

FIRST 5 LA POLICY AGENDA



The First 5 LA Policy Agenda guides policy efforts at the local, state and federal advocacy. Supporting achievement of the adopted 2020-2028 Strategic Plan's Results for Children and Families, Long-Term Systems Outcomes and Results Indicators, the agenda is grounded in First 5 LA's unique experiences and expertise, rooted in learnings from local investments, and informed by community- and family-voice. Foundational to the agenda is an understanding that children ages prenatal to 5-years old represent a special population, because the brain develops more rapidly during the earliest years of life than at any other time. Concurrently, the impacts of structural racism powerfully disrupt optimal development and health, as well as broader family stability. As such, all priorities within the Policy Agenda will:

- **Work to close race-based disparities in health, well-being and opportunity;**
- **Utilize the best available data and advocate for the availability of full and complete data; and**
- **Promote a holistic system of supports that is language- and culturally- appropriate.**



First 5 LA, in partnership with others, helps to strengthen families, communities, and systems of services and supports so all children in Los Angeles County enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life. To achieve this, First 5 LA advances the following community-informed priority areas:

Promote a comprehensive system of family supports to advance positive outcomes for the whole child and whole family.



- Build systems that strategically layer effective evidence-based, innovative and community-responsive resources of family strengthening supports, prioritizing home visiting and early intervention services.
- Promote and protect family supports to ensure families with young children and pregnant women are economically secure.
- Improve capacity and coordination across early identification, early intervention and family strengthening systems.

Improve systems to promote the optimal development of children through early identification and supports that are family-responsive.



- Ensure children receive early and periodic validated developmental and behavioral screenings, and coordination to appropriate interventions
- Strengthen child and family serving systems to prevent, anticipate, and respond appropriately to adverse experiences, trauma, and toxic stress.
- Incentivize preventative care to close maternal and pediatric health disparities through disaggregated data.

Expand access to affordable, quality early care and education.



- Increase public investment in early care and education systems prioritizing mixed delivery and family choice.
- Align an equitable and responsive early care and education quality support structure.
- Increase compensation and funded professional supports for the early care and education workforce.

Ensure communities have the resources and environment to optimize their child's development.



- Increase opportunities for community voices to shape resources, services and other critical issues affecting young children and families.
- Promote local flexibility in policies and systems that directly impact families and neighborhoods.
- Elevate and utilize disaggregated population level and integrated service data for effective system delivery and improvement.

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