First 5 LA
Countywide Augmentation Projects

**East LA College Childcare Providers**
This project will assist bilingual family child care (FCC) providers attain educational and career goals by providing outreach, support services, coaching, and advisement to family child care providers. The project will focus on Spanish and Mandarin-speaking providers.

The project aims at improving bilingual educational support services offered to FCC providers, providing educational support services designed to assist the FCC provider population, and promoting college-level institutional changes to sustain services long-term.

**Tot Parks and Trails**
This project will provide funding to upgrade, develop or enhance toddler playground facilities as well upgrade and/or create stroller trails. It targets park-deficient communities across the County and aims at developing ADA compliant, developmentally appropriate play spaces for children ages 2 – 5. This project will encourage greater use of parks and provide opportunities for physical activities for toddlers and their caregivers.

**Infant Safe Sleeping Campaign**
The key objective of the Infant Safe Sleeping Campaign proposal is to reduce the number of infant deaths in Los Angeles County by raising awareness and practice of safe sleeping recommendations. Components of the proposal include focus groups to better understand unique cultural factors related to bed sharing and other unsafe sleeping practices; small community discussion forms to generate dialogue; community-wide forums in high-risk neighborhoods; a crib voucher program and a countywide public education campaign to raise awareness and influence behavior change.

**Connecting Risk and Perinatal Service Systems**
The project will focus on an assessment of existing systems (including but not limited to county jails, Sheriff's department, women's shelters, residential care facilities, Probation department, Hospitals, Community clinics, DCFS) that provide services to high risk pregnant women and their infant children to understand the policies and practices that govern data collection, data sharing, data dissemination and data analysis. The project will work to develop a comprehensive inventory of databases, systems and recommendations on possible links that can be established within the existing data sets and data collection technologies.

**Data Partnership with Funders**
The project will establish an interagency partnership among experts in the field of data and technology related to children and families. This partnership will establish the Data Rapid
Response Team (DRRT) to (1) identify and prioritize research questions, (2) engage current and potential data consumers in order to identify their needs and train them to navigate existing data effectively, and (3) develop an online clearinghouse to act as a single “place” where all data and research projects related to 0-5 issues in the region can be accessed efficiently. Data Partnership members will be committed to working collaboratively to minimize duplication and find ways to leverage First 5 LA’s investment.

**Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce Consortium**

The Consortium will provide for a multi-faceted collaboration among stakeholders across LA County to provide and improve available training and professional development to a wide spectrum of current and potential ECE workforce. The project aims at increasing the quality of early learning programs for young children and supporting the recruitment, education, preparation and retention of a diverse early care and education workforce. LAUP, acting lead agency of the Consortium, will ensure continuation of collaborative efforts and promote recruitment and retention of the current and prospective ECE workforce.

**Peer Support Groups for Parents**

Peer Support Groups for parents is a mini-grant project that supports the development of Countywide opportunities to foster social connections, reduce isolation, allow for transfer of knowledge and skills relating to parenting, breastfeeding and nutrition, and provide for positive mental outlook over the long-term. The project will develop peer support group leaders and establish 100 Peer Support Groups for parents in communities where support, social cohesion, and connections to neighborhood peers are weak or lacking, and establish partnerships with existing service providers. The ultimate goal of this project is to decrease social isolation and post-partum depression and increase social cohesion and connections for parents.

**Substance Abuse Services: Improving Access to Substance Abuse Services for High Risk Parents**

This project provides funding over a three years to increase access to and utilization of substance abuse prevention and treatment services for pregnant women, parents/caregivers of children prenatal to age five, in open DCFS cases where there is potential or risk for abuse or neglect due to substance abuse. Pregnant women and parents/caregivers of children aged 0-5 years will be provided screening, information and education, and referral to treatment as needed. This countywide project integrates child protective services with substance abuse treatment and mental health supports for parents in crisis. The project can also be linked to services provided as part of the PCIT project.

**Healthy Food Access Initiative**

This project will increase families’ access to fresh fruits and vegetables by establishing a “veggie voucher” subsidy to promote purchase of healthy fruits and vegetables for low-income children. The project will also makes grants available to help CBOs build, operate
and maintain local community gardens for low-income families. This would include a one-time investment for garden construction and ongoing operation and maintenance costs for five years.

**Nutrition and Physical Activity Environment in Child Care Settings**

This project utilizes evidence-based interventions to improve the nutrition and physical activity environment in licensed and license-exempt child care settings and builds upon F5LA’s previous investment in the Sesame Street Healthy Habits for Life pilot. This project will modify existing providers’ practices and support offering healthier food and beverages, and increase physical activities for children during care hours. The project may provide opportunities to leverage federal efforts. HHS – Administration of Children and Families is looking into opportunities to prevent childhood obesity by developing new standards for Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Screen Time in Childcare Settings.

**Nutrition and Reduce the Obesity Epidemic in Children - Multi-agency Private/Public Partnership**

This project will address the growing epidemic of childhood obesity that impacts children and their families. The project will contribute to the adoption, implementation, and strengthening of policies, and systems and environmental changes in multiple sectors including government agencies, businesses, health care, and other community settings. These changes will benefit large segments of the county population and, in particular, will reach deeply into communities most severely impacted by the obesity epidemic. The project will implement a coordinated community action plan that includes interventions in five designated strategy areas (media, access, point of purchase/promotion and price).

**Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)**

This project will utilize an evidence-based behavioral family intervention model to help young children with serious disruptive behavior disorders and their parents. Capacity will be developed within the workforce and within service delivery organizations throughout Los Angeles County to provide PCIT for families with children 0-5. The project aims at expanding the capacity in Los Angeles County to provide PCIT to families with children, providing training opportunities to mental health professionals on the PCIT model, and reducing abuse in families with young children with serious disruptive behavior disorders.

**Community Family Hubs/Family Literacy**

The proposed Family Education model is intended to improve school readiness for children. This model was established as an adaptation of the Federally-funded Family Literacy model to reduce costs and optimize the use of the most impactful strategies for improving multi-generational literacy outcomes.

**One Step Ahead**

This project provides funding over 5 years to improve health, developmental and safety outcomes for newborns in low-income communities receiving WIC services in LA County.
The initiative would provide literacy and safety education and counseling along with the distribution of vouchers for age appropriate books, toys and safety items. The project aims at increasing the number of low income families receiving critical developmental, early literacy, safety items and basic necessities, and reducing the number of families abandoning the WIC program.

**Countywide Universal Newborn Assessment**
The universal assessment strategy will identify families at greatest risk/need and link them to supportive services. The program is intended to support the development of a countywide universal assessment program for all new parents at the birth of their child. The target population is the estimated 112,000 LA County annual births outside of First 5 LA’s 14 Best Start communities. The project aims at implementing a universal risk screening of all new parents at the birth of their child and will provide 1 - 2 home visits, as needed, to offer basic supports and ensure linkages to needed services.

**Ensuring Perinatal Healthcare Coverage**
This is a policy project to ensure that low-income women have uninterrupted medical care throughout pregnancy and in the time following delivery of their child. Providing health care and services prenatally can prevent more costly long-term chronic illnesses and disabilities. There are currently programs that deliver these services, such as Medi-Cal, but there are barriers to continuous coverage. This project would consist of a component that would research the current barriers to immediate, continuous coverage for these women. It would then propose to spearhead countywide advocacy efforts focused on eliminating enrollment barriers and interrupted care for women who do not have insurance coverage or are at risk of experiencing late entry to care or breaks in existing coverage.