

GRANTMAKER FOCUS



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First 5 LA

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First 5 LA is a leading early childhood advocate organization created by California voters to invest Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues in Los Angeles County. In partnership with others, First 5 LA strengthens families, communities, and systems of services and supports so that all children in Los Angeles County enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life. It works on behalf of children from prenatal to age five and their families, with a focus on supporting those who face significant risks and challenges in achieving their maximum physical and socio-emotional health and learning potential.

Program Information: First 5 LA's 2015-2020 strategic plan "Focusing for the Future" represents a shift in strategy and grant-making approach and focuses priorities on improving outcomes for young children by strengthening families, the communities they live in, and the policies and systems that support them. Its strategy lays out a clear path for First 5 LA to maximize its impact to strengthen families and improve outcomes for the greatest number of children prenatal to age five. Regarding its health-related investments, this meant shifting its emphasis from primarily direct service-related investments to focusing on policy and advocacy, and improving how health-related systems—such as health, mental health, and substance abuse services—coordinate and deliver care to young children and their families locally.

► Financial Information:

Total Assets: Approximately \$603 million (FY 2015)¹
Amount Dedicated to Health-Related Grants: \$93.9 Million (FY 2015-2016)

► Special Initiatives and/or Representative Health and Human Services Grants:

- **Welcome Baby and Select Home Visiting** – First 5 LA will work to help increase the Family Protective Factors² and support the parent/caregiver-child relationship by continued implementation of Welcome Baby and intensive home visiting programs. Welcome Baby seeks to enhance the child-parent/caregiver relationship and the health, safety, and security of children and their families. Families may be referred to an intensive home visiting program for additional services, if required. Welcome Baby currently works in partnership with 13 Los Angeles County hospitals. When at full capacity, an estimated 25 percent of all babies born in the county will be a Welcome Baby baby.

- **Help Me Grow** – Help Me Grow (HMG) seeks to connect at-risk children with the services they need by building collaboration across sectors, including health care, early care and education, and family support. It is an approach that works to build upon existing infrastructure and services to ensure that developmental delays are identified early and children who need services are connected to them. As a robust care coordination system, First 5 LA will also explore the applicability of HMG as it relates to broader parent needs.
- **Trauma-Informed Care** – With this new area of investment, First 5 LA seeks to collaborate with experts in the health, mental health, and substance abuse services systems to learn about the impact of trauma on a child's development and the gaps in service providers' ability to respond to families affected by trauma. Through this partnership, First 5 LA seeks to develop an action plan to build and promote the capacity of health care providers and multiple systems to realize, recognize, and respond to families and their young children who have experienced trauma.
- **Project Dulce (Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone)** – This evidence-based, practice change model seeks to promote parent engagement in clinical settings by coordinating with the public health, legal, and social service sectors. It is designed to address infant/family risks and needs at the earliest possible stage and to partner with families to build strengths and capacities that foster optimal child health and development starting at birth. The model meets parents of newborns within the patient-centered medical home at routine health care visits for the newborn's first six months, providing an immense opportunity to reach infants and their families early, and bring the health care sector into a coordinated care model with other sectors.

Strategic Changes in Grantmaking Direction/Orientation for Your Organization:

"Our new strategic plan reflects First 5 LA's understanding that the path to widespread impact and sustainable, systems-level change is through meaningful collaborations with like-minded partners who seek to improve policies and practices that positively impact children and families."

Kim Belshé
Executive Director



¹ unaudited

² The Protective Factors are the foundation of the Strengthening Families Approach: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children. When Protective Factors are well established in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes. Protective Factors are also "promotive" factors that build family strengths and a family environment that promotes optimal child and youth development.