A LOOK BACK AT A GREAT YEAR

This past year, First 5 LA made an unprecedented effort to improve the well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County. Our funding allocations reached $700 million in support of a diverse set of programs to benefit hundreds of thousands of children prenatal to age 5.

None of this could have been accomplished without the support and enthusiasm of the Board of Commissioners over the past year. Our thanks go out to this innovative, caring group of community leaders.

Several milestones were reached. After three years of planning, First 5 LA launched First 5 LA CONNECT, a one-of-a-kind, countywide telephone helpline and website service for parents and caregivers of young children.

Our Board of Commissioners further strengthened community supports for children and families by approving two $100 million initiatives to expand health coverage and provide access to early care and education opportunities. These are two programs which will create positive change in the community for years to come.

First 5 LA also awarded its first grants as part of the First 5 LA/First 5 California School Readiness Initiative, which creates neighborhood centers that offer a variety of important services to better prepare children to begin their education.

The Commission did all of this while at the same time providing approximately $57 million to more than 50 community organizations with programs specific to the needs of children and families in their communities.

In an effort to build on these accomplishments, we now look to the future with the drafting of our 2004-2009 Strategic Plan. As we move ahead, First 5 LA can and should serve as a rallying point for the community to achieve measurable improvement in the lives of all of Los Angeles County’s children, regardless of their circumstances.

While we are proud of our progress, we know we didn’t accomplish it alone. At every step of the way, we were joined by parents, community leaders, business professionals, early education experts, child care providers and many other stakeholders who share our commitment to improving the lives of young children and their families.

As the Chair and Executive Director of First 5 LA, we welcome your review of this snapshot of our activities, but more importantly, we ask that you join us in our ongoing efforts to make a difference in the lives of our youngest children. Your participation is critical to our continued success.

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Los Angeles County Supervisor
Chair, First 5 LA

Evelyn V. Martinez
Executive Director
First 5 LA
FOR FIRST 5 LA, 2002-2003 was a watershed year of bold decisions and determined progress toward real change for the children and families of Los Angeles County. While some might have been surprised by First 5 LA’s progressive activities during this period, these efforts were actually foreseen in late 2000 when the Board of Commissioners approved the organization’s 2001-2004 Strategic Plan. Looking back at that document today, it is clear that Commissioners understood the incredible opportunity — and challenge — that Proposition 10 represents. More than anything, they wanted to make the most of the organization’s resources and flexibility by taking a leadership role in the community and making a significant positive impact.

First 5 LA’s 2001-2004 Strategic Plan didn’t just outline an ambitious set of goals for the organization. It also defined what kind of organization it would be and what kind of role it would play in the communities it serves. In particular, the Commission recognized the importance of working with other stakeholders on behalf of young children. With this in mind, Commissioners decided to adopt the same set of desired outcomes for children that had been adopted by several major county entities: Good Health, Safety and Survival, Economic Well-Being, Social and Emotional Well-Being, and School Readiness. The Commission chose this last outcome area, School Readiness, as its overarching goal. In other words, the Commission stated that while it wants to address all of the factors that affect the lives of young children, it will do so in a way that ensures that every child enters his or her formal education with the best possible chance of success.

Commissioners have strongly influenced what kind of organization First 5 LA should grow into, as well as the roles it should play. They have determined that First 5 LA should act as a community partner, serving as convener, facilitator and catalyst. Commissioners also insisted that, given its resources and unique perspective, First 5 LA should set trends and lead the community with new and innovative ideas.

WHERE WE’VE BEEN, WHERE WE’RE GOING

In 2002-2003, the organization caught up to the ambitions captured in the Strategic Plan. During the year, First 5 LA approved or was in the process of developing landmark initiatives to provide quality early care and education, and health insurance, as well as address the problem of child abuse. A telephone helpline and website for all parents was launched. We asked communities to identify their own critical needs and allocated hundreds of millions of dollars for programs addressing school readiness, childcare, parent education, family literacy, home visitation and much more. We broke new ground in the collection of important data about children and families in Los Angeles County and partnered with other organizations that share our goals. Moreover, First 5 LA established itself as a community leader willing to advocate on issues related to the well-being of children prenatal to age 5.

The accomplishments of this past year compel First 5 LA to look to the future, to again ask what we want to accomplish as well as what kind of an organization we want to be. That process has already begun.

In March, Commissioners began building their “Next Five” Strategic Plan for 2004-2009. The challenge in this process will be to build upon the work already completed or in progress while at the same time ensuring that First 5 LA’s resources are used efficiently to make the best possible impact on the county’s children and families. As we move toward a new Strategic Plan, we are guided by the values of the current plan. Key among these is the importance of community engagement in Commission activities. First 5 LA is making an unprecedented effort to incorporate the input of the community not only in determining our new goals, but also in determining how we interact with the families and providers we serve.

This annual report is an opportunity to look both backward and forward. When an organization is able to look back on great accomplishments, its vision of the future is forever changed. Now that we have seen what is possible, we are excited about the future and all it holds for our County’s youngest children.
MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT

California voters in 1998 passed Proposition 10 because they wanted dramatic improvement in the early development of their children. The initiative that created First 5 LA and the other county commissions sent a clear message that incremental change was a thing of the past. First 5 LA’s Board of Commissioners has understood this message from the very beginning. Even as they were issuing grants to improve a wide array of outcomes, Commissioners were always mindful of the need to bring about the profound improvements envisioned in Proposition 10 as quickly as possible.

HEALTHY KIDS

“Access to health care means that kids stay healthy, receive the care they need and avoid problems that can hinder their early learning.”

— Zev Yaroslavsky, First 5 LA Commission Chair, 2002 Los Angeles County Supervisor

Early in 2002-2003, First 5 LA fulfilled the dreams of those who have long envisioned quality health insurance for all young children. A look at Los Angeles County statistics shows that – after taking into consideration the patchwork of programs currently available that provide health coverage to families with children age 0 to 5 – as many as 15,000 children in that age group still are not eligible for insurance. Many thousands more are qualified but are not taking advantage of the coverage available to them. Because children who lack access to healthcare can suffer lasting negative impacts, it was clear to First 5 LA that something had to be done.

The result was the July 2002 passage of Healthy Kids, a $100 million five-year investment by the Commission to make sure that every child from birth to age 5 in Los Angeles County has access to quality health insurance. Less than a year after it was approved by the Commission, the first children were signing up for the program.

Healthy Kids covers all children in Los Angeles County whose parents or guardians do not earn more than 300 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately $55,000 for a family of four) and are not eligible for programs such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. Children are eligible even if they weren’t born in the United States or if their parents work full-time.

Healthy Kids provides comprehensive coverage with a benefits package that includes routine doctor visits, immunizations, hospital care, dentist visits, vision care, eyeglasses and much more.

Monthly premiums for the Healthy Kids program are inexpensive and preventive care like check-ups and immunizations is always free.

First 5 LA has partnered with L.A. Care Health Plan to administer the plan, and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to coordinate outreach and enrollment by various community-based organizations throughout the County.

The link between Healthy Kids and First 5 LA’s overarching goal of improving school readiness is a natural one. Studies show that children without health coverage are more likely to visit hospital emergency rooms, less likely to receive proper medical care for childhood illnesses, and more likely to miss school than are insured children. Moreover, children who are denied access to healthcare are more likely to develop emotional and physical health problems that inhibit school performance.

Healthy Kids will have an immediate impact on the ability of children in Los Angeles County to make the most of their future.
During the past year, the Commission approved landmark initiatives to provide healthcare and access to quality early education for all children, prenatal to age 5. Given the tremendous ambition and scope of these two initiatives, it's entirely possible that years from now we will look back on 2002-2003 as the year children and families in Los Angeles County saw everything change for the better.

In August of 2002, First 5 LA’s Commission unanimously approved its landmark Universal Access to Preschool and Early Care and Education Initiative which, increasingly over a 10-year period beginning in 2004, will provide quality early education to all of Los Angeles County’s children. The Commission’s initial allocation for this initiative was $100 million, which was increased by another $500 million in 2003.

The Universal Preschool Initiative was created in response to research showing that a child’s experiences during the first few years of life greatly influence how the brain develops and often define future learning capabilities. Given First 5 LA’s focus on school readiness, the Commission saw quality early education as a key lynchpin in improving outcomes for the County’s youngest children.

In essence, the initiative seeks to expand the availability of early education programming, improve the quality of these services, develop a lasting infrastructure and implement a number of systems improvements.

After naming nationally recognized early education expert Dr. Karen Hill-Scott as the initiative’s Strategic Planner in November of 2002, the bulk of 2003 was spent gathering community and stakeholder input that could be incorporated into the Universal Preschool Initiative’s 10-year Master Plan. At the center of this planning process was an Advisory Committee led by co-chairs Nancy Daly Riordan, a noted leader in children’s issues, and Robert M. Hertzberg, former speaker of the California State Assembly. This committee – composed of community leaders representing business, education, government, child development, healthcare, philanthropy, social services and research – devoted more than 30,000 volunteer hours gathering input and hammering out the details of what promises to be the largest systemic improvement in how our children are educated.

In addition to these open meetings, First 5 LA went out into the neighborhoods of Los Angeles County to gather input through community forums, a parent survey and focus groups. This unprecedented community outreach – coupled with the open planning process – will prove invaluable as First 5 LA seeks to involve new partners to ensure the sustainability of this ambitious new system for years to come.

“When our children enter kindergarten better prepared, when fewer require special education, when they begin to make more of the wondrous opportunity of their education, we’ll be able to look back at First 5 LA’s dedication to providing access to quality early education as a turning point.”

— Evelyn V. Martinez, First 5 LA Executive Director
REACHING OUT TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

First 5 LA understands that no one is ever going to play a more important role in the lives of children prenatal to age 5 than parents and caregivers. For this reason, our organization has long sought to support these groups and offer them the resources they need to give their children the best possible start in life.

FIND 5 LA CONNECT

Conceived three years ago as a “warm line” for Los Angeles County, the Commission launched First 5 LA CONNECT in early 2003 as a comprehensive telephone helpline and website. Simply by calling toll-free 1-888-FIRST5-LA (1-888-347-7855) or logging onto www.first5laconnect.org, new and expectant parents and caregivers can get answers to their questions about pregnancy and raising their young children, as well as referrals to resources close to where they live.

First 5 LA CONNECT is not a crisis hotline or a traditional information and referral service. Instead, callers are assisted by trained specialists who assess their personal needs and find them the help they need.

During its first year of operation, the telephone service is operating 12 hours a day, seven days a week. It is set to go to 24-hour service in 2004.

Putting all the pieces together to make this groundbreaking service available was an arduous task which required the expertise of dozens of public, private and nonprofit agencies from the fields of education, social service, child development and healthcare. More than 6,000 community service agencies are part of First 5 LA CONNECT’s referral network.

“First 5 LA CONNECT is an incredibly valuable resource for every family, regardless of where they live or their income level.”
— Chuck Hurewitz, First 5 LA Commissioner

In order to make the service operational, First 5 LA called upon NexCare Collaborative, which assembled an Advisory Committee with representatives from the UCLA School of Public Health, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Perinatal Advisory Council, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), the National Health Foundation and the Los Angeles County Office of Education among many others.

With First 5 LA CONNECT, the Commission is offering parents something beyond value: peace of mind.

KITS FOR NEW PARENTS

When First 5 California launched its Kit for New Parents program in 2001, it was a revolutionary step to put current science about early childhood development into the hands of all new parents. Each colorful box contains educational videos and brochures, a parent directory and a baby book that parents can read to their child. The Kits are fun and easy for families to use.

First 5 LA has embraced this program whole-heartedly. During 2002-2003, our organization distributed its 200,000th Kit through our partner Child Development Media. The Kits are currently being distributed by nearly 1,800 partners around the County, including public and private birthing hospitals, prenatal programs, home visitation programs as well as a variety of other agencies and programs serving parents, primarily with children ages 0 – 3. First 5 LA also hosts trainings for Kit distribution partners, and these trainings have been enthusiastically received.

First 5 LA has also helped the state in its efforts to provide Kits in multiple languages, and our organization has customized Kits in Los Angeles County to include information about local parent resources.

NexCare Collaborative’s Dr. Pejman Salimpour, First 5 LA Executive Director Evelyn V. Martinez, First 5 California Chair Rob Reiner and First 5 LA Commissioner Chuck Hurewitz celebrate the launch of First 5 LA CONNECT in May.
The Kits for New Parents have proven to be very popular with both parents and kids. The bright colored boxes invite kids and parents alike to take a peek at what’s inside. Some parents have even confessed that their children like to watch the videos over and over again. The excitement that we see has been gratifying; especially knowing our families are receiving such valuable information.”

— Staff, Wilmington Community Clinic

While First 5 LA has made support for parents and caregivers a key aspect of nearly all its initiatives and programs, a few of the efforts undertaken in 2002-2003 merit special recognition. Being a good parent in Los Angeles County is easier thanks to First 5 LA.

** HEALTHY BIRTHS **

All of First 5 LA’s programs are designed to help children get off to the best possible start in life. Toward that end, the organization feels it is crucial to give parents the support and information they need to give birth to healthy babies. Originally passed in February 2002 with a $15 million allocation, First 5 LA’s Healthy Births Initiative gets to the heart of the problem by addressing the various community barriers to healthy birth outcomes: Where are the gaps in perinatal service? Why don’t some parents take advantage of programs? How can we better inform expectant parents about simple lifestyle changes – quitting smoking, eating habits – that will improve the health of their unborn children?

The initiative launched in December 2002. In partnership with the Los Angeles Best Babies Collaborative, First 5 LA is gathering data about the needs of Los Angeles County families, investigating promising new healthcare trends and services, and nurturing an environment where a wide array of perinatal service providers can learn from each other and fill programmatic gaps.
HELPING TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

Los Angeles County has a wealth of resources for children and families, particularly in the number of people who understand what needs to be done and are willing to do the difficult work themselves. First 5 LA strives to support these people who are seeking positive change for families in each community by eliminating the all-too-common barriers of funding, advocacy, systems support and coordination.

SCHOOL READINESS

“The First 5 LA grant has given our parents a place where they feel welcomed, valued and empowered; a place where moms, dads, aunties, grandmas and grandpas see their children grow; a place where children laugh, learn and play; a place where children want to stay, come everyday and cry when they leave!”

— S.P. Andrade, School Readiness Coordinator, Lennox School District, School Readiness Center

First 5 California’s School Readiness Initiative seeks to build on existing early childhood development programs by supporting programs which coordinate at a single site early care and education services, parent and family support, health and social services, and coordination with K-12 schools. First 5 LA has embraced the state’s initiative by matching funds 1:1 with First 5 California for a total allocation of $134 million over four years.

In 2003, the first school readiness sites funded through the joint partnership of First 5 LA and First 5 California began to provide services. More are on the way.
During 2002-2003, First 5 LA continued to support the work of these important community providers through the following grants:

**COMMUNITY-DEVELOPED INITIATIVES**

The Board of Commissioners has long held that members of individual communities are best suited to understanding the needs of their neighborhoods, and are likewise best suited to devise ways to address those needs. First 5 LA has allocated approximately $75 million to the Community-Developed Initiatives grant process to support a wide array of organizations offering childcare, early education, healthcare and other vital services to the County’s children and families.

In order to bolster the work of small community organizations, First 5 LA devised the Community-Developed Initiatives (Small Grants) program to provide grants of up to $25,000 for agencies with an annual operating budget of less than $250,000. The funding is primarily intended to help agencies’ capacity to develop, implement and evaluate programs and services.

“As the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) family community continues to grow exponentially, the availability of information, support and services becomes more and more critical. Thanks to First 5 LA, the Center will be able to support the development of healthy GLBT families by providing increased programming and assistance to ensure that these families have access to services that meet their important needs.”

— Arielle Rosen, Family Services Manager
L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center

“Through our First 5 LA grant, we were able to hire a Program Director who was able to add an outreach program for the graduates of our existing crisis maternity shelter program. We have also been able to leverage this money to secure additional grants exceeding $10,000 and currently have three pending grants which will hopefully enable us to secure funding for our agency’s programs for the next two years.”

— Tara Nierenhausen, Program Director
Casa de los Angelitos
HELPING TO STRENGTHEN
COMMUNITIES

FAMILY LITERACY

First 5 LA created its Family Literacy Initiative as a result of studies showing that programs readying children to enter kindergarten are more effective when they focus on the entire family. The model programs funded under this initiative promote the academic achievement of both parents and children, strengthen parenting skills and knowledge, and promote economic self-sufficiency in the family. First 5 LA allocated $13 million over three years for this initiative.

“The First 5 LA grant has enabled us to expand the services that we are able to offer to our families. Our new computers, enhanced classroom library and home visitation program are just a few examples of how the Family Literacy grant has benefited the children and families in our community.”

— Miryam Tarica, Project Coordinator, Fairfax Community Adult School/Shenandoah

HOME VISITATION

El programa es muy educativo que ayuda tanto a los niños como a los padres. Los niños aprendieron compartir con los demás niños y aprender los colores y letras. Como padres, el programa nos ayuda con comunicación con los hijos. También aprendimos cómo tratarlos y cómo hablarles, sobre todo a los niños más pequeños.

(The program is very educational. It helps parents as well as the children. The children learned how to share with the other children and it helped them to learn the colors and letters. As parents, the program helped us to improve our communication with our children and we also learned how to talk to them and how to treat them, especially the youngest ones.)

— Participating parent, Children’s Center of the Antelope Valley

Because access is a problem for many families facing challenges in raising their young children, First 5 LA created the Home Visitation Initiative. Programs funded by the Home Visitation grant take services normally based in centers, such as hospice care, health education, and nutrition, and bring them directly into recipients’ homes. First 5 LA has allocated $30 million over three years to this initiative.
COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD CARE AND ENHANCING CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

First 5 LA allocated more than $60 million to two grant processes aimed at improving the quality of childcare throughout Los Angeles County. The Community-Based Childcare (Child Care I) grants sought to improve the quality of childcare services by increasing provider skills, enhancing childcare environments, and increasing the provision of supplemental services at childcare sites in Los Angeles County. The Enhancing Child Care and Early Learning Opportunities (Child Care II) process seeks to enhance the availability, accessibility and quality of childcare and early learning opportunities. These grants are targeted toward increasing the skill levels of providers, improving access to health services and increasing the number of quality programs in Los Angeles County.

“First 5 LA’s investment in the Montebello-Commerce YMCA’s Preschool and Child Development Center has allowed us to provide a safe, healthy, nurturing, and educational environment to over 100 children this year. The partnership established between First 5 LA, the Montebello Unified School District, and the City of Commerce, will help the YMCA build strong kids, strong families and a stronger community.”

— Mike Newton, Executive Director, Montebello-Commerce YMCA
PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Proposition 10 created an unprecedented funding source, but our Board of Commissioners has long understood that First 5 LA’s resources alone will not come close to providing what children, prenatal to age 5, require to reach their full potential. For that simple reason, First 5 LA seeks out and partners with others in the community who share our goals to provide greater opportunities to the children of Los Angeles County.

CHILDREN’S PLANNING COUNCIL

Founded in 1991 as a planning body to help improve conditions for children and families throughout Los Angeles County, the Children’s Planning Council (CPC) has proven a key partner for First 5 LA. Together, the two organizations have worked to advocate for change, bolster community capacity, promote a variety of systems change activities and develop new avenues for data collection.

One key aspect of this partnership has been the use of First 5 LA resources to strengthen the CPC’s Service Planning Area (SPA) Council infrastructure. Each of these nine councils consists of a network of community-based organizations serving the needs of children and families. By helping these front-line organizations coordinate and build their services, First 5 LA and the CPC have been able to take tremendous strides in their mutual goals of improving outcomes in the areas of School Readiness, Health, Safety and Survival, Economic Well-Being and Social and Emotional Well-Being.

Another important activity of this partnership has been to raise public awareness of school readiness through the development of recommendations for the tracking and measurement of a core set of school readiness indicators. The recommendations were the result of a six-month collaborative process to develop a framework for tracking the “readiness” of children, families, schools and communities. In July of 2003, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved these recommendations and together First 5 LA and the CPC are working to build consensus around this body of work.

“The strategic partnership between First 5 LA and the Children’s Planning Council is about leveraging our work, our resources, and our commitments to improving the well-being of children and families throughout Los Angeles.”

— Yolie Flores Aguilar, Executive Director
Children’s Planning Council
These partnerships work in a variety of ways across nearly all of First 5 LA’s initiatives. They collect and share data, create new opportunities to bolster key community service infrastructures, highlight expertise, coordinate efforts and reach out to the families of Los Angeles County in ways that might otherwise never have been possible.

**WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) DATA DEVELOPMENT**

“Our First 5 LA research partnership has enabled WIC to tap into data resources that were previously unavailable to us. We now have a clearer picture of our participants throughout LA County. We are able to examine population demographics and indicators of health and well being.”

— Dr. Shannon Whaley, PHFE-WIC

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) provides food, nutrition counseling, and health and social service referrals to low-income women who are pregnant, have just given birth or are breastfeeding, and also support infants and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk. In L.A. County, there are seven local WIC agencies serving 111,869 infants, 121,127 women, and 306,258 children.

First 5 LA is working with WIC and others to collect and analyze the massive amount of valuable data on L.A. County children and families collected through WIC programs. This partnership is serving as a pilot program for a potentially larger relationship between California WIC and First 5 California.

For its part, First 5 LA intends to use the data collected through this partnership in the planning of all its initiatives. Furthermore, the Commission will be able to use this information to assess its work using various indicators.

**NEW SCHOOLS BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS**

First 5 LA’s partnership with New Schools Better Neighborhoods is working collaboratively with municipalities and school districts to create mixed-use development sites that incorporate a variety of services in one central location. This partnership seeks to leverage funding from bond measures to develop seven to nine pilot school sites in Los Angeles County over the next three years. These sites will contain an array of family services, as well as early education, pre-kindergarten and/or daycare.

This partnership is already netting results. For example, work is underway to create plans for multi-use school sites in the

“New Schools Better Neighborhoods demonstrates that collaborative relationships can go a long way toward building a better future for children in L.A. County by strengthening communities.”

— Dr. Neal Kaufman, First 5 LA Commissioner
Westlake neighborhood near downtown Los Angeles as well as another site in Wilmington in the Harbor area. Negotiations for other sites throughout Los Angeles County are in process.

In addition to bringing key stakeholders together to plan sites, New Schools Better Neighborhoods reaches out to the county’s decision-makers to underscore the benefits of this collaborative approach in school site planning. In May 2003, First 5 LA and NSBN joined with other organizations such as the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce, the James Irvine Foundation and Fannie Mae to co-sponsor a symposium at the Getty Center called “Schools as Centers of Neighborhood Vitality.” The event brought together the innovators in education, government, philanthropy, development and social services to discuss the potential in building neighborhoods through collaborative planning such as that in the NSBN model. The overarching goal of the symposium was to encourage these leaders to take the messages back to their colleagues and communities and plant the seeds for economical urban planning that builds family-friendly neighborhoods.

**CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP**

When planning new initiatives to serve children and families, it is vital to have accurate data on what needs exist as well as what is currently in place to address those needs. First 5 LA’s partnership with Children’s Hospital Los Angeles will create valuable new research on the health and well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County and assess the ability of the area’s healthcare delivery system to meet those needs.

The partnership will conduct two separate research activities. The first will include the creation of a core set of child health indicators, which will provide uniform and coordinated criteria for assessing children’s health countywide. The second will be the creation of a feasibility study on the possible implementation of a new clinical information system that will integrate prenatal, perinatal and neonatal data.

**FAMILY LITERACY SUPPORT NETWORK**

As part of its $13 million three-year Family Literacy Initiative, First 5 LA created the Family Literacy Support Network to serve 15 participating model family literacy programs. These programs seek to improve children’s school readiness by addressing a wide range of factors. Children receive quality early learning experiences while parents receive academic and vocational training, as well as parent education to better prepare them to be their children’s first teacher.

The network enriches these programs with regular networking opportunities, customized technical assistance, opportunities for professional development, advocacy training, and support for data collection and analysis. The network is also leveraging local, State, and national resources to build local capacity in Los Angeles County in order to show how family literacy is a “best practice” strategy to promote young children’s school readiness and family economic self-sufficiency.

“**The Family Literacy Support Network is working to leverage resources that build local capacity in LA County to support districts and community-based providers in developing quality family literacy programs. The direct outcomes of our efforts for children and families are school readiness and support for adults in their role as parents, providers, and partners in their child’s education.”**

— Liz Guerra, Sr. Project Director, Family Literacy Support Network, Los Angeles County Office of Education
“The Safely Surrendered Baby Law is an important tool for saving the lives of innocent newborns.”
— Deanne Tilton, First 5 LA Commissioner

Throughout 2002-2003, First 5 LA took part in a unique countywide partnership of public and private agencies to raise public awareness and improve implementation of the state’s Safely Surrendered Baby Law, under which parents in Los Angeles County may surrender their newborn infants at hospital emergency rooms, County fire stations or other designated sites within the first 72 hours after birth without facing criminal prosecution for child endangerment.

First 5 LA’s role in the partnership has been to take the lead on a public information campaign so that parents in desperate situations know that there is an alternative to abandoning their newborns. Working closely with the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, County departments, the Children’s Planning Council, the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, Infoline and other stakeholders, First 5 LA implemented a large-scale advertising and media campaign, as well as a mass distribution of informational materials to community organizations that serve families and pregnant women.

First 5 LA participated in this important effort because it speaks directly to our mission to improve the lives of children, prenatal to age 5.

Attending the joint state/county launch of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law campaign, from left, Rita Saenz, director of the California Department of Social Services; Yolie Flores Aguilar, Executive Director of the Children’s Planning Council; Beth Lowe, vice chair of the First 5 LA Commission; and Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe.
**FINANCIALS**

### Statement of Net Assets
**June 30, 2003**

**ASSETS**

- **Current assets:**
  - Cash: $3,010,500

- **Investments:**
  - Operating funds: $9,000,000
  - Allocated funds: $489,333,069
  - Sustainability funds: $105,000,000
  - Total investments: $603,333,069

- State allotment receivable: $25,421,331
- Interest receivable: $2,166,031
- Total current assets: $633,930,931

- **Fixed assets, net:** $8,625,269
- **Other assets:** $2,145,642
- **Total assets:** $644,701,842

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

- **Current liabilities:**
  - Accounts payable: $5,174,230
  - Accrued liabilities: $597,555
  - Total current liabilities: $5,771,785

- **Capital lease obligation:** $8,498,702
- **Total liabilities:** $14,270,487

- **Net Assets:**
  - Invested in capital assets, net of related debt: $126,567
  - Restricted: $630,304,788
  - Total net assets: $630,431,355
  - Total liabilities and net assets: $644,701,842

### Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
**for the Year Ended June 30, 2003**

- **Operating revenues:**
  - State allotment: $134,058,535
  - Total operating revenues: $134,058,535

- **Operating expenses:**
  - Provider grants: $57,137,029
  - Staffing services: $4,672,247
  - Operating services: $890,097
  - Consultant services: $201,551
  - Professional services: $793,817
  - Other: $96,027
  - Depreciation: $24,731
  - Total operating expenses: $63,815,499
  - Operating income: $70,243,036

- **Nonoperating revenues:**
  - Interest income: $12,075,618
  - Change in net assets: $82,318,654
- **Net assets – beginning of the year:** $548,112,701
- **Net assets – end of the year:** $630,431,355
OUR GRANTEES

Community Based Child Care Quality Enhancement Grant (3 Years) $12 Million Allocated
ABC Unified School District
AltaMed Health Services Corporation
Center for the Improvement of Child Caring
Child Care Resource Center
Children’s Institute International
Connections for Children
El Nido Family Center
Hathaway Children & Family Services
Long Beach City College
The Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Los Angeles Unified School District
The Mar Vista Institute
Pomona Unified School District
Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (S.C.A.E.Y.C.)
Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services

Community-Developed Initiative Cycle I – $30 Million Allocated
Black Women for Wellness
Center for the Pacific-Asian Family, Inc.
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Friends of the Family
Happy Bear School
Harbor Interfaith Shelter Family Resource Center
The H.E.L.P. Group/Los Angeles Center for Therapy and Education
Korean Youth & Community Center
Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
Monrovia Unified School District
Our Saviour Center/Cleaver Family Wellness Clinic
Pasadena Hospital Association (dba Huntington Memorial Hospital)
Public Health Foundation Enterprises-WIC Program
Santa Monica College
SHIELDS for Families Project, Inc.
UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, Dept. of Child Psychiatry Early Childhood Partial Hospitalization
Wilmington Community Clinic

Community-Developed Initiative – Cycle II – $30 Million
Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Inc.
Bundle of Joy Daycare, Inc.
Child and Family Guidance Center
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Citrus Valley Health Partners
Crystal Stairs, Inc.
El Proyecto del Barrio
Los Angeles County Developmental Services Foundations (dba Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center)
Harbor-UCLA Research and Education Institute
The Heart Touch Project
King/Drew Medical Center
Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Memorial Women’s Hospital/Long Beach Memorial
New Economics for Women
New Horizons Family Center
North Valley Caring Services
South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project, Inc.
Toddlin’ Time Preschool
Union Station Foundation
YMCA of Greater Long Beach

Community Developed Initiatives (Small Grants) Cycle I – $1.9 Million Allocated
Ameen Family Child Care
Antioch Child Care Center
Arnold Family Child Care
Asian Pacific Women’s Center, Inc.
Buenanueva Foundation, Inc.
Campaign for Social Justice
Canaan Housing Corporation
Carolyn Family Daycare
Carolyn Kordich Family Resource Center / PHFE, Inc.
Carrousel Family Day Care
Carson Coordinating Council
Casa de los Angelitos
Castellon Family Daycare
Centro C.H.A. Inc.
Chambers Family Child Care
Clairome & Simon Family Child Care
Compassionate Community Services
Creative Neighbors Always Sharing, Inc.

Dental Coalition For Needy Children
Dr. Padita’s Preschool, Inc.
Du Charme & Espinoza Family Child Care
Duplantier Family Child Care
Early Childhood Parenting Center
Family Resource Centers
Fife Family Child Care
Firehouse Preschool
FIRST STEPS Early Literacy Program
Flowers Family Child Care
Gaines Family Child Care
Goodman Family Day Care
Guzman, Claudia, Gaby & Hector Family Day Care
Hayes & Gillon Family Day Care
Haylock Family Child Care
Healthy African American Families
Holefield Family Child Care
Infant Development Association of California, Inc.
Inglewood Avenue Preschool
Jimenez-Alvarado Family Child Care
Jr. Posse Youth Equestrian Program
Kids Korner
Knox Family Child Care
La Casa Community Center
Latino Children’s Fund
Lee-Johnson Family Child Care
Ligon Family Child Care
Little Bitties Child Care
Little Lambs Training Center
Lopez Family Day Care
Madison Community Collaborative Healthy Start
Marylon’s Learning Center
Mims-Hogan Family Child Care
Montessori Preschool
Neal, Aleli Family Day Care
People’s Community Organization for Reform and Empowerment
Perez Family Child Care
Phi Beta Beta Charities, Inc.
Pilipino Workers’ Center of Southern California
Pinocchio Child Care Center, Inc.
Pullum Family Day Care
Quinn Family Child Care
Riley Family Day Care
San Pedro Cooperative Nursery School
Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School
Simpson, Nadine Family Day Care
Single Mothers Outreach
Smith Family Day Care
South Central Prevention Coalition
St. Andrews Preschool & Kindergarten
Stepping Stone Family Day Care
Support for Siblings
Sweet-Tucker Family Child Care
Tarver Family Child Care
Teresa Cortez Family Day Care
Thai Health and Information Services, Inc.
The Grace Elliott Center
Van Nuys Elementary School Healthy Start
Webb Family Child Care
Williams Family Childcare
Wilshire Preschool
Xu Family Child Care

Enhancing Child Care and Early Learning Opportunities Grant – $54 Million Allocated
Cambodian Association of America
Catholic Healthcare Southern California West (dba California Medical Hospital)
Center for the Improvement of Child Caring
City of Los Angeles, Department on Disability
Culver City Unified School District – Office of Child Development
East Valley Community Health Center, Inc.
El Proyecto del Barrio Families in School
Family Child Care Network – South Bay
Foothill Family Service
For the Child
Glendale Public Library
Glendale Unified School District
Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles
Human Services Association
International Medical Services for Health/MotherNet Los Angeles
Jeness Center, Inc.
Los Angeles Community College District
Los Angeles Educational Partnership
Mothers’ Club Community Center, Inc.
Northridge Hospital Foundation
Options, A Child Care and Human Services Agency

Family Literacy Expansion and Enhancement Grant – $13 Million Allocated
Catholic Healthcare Southern California West, (dba California Medical Hospital)
Children’s Bureau
Family Literacy Advocates of Southern California
Elizabeth Learning Center (LAUSD)
Fairfax Community Adult School/ Shenandoah Elementary (LAUSD)
Harbor Community Adult School/15th Street Adult Learning Center (LAUSD)
Harbor Community Adult School/Meyer Adult Learning Center (LAUSD)
Hawthorne School District
Kedren Community Health Center, Inc.
Little Tokyo Service Center Community Development Corporation
Long Beach Unified School District
Mothers’ Club Community Center, Inc.
PUENTE Learning Center
Reseda Community Adult School/Lemay Children’s Center (LAUSD)
Rowland Unified School District

School Readiness Initiative – $15 Million Allocated
Children’s Bureau of Southern California
Catholic Healthcare Southern California West (dba California Medical Hospital)
Lawndale Elementary School District
Lennox School District
Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District
Vaughn Next Century Learning Center

First 5 LA CONNECT (Warm Line) – $12 Million Allocated
NexCare Collaborative, Inc.
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