

Appendix A First 5 LA’s Investments to Strengthen Early Identification and Intervention: 2005-Present

Beyond the current First 5 LA 2020-28 Strategic Plan, First 5 LA has had a long history supporting screenings for developmental and behavioral delays and linkage to early intervention services and supports for young children (see Figure A1 for a visual history), with earlier investments informing subsequent investments.

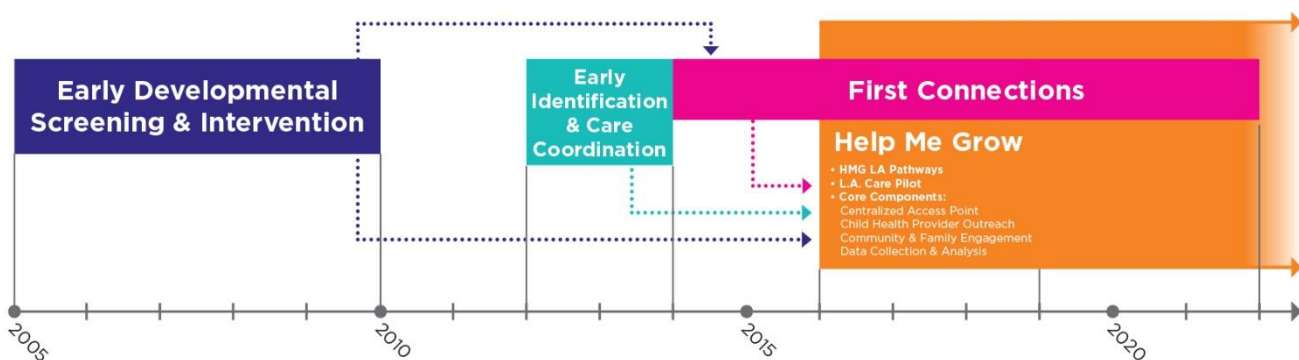
From 2005-2010, First 5 LA’s Early Developmental Screening and Intervention (EDSI) initiative’s goal was to identify children with developmental and behavioral delays as early as possible and to connect them with appropriate and effective services and interventions that will optimize their potential for success. EDSI was comprised of these core components: 1) Empower physicians in early care and education settings; 2) Connect communities so that providers can work together; and 3) Create sustainable change. First 5 LA supported the EDSI initiative, administered by the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities.

From 2012-2014, First 5 LA also supported the Early Identification and Care Coordination pilot at 211 LA. This pilot allowed 211 LA to offer phone-based developmental screening and service system linkages. This assistance was offered to parent and caregiver callers who stated they had a developmental concern and had a child age 0-5. In addition, a sample of callers who called about other issues and had a child age 0-5 were offered the service.

The First Connections program (aka Early Identification and Intervention Initiative) began as a three-year project in January 2014 and was extended through September 30, 2022. The goal of First Connections is to address systemic barriers and reduce disparities in screening for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental delays. The six First Connections grantees, with the support of a training and technical assistance provider, have developed approaches to strengthen, embed and expand early identification and intervention (EII) practices within their agencies. The First Connections program supported the First 5 LA Strategic Plan 2015-2020 Health System Strategy to increase the effectiveness and responsiveness of screening and early intervention programs.

Additionally, First 5 LA has committed to implementing the Help Me Grow (HMG) model in L.A. County to advance the coordination and implementation of systems change efforts as it relates to attaining the result for children and families children receive early developmental supports and services to meet our North Star that all children in L.A. County will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.

Figure A1: First 5 LA’s Investments in EII



* Arrows indicate that an investment has informed a subsequent investment.