

Early Identification and Intervention

GOAL: To increase the effectiveness and responsiveness of child and family serving systems to provide developmental and behavioral screening, care coordination and early intervention services.

BACKGROUND

We have a critical window of time – prenatal to age 5 – to build the foundations every child needs to prepare for success in school and life. Research shows it is during this time that a child’s brain develops most rapidly. In fact, 90 percent of their brain is developed by age 5.

It is crucial during these years to determine if a child’s development is on track and to address any concerns as early as possible to have the greatest impact. Early identification, which involves a combination of routine surveillance and screenings, greatly increases the likelihood that a young child with or at risk for developmental and behavioral delays will be identified and referred to prevention and early intervention services. Furthermore, one in four children under 5 years old are at risk for developmental and behavioral delays and would benefit from early intervention services and supports.

Navigating these systems, however, is difficult and complex for many families. For instance, families often encounter challenges accessing timely screenings and early intervention services because of a lack of system-level coordination, complex eligibility and referral processes and obstacles to data sharing, among other barriers. Breaking down these barriers is essential in helping families to navigate within and between programs, services and systems that support children and families.

OUR PLAN

First 5 LA is focused on strengthening the coordination between child and family serving systems and assisting families access timely screenings and early intervention services needed for their child’s healthy development through a variety of approaches. A few examples include:

- **Partnerships for Improved Systems:**
 - **First Connections** – Pilots innovative approaches for community-based providers to embed developmental screening and strengthen referral processes within their practices to better identify children with or at-risk for developmental delays and connect children and families to culturally and linguistically appropriate early intervention services and supports as early as possible.
 - **Help Me Grow-Los Angeles (HMG-LA)** – HMG is a national effort that promotes local cross-sector collaboration to bolster early identification of developmental and behavioral delays. HMG-LA will coordinate existing systems that serve children to implement and strengthen early identification and link children and their families to appropriate intervention services and supports. The *Promoting Children’s Optimal Development* recommendation report from HMG-LA planning members guides and informs the next phase of planning for HMG-LA. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is partnering with First 5 LA to launch, test and refine core components (see diagram at right). Pilots will be held with L.A. Care Health Plan and within select demonstration communities for a phased, data-driven rollout of HMG-LA.
- **Public Policy and Advocacy:** Develop a cohesive advocacy strategy to educate policymakers on state and federal screening requirements; and support state and federal policy to strengthen language on screening services (e.g., Assembly Bill 11 related to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program).

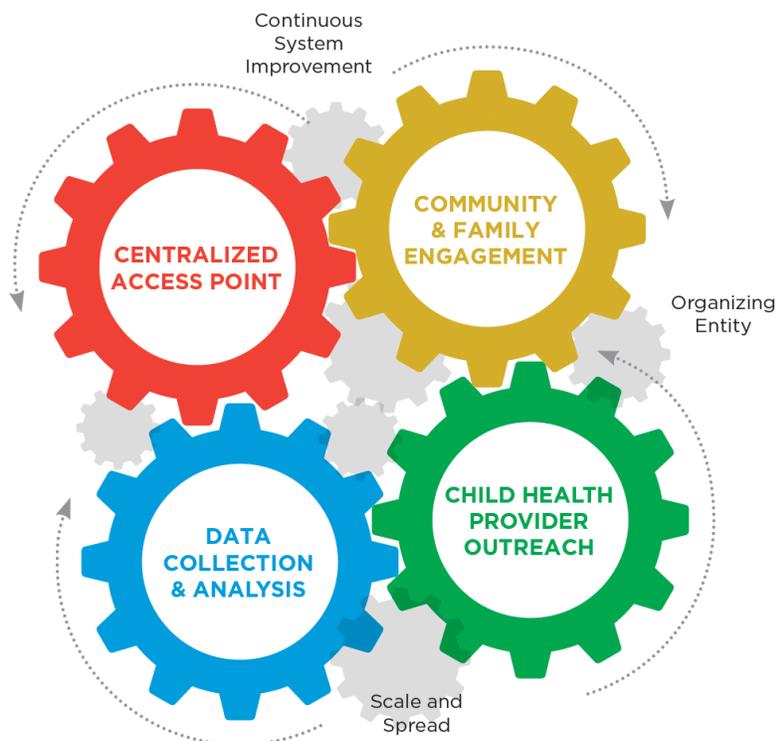
OUR PARTNERS

- [AltaMed Health Services](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics - Chapter 2](#)
- [Eisner Pediatric and Family Medical Center](#)
- [Foothill Family Services](#)
- [L.A. Care Health Plan](#)
- [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#)
- [Northeast Valley Health Corporation](#)
- [South Central Los Angeles Regional Center](#)
- [Westside Children’s Center](#)
- [Children’s Hospital Los Angeles](#)

JOIN US

For the work to succeed, sufficient will and commitment must be leveraged across systems, agencies and communities.

- Tell us how your agency is providing early identification, care coordination and/or early intervention services.
- Inquire about becoming a collaborative or supporting agency in a demonstration community to help test and refine strategies to strengthen early identification and intervention services for young children in Los Angeles County.
- Tell us how your agency is integrating a trauma and resiliency-informed approach and early identification and intervention efforts.



To learn more, contact:

Cristina Peña, MPP, Senior Program Officer | 213.482.6008 | cpena@first5la.org | First5LA.org

GOAL: To improve the capacity within organizations and systems to help children prenatal to age 5, families and communities both heal from trauma and strengthen their resiliency to become trauma and resiliency informed.

BACKGROUND

We have a critical window of time – prenatal to age 5 – to build the foundations every child needs to prepare for success in school and life. Research shows it is during this time that a child’s brain develops most rapidly. In fact, 90 percent of their brain is developed by age 5. One of the most compounding and damaging factors in a child’s development is the effect of trauma and toxic stress, where the experiences often result in children facing lifelong physical, behavioral and emotional challenges. However, research shows that intervening as early as possible can buffer the impact of trauma on brain development.

To identify and respond appropriately to a child who has been exposed to trauma, it is critical to ensure child and family serving systems are equipped with the knowledge and skills to provide trauma informed services. What is more, to affect a culture of healing and wellbeing it is essential to recognize that trauma intervention cannot rest solely on the abilities of child and family serving systems. Community change efforts focused on trauma and resiliency have the potential to positively impact the toxicity and stressors prevalent in our larger societal environment.

In partnership with other funders, First 5 LA launched a countywide effort around trauma informed systems change in 2016 with a kick-off event to hear about promising practices underway in other counties. Since then, First 5 LA and the other funding partners have continued to support the advancement of trauma informed systems change in Los Angeles County by contributing to a pooled fund. A workgroup of foundations, community-based organizations and Los Angeles County Departments convened for nearly a year to provide recommendations on priorities and approaches that resulted in a July 2017 report on [Emerging Lessons and Potential Strategies from the Los Angeles County Trauma and Resiliency-Informed Systems Change Initiative](#). This was the first effort to intentionally cultivate a vision of a trauma and resiliency informed Los Angeles County. We are proceeding to implement recommended strategies.

Trauma

The effects of a single event, a series of events and/or ongoing circumstances that are experienced or perceived as physically or emotionally harmful and/or life threatening

Resiliency

The capacity of individuals, families and communities to heal from trauma and to strengthen their wellbeing and adaptability in ways that can lessen or prevent future trauma

Trauma and Resiliency Informed Systems Change

An ongoing process to strengthen an organization, department or larger system’s impact by integrating into its programs, structures and culture a comprehensive commitment to address trauma and promote resiliency

OUR PLAN

By identifying and supporting best practices around trauma informed care we will implement diverse approaches that improve the service delivery system for children prenatal to age 5 and their families. Systems change examples include:

- **Partnerships for Improved Systems:** Support demonstration projects to pilot trauma and resiliency strategies; convene trauma informed champions to design and implement cross-systems, place-based approaches to support providers delivering trauma and resiliency informed care; and document organizational culture shifts and processes for future replication.
- **Public Policy and Advocacy:** Develop a cohesive advocacy strategy to educate policymakers on the impact of trauma and trauma informed approaches; and educate state and local policymakers on using a trauma informed lens to develop policies.

OUR PARTNERS

- [California Community Foundation](#)
- [The California Endowment](#)
- [Campaign to Counter Childhood Adversity](#)
- [Center for Collective Wisdom](#)
- [City of Long Beach, Department of Health and Human Services](#)
- [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#)
- [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#)
- [Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority](#)
- [Los Angeles Unified School District](#)
- [The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation](#)
- [United Way of Greater Los Angeles](#)

JOIN US

For the work to succeed, sufficient will and commitment will need to be leveraged across systems, agencies and communities.

- Tell us how your agency is becoming trauma and resiliency informed (e.g., training, policies, etc.).
- Contribute to the pooled fund to support efforts to embed trauma and resiliency informed care in countywide systems.
- Share expertise with countywide children and family serving systems on becoming trauma and resiliency informed.

To learn more, contact:

Tina Chinakarn, MPH, Program Officer | 213.482.7521 | tchinakarn@first5la.org | First5LA.org