

BEST START REGION 1

REGIONAL AND LOCAL NETWORK PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



1ST LA
best start
EAST LOS ANGELES

1ST LA
best start
— METRO LA —

1ST LA
best start
SOUTH EL MONTE /
— EL MONTE —

1ST LA
best start
— SOUTHEAST —
LA COUNTY CITIES

THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL NETWORK PHILOSOPHY

Para Los Niños (PLN) has designed an approach to work in Region 1 that is grounded in Popular Education methodology and rooted in the common guiding principles and values PLN and their partners share:

- Being Informed and Led by Parents
- Accessibility • Dignity • Collaboration • Learning
- Passion • Co-Design • Trust • Praxis • Accountability
- Growing • Respect • Inclusiveness • Transparency
- Efficiency • Respecting Vulnerabilities/Process
- Purpose and Outcomes • Celebrating Success!

The proposed structure and partners chosen to support the Best Start community partnerships in Region 1 reflect and embody these values. Each of the regional and local network partners has an area of expertise in the functions they will provide. The long-term goal is to build collective accountability, transparency and, importantly, sustainability locally and regionally.

PARA LOS NIÑOS

Regional Network Organizations

Advancement Project California

California Strategies

Para Los Niños

Soluna Group

Local Network Organizations

California Strategies

Child360

Para Los Niños

SPIRITT Family Services

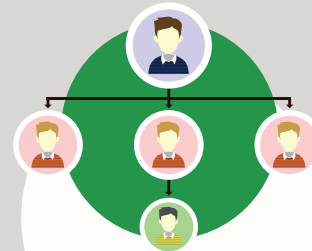
Team Friday

REGIONAL NETWORK ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

Assumes responsibility for managing the grant with First 5 LA, fulfilling all administrative requirements, managing subcontracts with all partners, and ensuring integrity to Best Start values, parameters and principles.



MULTI-LEVEL COORDINATION

Coordinates and maximizes opportunities to connect the work of the community partnerships within the region to each other and to similar efforts at the local, regional, and/or countywide levels.



COORDINATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Assesses the capacity needs of itself and its subcontractors and providing support as needed to ensure that all parties involved are continually and proactively seeking to improve the performance of their respective roles.



COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY

Coordinates and supports opportunities to bring together the community partnerships in the region when cross-community efforts are needed in pursuit of common goals or in response to (or support of) external policy or systems change endeavors.



REGIONAL LEARNING

Facilitates regular learning activities across communities within the region as well as participates in First 5 LA learning and evaluation activities, including the Best Start Learning Agenda.



REGIONAL RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Attracts and leverages regional, countywide, state and federal resources (funding, donations, and volunteer time) and relationships to support the work of the community partnerships beyond First 5 LA funding.



• EAST LA • METRO LA • SOUTHEAST LA • SOUTH EL MONTE / EL MONTE



LOCAL NETWORK ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



COORDINATION & SUPPORT

Provides all of the logistical support needed to plan, facilitate and hold community partnership meetings, activities and events. Also monitors the local landscape to identify opportunities for collaboration and integration with similar efforts.



DATA, LEARNING & IMPROVEMENT

Incorporates the use of data, regular reflection, and learning at the local level and coordinates with the regional network grantee to support regional learning. Also participates in First 5 LA learning and evaluation activities, including the Best Start Learning Agenda.



CAPACITY BUILDING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Models effective practices, provides real-time coaching and arranges for targeted technical assistance as needed to support individual and collective abilities to influence policies and systems that impact children and families in their community.



COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Supports the development and implementation of communications strategies that build the partnerships' brand and visibility regionally and locally.



COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

Supports the ongoing planning, implementation, and reflection of projects identified by the community partnership to achieve the desired community change results.



RESIDENT AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

Supports the development and implementation of strategies that facilitate social connections and engage parents and residents in the work of the community partnership.



LOCAL RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Attracts and leverages local resources (funding, donations, volunteer time) and relationships to support the work of the community partnerships beyond First 5 LA funding.



**COORDINATION &
SUPPORT**

**PARA
LOS
NIÑOS**



**CAPACITY BUILDING
& LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT**

**PARA
LOS
NIÑOS**



**COMMUNICATIONS &
OUTREACH**

**TEAM
FRIDAY**

BEST START EAST LA



**RESIDENT AND
STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT &
ADVOCACY**

**PARA
LOS
NIÑOS**



**COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED
PROJECTS**

**PARA
LOS
NIÑOS**



**DATA, LEARNING &
IMPROVEMENT**

CHILD360



**LOCAL RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION**

**CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIES**



BEST START SOUTHEAST LA

CHILD360

CAPACITY BUILDING
& LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNICATIONS &
OUTREACH

TEAM
FRIDAY

CHILD360

COORDINATION &
SUPPORT



RESIDENT AND
STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT &
ADVOCACY

CHILD360



COMMUNITY-IDENTIFIED
PROJECTS

PARA
LOS
NIÑOS



DATA, LEARNING &
IMPROVEMENT

CHILD360



LOCAL RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION

CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIES



ABOUT THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL NETWORK PARTNERS



Para Los Niños (PLN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the academic success and social well-being of children since 1980. For more than three decades, PLN has worked with children, families, and communities to strengthen individual capacities and collective networks to support safe and healthy lives.

As an integrated service agency, PLN brings together professionals in early education, early intervention, mental health, public health, primary and secondary education, and community engagement to serve the whole child, whole family, and the communities in which families reside. PLN has a long history of working collaboratively, recognizing that they cannot do all the work alone. They have led the Family Preservation collaborative since 1998 and the Partnerships for Families collaborative since 2004. With a long history of direct service as well as parent leadership development and collaborative partnership building, PLN understands the nuances of place-based work, community engagement and leadership development.

PLN has extensive experience working directly with the communities, families, organizations and other stakeholders in the Best Start Metro community, specifically to build capacity in ways that support and foster the strengths that exist among partners. Since 2009, PLN has served as the lead agency for Best Start Metro Los Angeles (BSMLA), the pilot community for First 5 LA's place-based initiative.

PLN functions well as mediator, facilitator and capacity builder among the partnership, external partners and funders to help build and/or strengthen collaboration to achieve common goals. The collaborations led by PLN have focused on building partnerships that look at community needs versus agency needs and capitalize on agency-specific strengths in order to comprehensively, holistically, efficiently and effectively serve the needs of our respective target populations.



Advancement Project California (APCA) is a multi-racial civil rights organization that leverages data-driven strategies and coalition partnerships to facilitate community power and leadership building among low-income residents of color. APCA is a trusted community partner and leading incubator for innovative and culturally responsive community-driven approaches to improve access to healthy community resources – such as transportation, parks, health care providers – and to build highly impacted communities at city, county and statewide levels. Since 1999, APCA programs and projects have built equity in public education, local budgeting processes, and political participation in California through community power.



California Strategies is a leading, statewide public policy firm with deep ties to all levels of government – from federal to local – as well as to Los Angeles, statewide and national funders and philanthropies. It has had an office in Los Angeles for more than 15 years. The firm's diverse, bipartisan partners and associates share an understanding of the changing needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by California's different and dynamic communities. In Los Angeles, California Strategies has worked with government agencies, philanthropies, nonprofits, community-based organizations, businesses and universities on a range of issues. These include early childhood, higher education, housing, systems building, coalition building and public-private partnership development, as well as fund development, grant procurement and other procurement and business development opportunities.



Child360 (formerly LAUP) has built, supported, and improved early education systems in Los Angeles County. Through a 10-year contract with First 5 LA, Child360 worked actively to improve kindergarten-readiness and child outcomes for more than 115,000 children in the county. With subsequent funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge and First 5 California's Child Signature Program initiatives, Child360 has served an additional 10,000 children by providing preschools with quality coaching, assessments and family engagement support. Through direct, place-based work with dozens of communities in the county, Child360 has a unique resume of expertise and experience in the areas of parent engagement, leadership development, capacity and network building, and community outreach.



Soluna Group is a multi-racial, women-led consultancy that works with community groups, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, and government agencies to help build strong communities, healthy families and thriving children. Soluna does this by strengthening the capacity of communities and those that serve them by using a variety of capacity building approaches, including technical assistance, coaching, training and facilitation. Earlier this year, after a decade of collaboration, Laura Valles and Associates (LVA) joined Wilson and Associates Coaching and Consulting to launch Soluna Group, a capacity building consultancy focused on catalyzing community and organizational transformation. Soluna's managing partners, Chrysta Wilson and Laura Valles, have each worked throughout Los Angeles County over the last 18 years to ensure that families and children grow up healthy and in thriving communities.



SPIRITT Family Service's mission is to empower families, improve health and well-being, and strengthen communities. Established in 1972, SPIRITT provides crisis intervention, life skills and hope for families in eastern Los Angeles County. With nearly 8,000 individuals served each year, SPIRITT's strength-based family-centered approach is designed to increase an individual's and family's protective factors. SPIRITT staff provides innovated, culturally sensitive, evidence-based and compassionate solutions to children, youth, adults and families. SPIRITT has a strong history of working in the Best Start South El Monte/El Monte (SEM/EM) community, where it has implemented effective collaborations and earned a track record of success. One of SPIRITT's five Family Centers is located in SEM/EM, offering highly accessible, culturally competent programs that empower family members and improve community well-being. SPIRITT has garnered trust and experience in SEM/EM through the Partnership for Families Initiative it has provided in partnership with First 5 LA since 2006 and with the First 5 LA Home Visitation Programs it has modeled on Healthy Families America since 2014.

TEAMFRIDAY

Team Friday is a creative agency focused on building purpose, furthering causes and creating impact through collaboration and innovation. The agency's team is rooted in Los Angeles and has a well-rounded knowledge of all neighborhoods and systems specific to the city. Team Friday works with people, brands, organizations, communities and civic entities all throughout the state with a focused effort on providing communication partnerships in LA's most underutilized and vulnerable communities. Believing communications and marketing should be accessible, Team Friday strives to bridge build the communications process for all its partners. They don't just parachute into communities – they're embedded in them.