest children and their families.
- Identify, analyze and prioritize opportunities to increase the availability and capacity of data systems at the local, regional and state levels that can be utilized to inform and strengthen early childhood policy and systems development.
- Explore and advance local revenue sources for services to children and families.
- Promote and sustain First 5's role in building systems of care for young children and their families.