

FIRST 5 LA POLICY AGENDA



The 2022 First 5 LA Policy Agenda is grounded in learnings from First 5 LA investments and community experiences, and recognizes children ages 5 years and younger as a truly “special population,” due to the rapid pace of brain development that occurs during this period. To direct advocacy efforts supporting achievement of the 2020-2028 Strategic Plan’s Results for Children and Families, the 2022 Policy Agenda aims in particular to reduce barriers to care and ensure our youngest children receive health and learning supports as early as possible, to promote lifelong success. The experience of structural racism, woven throughout many of the

systems and institutions families interact with, also powerfully disrupts optimal child development and family stability. As such, all priorities with the 2022 Policy Agenda will:

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

First 5 LA, in partnership with others, helps to strengthen families, communities, and systems of services and supports so that by 2028 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 connect families to effective evidence-based, innovative, and community-responsive resources, prioritizing home visiting and early intervention services.
- Advance and protect family supports to ensure families with young children and pregnant people are economically secure.
- Reduce barriers and eligibility requirements so children prenatal to 5 years old receive supports and services that promote healthy development at the earliest opportunities.

Improve systems to promote the optimal development of children through early identification and supports.



- Promote alignment and integration throughout early identification, early intervention and family strengthening systems.
- Ensure children receive early and periodic validated developmental, health and behavioral screenings, and appropriate trauma-informed interventions.
- Incentivize preventative care to close maternal and pediatric health disparities.

Expand access to affordable, quality early care and education.



- Increase public investment in a mixed delivery early learning system prioritizing family choice and infants and toddlers.
- Ensure an equitable early learning quality support structure that responds to the diverse cultural and linguistic assets of all children and providers.
- Require benefits and fair pay for all early learning providers that reflect the critical roles they play.

Ensure communities have the resources and environment that supports optimal development of children prenatal to age 5.



- Advocate for communities’ increased opportunities to shape resources, services and social conditions to protect the wellbeing of young children and families.
- Promote local flexibility in policies and systems that directly impact families and neighborhoods.
- Elevate and utilize disaggregated data on the conditions of children and families to inform efforts in reducing barriers to access and improving the quality of service delivery systems.