Community-Developed Initiatives

Milestones

Semics looks at three years of CDI
September 2006
Introduction

In the period from 2002-2003, 54 agencies were selected by First 5 LA’s Community-Developed Initiatives (CDI) through a competitive solicitation process, to improve the lives of children 0-5 and their families. The initiative’s purpose was to implement various approaches to support systemic, long-lasting changes in the wellbeing of children and their families in Los Angeles County. Three years later, these agencies have achieved results defined as a priority in First 5 LA’s Next Five Strategic Plan.

CDI Milestones highlights these achievements beginning with the legacy that CDI grantees leave behind in Los Angeles communities, specifically their impacts on children, families, neighborhoods, agencies and the grantees themselves. Referring to key themes of the Next Five Strategic Plan, this document presents CDI results in detail focussed around three interrelated goal areas — Early Learning, Health, and Safe Children and Families and two programmatic strategies — Capacity Building and Systems Improvement. These results include numbers of children, families and child care providers impacted by the CDI-funded projects since the beginning of CDI, numbers which were either provided by the grantees or cited in their progress reports. Pictures, quotes and vignettes are included to render a textured, panoramic view of what has been achieved. We also highlight “aha moments” and insights demonstrating the value of these CDI-funded projects to participants and project staff.

CDI achievements are described from the perspectives of First 5 LA, CDI Grantees, and Semics staff. The material in this document is derived from various sources including site visits, interviews, focus groups, surveys conducted by Semics from January 2004 to September 2006, grantee reports to First 5 LA, site-specific external evaluators’ reports, and pictures taken by Semics or given by grantees. This varied data creates a larger portrait clearly indicating that CDI has produced significant results for grantees as organizations, and for the children and families they served.
What is the Legacy of CDI?

Based on a review of grantee reports (validated by interviews with CDI grantees and Semics’ own observations during site immersion), Semics analysts have noted not only current results but also potentially longer lasting “products” or effects that the work funded by First 5 LA is having at different “circles of influences.” Clustered at levels from the individual child through the grantees, they are:

Child-Level

- 81% of grantees serving children 0-5 reported positive changes in children including:
  - Learning their numbers and how to read.
  - Increased social skills and self-esteem (especially in children with special needs exposed to domestic violence, drug abuse, homelessness, or poverty)
  - Screening for developmental delays and problems, increasing early intervention and prevention, and increased access to appropriate services (e.g. Regional Centers, etc.)
  - Healthier due to increased access to health services (health insurance enrollment, screenings, well-child visits, immunizations, nutrition, and breastfeeding).

Supporting Quotes:

“The mother said that the ECE program has enabled her young children to speak more, enhanced their vocabulary, and given them a chance to speak with their kids more often.” (Project Staff)

“The children are learning and enjoying doing activities with their parents.” (Project Staff)

Family-Level

- 88% of grantees serving families with children 0-5 reported tremendous impact on family life including:
  - More families are involved in their children’s early learning and spending quality time together.
  - Parents have shifted their attitude regarding their role in their child’s education. They are reading, playing, learning with their child, and have gained knowledge and skills, especially in literacy and ESL.
  - Parents are gaining awareness of available health services and education, hence establishing healthy habits such as keeping their child’s immunizations up-to-date, taking their child to doctors regularly, providing better nutrition, and increasing breastfeeding.
  - Parents are receiving the support they needed to provide safe homes for their children and be better parents.

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1 As stated in First 5 LA’s 200-2004 Strategic Plan. CDI was intended to be an application of First 5 LA’s original funding framework which focused on addressing a child’s circles of influence and five outcomes relative to child well-being
Legacy of CDI (continued)

- Parents are building long-lasting relationships with other parents — a critical factor for families of children with special needs.

Supporting Quotes:
“Before, I rarely read to my child. Now I make it a habit to read and at night time too.” (Parent)
“Home visits have been very reassuring. As a parent, it can be difficult to honestly assess your child’s development, and this assessment is definitely skewed after a traumatic event…” (Parent)
“I have received skills training regarding topics such as nutrition. This has allowed me to go through a healthier pregnancy, and remove many doubts and fears, and to have better communication with my husband regarding these issues.” (Parent)

Neighborhood/Community-Level

- A community better informed on issues specific to children 0 - 5 as well as family issues in Los Angeles County. Tangible examples of this effect include:
  - A children’s book on spina bifida
  - Advocating for relative caregiver rights
  - Increasing awareness of breastfeeding, family literacy, LGBT family issues
- Relationships established through CDI-funded projects have lead to establishing chapter associations or informal networks such as:
  - A regional spina bifida chapter
  - Southeast Asian child care providers chapter
  - Parents mobilizing regional family events
  - Child care providers connecting and meeting with each other based on proximity

Agency-Level Impact

- Many child care providers are better equipped with improved classrooms, developmental curriculum, and have heightened their knowledge and understanding of how best to care for children 0 - 5. Examples include:
  - 100% of CDI grantees addressing provider capacity increased the knowledge of child care providers (both family- and center- based providers).
  - Child care providers learned how to promote themselves, facilitate better parent-provider relationships, and have improved their service delivery.
  - A number of family- and center-based providers either completed, or made marked progress toward, receiving child care accreditation or licensing.
• More LA County-based child care and health providers are able to identify developmental delays or behavioral problems in children 0—5. Additionally, these providers increased their knowledge on health topics concerning children 0-5 leading to better quality of health service.

• 68% of CDI grantees have permanently adopted or integrated services within their organization or other agencies, such as hospitals.

• Formal collaborations established through CDI were able to cast a wider net by providing multiple services to children, families, and providers, and ultimately the whole community.

Supporting Quotes:

“Before [this program], I used to think that day care jobs were the same as baby-sitting; but I’ve grown and gained so much that I know that this is not true. For me, it’s now about providing quality, to begin earlier to prepare children to enter schools.” (Child Care Provider)

“What we learned is [to be] more sensitive to the family needs…” (Health Care Provider)

**CDI-Grantee Level**

Through the implementation of CDI, the impact on grantees has been significant including:

• 76% of CDI grantees “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that CDI funding has led to long-term improvements in their agency such as increasing staff capacity, physical expansion/resources, and gaining a better understanding of participant needs.

• At least 85% of CDI grantees have made connections other agencies in Los Angeles County and have increased their project/organizational visibility.

• 85% of grantees either “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that Learning Exchanges provided useful staff development opportunities for project staff.

• Physical infrastructure for services to children 0-5 and their families has improved.

• Several grantees have embraced play as a form of therapy in interventions with children victimized by domestic violence or abuse.

Supporting Quotes:

“I believe we have gone beyond what we had dreamed and what we had expected. The program has made a positive impact in the health and quality of life of children and their families.” (CDI Grantee)

“I will miss the Learning Exchange. In my many years of service, I never experienced a gathering like Learning Exchange. This was not just a one-time deal; it was a process that lasted for many years…” (CDI Grantee)

“I have really appreciated the support and opportunity for reflection that the Learning Exchange meetings and meetings with our Semics rep. have given me.” (CDI Grantee)

“Collaboration with other agencies was definitely something new [for us]. [We were] also able to engage in inter-grantee networks through Semics’ and First 5 LA’s help. In the first project, we didn’t have that exposure;” (CDI Grantee)
Early Learning

In the Next Five Strategic Plan, the purpose of this goal area is to “improve all children’s attainment of their developmental potential.” The following are some of the results achieved by that support the goal of strong early learning outcomes for children 0 - 5:

Increasing Family Involvement in Children’s Early Education

This cluster focuses on parents or caregivers playing an active role in their child’s early education as well as assisting parents to fulfill that role by improving their own literacy. Through CDI, at least:

- **76,917** families were directly involved in supporting their child’s early education through family literacy or related activities.
- **2,902** parents participated in ESL classes.


“For me, this program has helped me a lot because it helped me feel secure in my communication with my family, to read a lot with my children and to share more ideas with my family.” — Parent

“…reading has extended to a sort of family circle. My husband and I read to the kids for about 15 minutes and sometimes I try to read to the kids in English. But if I’m unable to do so, my husband will read to all of us…Before, my husband did all the reading, but now I do some.” — Parent

Increasing Childcare Provider Capacity

CDI grantees addressing this area are focused on increasing the quality and capacity of child care providers to deliver effective, developmentally appropriate education for young children. This includes a handful of CDI grantees that also work with children with special needs. Through CDI, at least:

- **3,256** child care providers (both family- and center-based) received assistance in increasing the quality of their programs. Among these, at least
- **100** providers either completed, or made marked progress toward, childcare accreditation or licensing.
- **191** child care providers are working with special needs children ages 0-5.
Expanding Accessibility of Early Education Services

Accessibility of early education services includes not only child care programs, but early learning activities and home visitation promoting family literacy. Through CDI, grantees provided at least:

- **31** new early education programs.
- **26%** of the programs were established to serve children with special needs or who were exposed to substance abuse, domestic violence or extreme poverty.
- **84,557** children received early education services.

“Vocabulary improved a lot. My 2 and 4 year old recognizes letters of names and my son easily remembers their classmates’ names when pointing to a school picture.”

— Parent

“I’m very, very thankful, this is my dream! I can’t wait to be accredited! It’s like when you go to a restaurant and you see the big letter ‘A’ [health code rating]. Well, accreditation is like my big letter ‘A.’”

— Child Care Provider

“…there is more parent involvement using the library… now, more parents read to help the children out…”

— Project Director

“Just the way I see myself and other providers enthusiastic about doing the workshops and fixing up our places with new ideas – and just growing personally and professionally, and been noticed for that – it’s very good. … I had a child who had a real bad case of attention deficit – he didn’t talk. And now, with my knowledge gained through [the program], I have worked with him and we have seen a great improvement.”

— Child Care Provider

Watersheds

September 2002
First 5 LA launches first CDI funding cycle

March 2003
• CDI Cycle 2 grants begin
• Toddlin’ Time expands child care facility to serve more children
• South Central LAMP begins integrating the Childcare Program into its programs

June 2003
Monrovia’s Bookmobile brings literacy activities and materials to the community for the first time

August 2003
New Horizons accepts child enrollments for its child care program

September 2003
Semics is contracted by First 5 LA to conduct the three-year CDI Evaluation

October 2003
CDI Cycle 3 grants begin

February 2004
Friends of the Family includes an interactive infant and toddler program into the B.A.B.Y. program, originally meant for parents only

June 2004
• Child Educational Center began on-site consulting and training with first group of client centers
• Connections for Children presents first pilot Professional Development Seminar
• Bethany Lutheran Child Care Center enrolls 8 additional children into its Infant-Toddler Program

March 2005
11 child care providers receive their licensing under St. Mary’s Long Beach Child Care Empowerment Project

June 2005
• Santa Monica College hosts meeting between all the mentors and protégés for the first time
• Center for the Pacific Asian Family becomes a resource for other API providers on the effects of domestic violence and child abuse on children

December 2005
73% of the children in Eisner’s Parent-Child Home Program Expansion rank above the 50th percentile on the Cognitive/Language Profile

August 2006
CDI Evaluation ends

September 2008
Last cluster of CDI grants expected to end
CDI grantees have achieved results related to First 5 LA’s goal area of health by improving access to and the quality of health resources throughout Los Angeles County. CDI grantees accomplished the following results related to the goal of improved health:

**Early Intervention/Special Needs**
About one-fourth of grantees provided services to educate parents and providers on identifying developmental and behavioral problems and assess children for these problems or delays. Through CDI, grantees were able to provide at least:

- 12,111 parents with increased knowledge regarding child development milestones.
- 5,705 children were screened and assessed for developmental and behavioral problems.
- 4,700 providers were trained on how to identify developmental delays or behavioral problems as well as developmental screening and assessment.

“…not only did we get parents saying that they saw their infants making progress and doing better. But we also saw several examples of parents saying how much support they felt with the [CDI] program. That their feelings were being validated, and that they [the parents] understood much more and felt more secure as to what they see and expect with their babies.”

— External Evaluator

“…at the parent group, I learned how to react to my children”; “I learned new ways to interact and better communicate with my children”

— Parent

“The lives of parents with children with special needs are not easy. So whenever you get that type of support, understanding and nurturing, you want to keep it there. She does not massage me but having her in my home, massaging my child and her positive energy has been especially beneficial for my family.”

— Parent
Promoting Healthy Behaviors
This cluster of CDI grantees promotes better nutrition, increased physical activity among children, and health education to families. The following results have been achieved thus far:

3,610 children are in programs that increased their physical activity.
8,362 children have better nutrition through healthy snacks and, meals.
14,034 families have received health education, including nutritional education.
1,520 health care providers have increased their knowledge on health topics concerning children 0-5 (e.g., immunizations, nutrition, touch therapy, etc.).

“Since joining the program, my child requires less medication for his diabetes and I lost 20 pounds.”

– Parent

“...even if my child is not of age to be outdoors. I think that for children it’s better to be able to be outside, because they have too much energy and it is hard to entertain inside a building...”

– Parent

“I realize that physical activity is better than stationary video games.”

– Parent

October 2002
First 5 LA launches first CDI funding cycle

March 2003
King Drew establishes a home visitation program for infants born at or referred to its hospital

June 2003
Long Beach Memorial’s Lactation Support Program opens outpatient breastfeeding clinic

September 2003
• Semics is contracted by First 5 LA to conduct the three-year CDI Evaluation
• UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute launches resource website for caregivers of children with autism

September 2004
LAC+USC opens the Community-Based Assessment and Treatment Center providing primary care for children in foster care

December 2005
• Bundle of Joy begins collaboration to set up a community garden at the Compton Trailer Park to be tended by the participants who live in there
• Pasadena Public Health’s Minority Immunization Initiative assists Pasadena healthcare providers in reaching the Healthy People 2010 immunization rate goal

January 2006
Heart Touch’s touch therapy program is integrated into the pain management department at CHLA

August 2006
CDI Evaluation ends

September 2008
Last cluster of CDI grants expected to end
Health

Health Insurance Enrollment
Some CDI grantees have assisted families with health insurance enrollment. Specifically, at least:

- 5,378 children were enrolled in health insurance.
- 5,577 families were enrolled in health insurance.

“Clients were grateful to the services we provided… I had a client just immigrated here with her husband and a 5 months old baby. They did not have insurance, and the baby’s immunizations were due. I helped the family apply for Medi-Cal and referred the baby to CHDP for the immunizations…. Later, on she came back to me several times for the information on childcare, doctor’s appointment, adult school information and employment opportunities for the husband. Many clients consider our program as a one-stop social service they can really rely on.”

– Outreach Coordinator

“The parents have so many questions about health problems. It’s good to know we have someone here that we can call to get answers.”

– Child Care Provider

Pediatric Services
CDI grantees have provided various types of pediatric services to Los Angeles communities including health screenings, well-child exams and immunizations. Specifically, at least:

- 16,712 children have received health screenings (e.g., dental, hearing, vision, initial health assessment).
- 6,967 children received well-child or baby exams.
- 16,483 children received immunizations.
Prenatal and Perinatal Care
CDI grantees have focused on providing prenatal and perinatal services to new mothers, including breastfeeding education and support. Under this cluster, at least:

2,204 mothers received prenatal services/perinatal services.
30,831 new parents received parenting support, including newborn education.
1,059 nurses and hospital staff have increased their knowledge and support on breastfeeding.
29,111 mothers were educated on breastfeeding or received breastfeeding support.

“With the mothers that only speak Spanish, they feel more confident and grateful for a service that they never had before, since they wanted to breastfeed but never had the help or information in their language…”

– Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

“I was interested in the class mainly because I wanted to know the right way to feed my baby. I wanted to learn how to not get frustrated and to learn more in general about breastfeeding.”

– Expectant Mother

“We are seeing breastfeeding increase…. the counselors are being a resource in communication…as many counselors are bilingual in a hospital that serves a Spanish-speaking population…”

– Nurse Manager

Watersheds

June 2002
LA Child Clinic creates access to mental health services to children/families in 11 Head Start Preschools

July 2002
Lanterman implements the TouchPoints Special Needs training model

March 2003
Wilmington Community expands beyond medical services as CDI-funded parenting class begins

August 2003
Our Saviour/Cleaver Wellness Center formalizes process with area hospitals for referral for delivery and high-risk pregnancies

April 2004
Asian Pacific Health Care Venture opens pediatric facilities

July 2004
El Proyecto provides 36-foot-long Mobile Medical Unit health services in East Los Angeles

July 2005
Huntington Memorial Home Visitation Program was showcased by First 5 LA

October 2005
The Help Group’s Stepping Stones Program is the focus of a research paper on What Every Parent Should Know About How Children Learn to Read and What to Do When There’s a Problem presented by Dr. Philip Levine at The Help Summit

April 2006
CHLA Learning & Growing Together to release a book on spina bifida for young children

June 2006
Citrus Valley’s Healthy Babies/Happy Moms program hosts a successful Summit on Childhood Obesity
Safe Children and Families

The goal in this area is to “strengthen support to families so that they can safely raise their children.” CDI grantees with outcomes in this goal area usually serve the most needy communities, such as families with children with special needs, homeless families, mother and children exposed to domestic violence or substance abuse, and children in the foster care system.

Safe Environment
Several grantees have increased families’ safety by showing parents how to create a physically and emotionally safe home environment for their children and decreasing unintentional injuries of children. Specifically, at least:

- **7,082** families have increased their knowledge about how to or have created a physically and emotionally safe environment at home.
- **5,067** children are in programs to decrease unintentional injuries.

“I would not trade my life now for the life before. Even though I am sad for the past, being at [this place] gives me hope and little by little I think less of the past. Here at [this place], the staff clearly understands [my situation].”

– A Parent at a Shelter

Family Support
Comprehensive family support services provided by grantees include parenting classes, case management, and referrals to other community resources. Through CDI, at least:

- **2,299** families received intake and/or case management services.
- **3,073** families participated in parent support groups.
- **9,375** families have increased knowledge of positive parenting strategies.
- **18,015** families have been linked to social or community resources.

“They (the children) needed shelter, clean clothes, a safe place where they could be if I were to leave to go job searching. I didn’t want them sitting in a hotel setting waiting for me. I’ve seen that environment, and it is not where I want my kids – that is unsafe. I would worry because you have no idea who is around them if you are gone. Neither did I want my kids to end up in a foster home somewhere. My kids needed a loving parent to take care of them.”

– A Parent at a Shelter
A three-year look at Community-Developed Initiatives

Self-Sufficiency
A handful of grantees have provided job training, employment and housing assistance to improve the economic well-being of families. Specifically, at least:

368 parents received job training.
132 parents were able to find jobs or pursue their education.
106 families received housing assistance.

“The change is more in terms of a better lifestyle for my family brought about by the fact that I have a better job.

... My work with developmentally challenged children also helped me understand better one of my twins who has a learning disability.”

— Parent

“The baby group offered a wonderful opportunity for families to connect with each other, see how their children are going to develop.”

— Project Staff

“I think parenting workshops are especially important because it is always good to know about different issues related to our kids. As a single parent, I find I want to know more about parenting themes because I have a 4-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old son.”

— Parent

“I have a better sense of peace and am more proactive. I can manage my emotions better and can discuss them with my husband...”

— Parent of a Child with Special Needs

“I’ve been here now for eight months and the first thing I learned was to communicate. I used to holler at my kids all the time, now, I know I can sit down and reason with them.”

— A Parent at a Shelter

Watersheds

September 2002
First 5 LA launches first CDI funding cycle

March 2003
Splash-It-Up Aquatic Safety Program is implemented, bringing YMCA to focus for the first time ever in the infant population

September 2003
Semics is contracted by First 5 LA to conduct the three-year CDI Evaluation

June 2004
Union Station Family Center, a 25-bed dormitory facility, opens its doors to homeless families. One of very few family centers of its kind in Southern CA

January 2005
LA Gay and Lesbian begins plans to expand its Family Day in the Park event to specific geographic regions around Los Angeles County

April 2005
LACC opens the last renovated playground at Saybrook Park in East Los Angeles

June 2005
• Harbor Interfaith Services, Children and Families First host their first job fair.
• NEW partners with Arroyo Vista Family Health Center’s mobile clinic to provide free health screenings and physicals to its participants

November 2005
Community Coalition’s opens The Kinship Center, which provides social services to children and relative caregivers

August 2006
CDI Evaluation ends

September 2008
Last cluster of CDI grants

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— A Parent at a Shelter
Systems Improvement

Through this programmatic strategy, First 5 LA hopes to create new family-centered systems of support while delivering results that increase the wellbeing of children 0-5 and their families. The following are some of the accomplishments of CDI under this strategy:

- 7 collaborations were formed due to CDI funding providing comprehensive services to children 0-5, families and providers.
- At least 6,746 agencies or providers have been touched by a CDI Grantee or informally collaborated with a CDI grantee through F5 LA funding.
- At least three CDI-funded projects have been integrated into mainstream services in hospital settings (e.g., breastfeeding, massage therapy).
- Semics hosted 8 Learning Exchanges averaging 58 attendees representing 61% of the CDI Grantees.

“The money we got from First 5 LA allowed us to start our 2 unique programs... Though unique, we have the same target for both programs and that is to impact the lives of children so that by the time they reached the age of 5, we get to integrate them into society without further special needs... we returned over half our children to mainstream kindergarten programs...”

– Program Director

Watersheds

September 2003
CHLA Child Health Works provides health screenings in LAUSD Early Education Centers; the first of its kind.

October 2003
The Pasadena Collaborative Literacy Project was officially established through CDI; agencies involved included Pasadena Public Library, CCIS, Pacific Oaks, Frostig Center, UCLA and CCFS.

September 2004
PHFE-WIC collaborates with the County of Los Angeles Public Libraries to enhance literacy services for families.

April 2006
1736 Family Crisis Center establishes outdoor play therapy @ 3 family crisis centers for DV.
Capacity Building

Through this programmatic strategy, First 5 LA endeavors to “strengthen existing or establish new resource networks within communities.” Thus far, CDI-funded capacity building has achieved concrete results primarily at the level of individual grantees and their programs. For example:

- 87% of grantees increased staff capacity and development.
- 87% built or expanded their physical infrastructure to better serve children.
- 81% of grantees established relationships with other agencies in their surrounding area increasing their visibility.
- 79% of grantees adapted to the needs of their community.
- 68% of grantees have integrated services within their organizations or other agencies, particularly hospitals.
- 64% of grantees enhanced their evaluation capacity.

“We also built capacity for the coalition too. Before [CDI] funding there were only two people running the coalition…. CDI funding allowed us to add 6 staff person for a total of 8 people working in the coalition.”
– Project Coordinator

“…we learned a lot. Not only about childcare, but we learned English and [how to use] computers. [CDI project staff] came to our house and told us what we have to clean and do to become providers…”
– Child Care Provider

“I enjoyed the training because it went to the personal level to understand the system. It helped me to put myself in another person’s shoes.”
– Project Staff

Watersheds

July 2003
Capital improvement for Happy Bear preschool adds capacity for 22 new slots

May 2005
KYCC opens new Crenshaw childcare facility

June 2005
First child care center under SCAEYC’s Accreditation Facilitation Project II receives NAEYC accreditation

December 2005
California Council of Churches moved its L.A. County Faith-Based Childcare Providers Network to USC’s Center for Religion and Civic Culture, giving it increased visibility, resources and heightened reputation
AHA Moments

This page includes insights from project staff and grantees on what they have learned or how the CDI-funded project has been beneficial.

“…this program helped me a lot. At first, I was not sure of myself because I didn’t understand English that well. But everyone [CDI project staff] helped me out and I started to understand better.”
- Parent

“Adults are asking a lot of questions about immunizations for themselves. They are more concerned about their health.”
- Project Coordinator

“I learned a lot. They’re [the children] sitting with their siblings, older siblings are doing their homework too. Siblings are getting involved. Not only is the parent getting involved, it’s the whole family.”
- Teacher

“You’re in their house, they show you an application for magnet school and they don’t know what to do with it. So you explain to them that it’s a good thing. They would never do that if you’re not there.”
- Project Staff

“…It makes our preschool program more attractive. Most families don’t have health insurance. Or even those who do have access to health services might not have transportation. This program is local, it’s convenient.”
- Child Care Provider

“I like coming to this class because in addition to learning to read, I learned to share, to listen and to be heard, which made me feel whole.”
- Parent
“…We learned that the basic need of the community was families’ desire to support their children. This is the same universal need that all parents feel but the way you get there is different for every community and every parent.”

- Project Staff

“[CDI grantee] has been in existence for 25 years… the lasting impact… what this funding has done for us is, it took us from behind the desk and into the providers’ home.”

- Provider Servicing Coordinator

“I think the [CDI] project changed the way the clinicians look at families. They don’t look at them simply as families with children with [special needs] but more as a social unit with needs that have to be identified and addressed…. I think that it was more of parents educating the clinicians rather than the clinicians educating the parents…”

- Parent Coordinator

“As a physician and health educator, I have been able to see families who do not have access to any health services. It has helped me not just to become part of the system. When I become a certified physician here, I have the desire to be different and give free consultation time to families who do not have insurance…”

- Project Staff

“When resources are pooled, such as in a collaborative structure, they become limitless, so what you can do is limitless, as well… It’s a wonderful project for families. The project provides services to children who would, otherwise, never get services. This is unique, unprecedented in LAUSD.”

- Nurse Liaison

September 2002
First 5 LA launches first CDI funding cycle

September 2003
Semics is contracted by First 5 LA to conduct the three-year CDI Evaluation

March 19, 2004
First Learning Exchange is convened with the theme of “Stone Soup”

June 10, 2004
Learning Exchange 2 is held at Crystal Stairs. “Building common ground”

October 1, 2004
Learning Exchange 3 is convened with the theme of “Navigating common ground”

March 5, 2005
Learning Exchange 4 “Uncovering hidden stories”

July 29, 2005
Learning Exchange 5 “Building the continuing story”

December 2, 2005
Learning Exchange 6 “Connecting to a larger family”

April 7, 2006
Learning Exchange 7 “What’s in the soup?”

June 16, 2006
Learning Exchange 8 hosts CDI Grantee exhibits and multi-media productions regarding project results over three years.

August 2006
CDI Evaluation ends

September 2008
Last cluster of CDI grants expected to end
Snapshots
A three-year look at Community-Developed Initiatives
Acknowledgements

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