

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY

ADMINISTERED BY CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY

DATE: Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Lighthouse for Children

2405 Tulare Street

TIME: 12:30 p.m. - Regular Meeting

Fresno, CA 93721

This meeting will also be broadcasted to the public via Zoom using the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81933673971?pwd=3Uc5YNfV4ExK2sOTiqFSLHqhg2psX1.1>

Meeting ID: 819 3367 3971 | **Passcode:** 815717

The public may participate in the meeting, as otherwise permitted under the Brown Act, by joining using the link above.

AGENDA

ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER
1.	CALL TO ORDER	Chair Chavez
2.	POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST Any Commission Member who has potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.	Chair Chavez
3.	PUBLIC COMMENT This portion of the agenda is reserved for members of the public desiring to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda. Limit two minutes per speaker.	Chair Chavez
4. Action Pg. 1	CONSENT AGENDA – ITEMS 4a-4b See attached Consent Agenda. Overview: These matters are routine in nature and are usually approved by a single vote. Prior to action by the Commission, the public will be given the opportunity to comment on any Consent Item.	Chair Chavez F. González, E.D.
5. Action Pg. 8	AUDIT SERVICES AGREEMENT	F. González, E.D. A. Hillis, Staff
6. Action Pg. 9	UNARMED SECURITY GUARD AND PATROL SERVICES AGREEMENT	F. González, E.D. A. Hillis, Staff
7. Action Pg. 10	JANITORIAL SERVICES AGREEMENT	F. González, E.D. A. Hillis, Staff
8. Action Pg. 12	DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AGREEMENT	F. González, E.D. L. Salcedo, Staff
9. Information Pg. 14	EVALUATION PRESENTATION ON THEORY OF CHANGE Supporting Document	F. González, E.D. H. Norman, Staff Learning for Action Staff
10. Information Pg. 17	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	F. González, E.D.
11.	ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING	Chair Chavez
12.	ADJOURNMENT	Chair Chavez
NOTE:	NEXT REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 10, 2026	2405 Tulare St. Fresno, CA 93721

NOTE: If you need disability modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Commission office at (559) 558-4900 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Government Code Section 54954.2(a).

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2405 Tulare Street
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CONSENT AGENDA

(Any Commissioner may pull any Consent Item for discussion or separate vote.)

ITEM	SUBJECT	PRESENTER
4a. Action Pg. 2	MARCH 11, 2026 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES	F. González, E.D.
4b. Action Pg. 5	ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA'S - IMPACT LEGACY INITIATIVE AND AGREEMENTS WITH PROPOSED REGIONAL HUB SUBCONTRACTORS	F. González, E.D. L. Salcedo, Staff

We encourage the public to attend. If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in a meeting, please contact the Commission office at (559) 558-4900 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Government Code Section 54954.2(a).

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY
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REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

April 29, 2026 - 12:30 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street
Fresno, CA 93721

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 4a

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the March 11, 2026, Commission Meeting Minutes.

ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES

March 11, 2026 – 12:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Luis Chavez, Susan Holt, Hugo Morales, Kari Gilbert, Erika Martinez, Marcia Sablan

ABSENT: Sabrina Beavers

STAFF: Fabiola González, Ashley Hensley, Alix Hillis, Hannah Norman, Lupita Ramirez, Karen Rangel, Liliana Salcedo, Navdeep Singh, Craig Armstrong (Legal Counsel)

1. CALL TO ORDER: 12:43 p.m.

2. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None heard.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None heard.

4. CONSENT AGENDA – ITEM 4a – 4b

The Commission approved the Consent Agenda.

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Gilbert Second by: Martinez
Ayes: Chavez, Gilbert, Holt, Martinez, Morales, Sablan
Noes: None heard.

5. PUBLIC HEARING – FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA STATE COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Chair Chavez opened the Public Hearing period at 12:44 p.m. and closed it at 12:46 p.m. There was no further action required.

Public Comment: None heard.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 2025

The Commission accepted the financial report for period ending December 31, 2025.

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Holt Second by: Gilbert

Ayes: Chavez, Gilbert, Holt, Martinez, Morales, Sablan

Noes: None heard.

7. ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM WESTED FOR THE BEELS INITIATIVE AND SUBCONTRACT WITH REINKING EDUCATION CONSULTING, LLC

The Commission approved the acceptance of \$100,000 from WestEd as part of First 5 California's (F5CA) BEELS Initiative for First 5 Fresno County (F5FC) to serve as the Fiscal Lead Agency and approved a subsequent agreement with Reinking Education Consulting, LLC for coaching services for an amount not to exceed \$22,000

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Chavez Second by: Gilbert

Ayes: Chavez, Gilbert, Holt, Martinez, Morales, Sablan

Noes: None heard.

8. AGREEMENT RENEWAL WITH FRESNO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – HOME VISITING

The Commission approved an agreement renewal with the County of Fresno, Department of Public Health to provide public health nursing home visitation services to families with young children across Fresno County, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for one year.

Public Comment: None heard.

Motion by: Gilbert Second by: Martinez

Ayes: Chavez, Gilbert, Holt, Martinez, Morales, Sablan

Noes: None heard.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Commissioner Gilbert requested that staff follow up with the Fresno County Clerk of the Board's Office to confirm whether Fresno County employees who serve as Commissioners and already file a Form 700 with the Clerk of the Board are also required to file separately with the FPPC. Following the enactment of SB 852 and the new requirement for local agencies to file Form 700s directly with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

Commissioner Morales requested information on Sexual Harassment Prevention and AB 1234- Local Ethics training opportunities for Commissioners.

Public Comment: None heard.

No action required.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

None heard.

11. ADJOURNMENT: 1:01 p.m.

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April 29, 2026 - 12:30 p.m.

2405 Tulare Street
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CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 4b

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Funds from First 5 California's - IMPACT Legacy Initiative and Agreements with Proposed Regional Hub Subcontractors

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the acceptance of approximately \$2.7 million from First 5 California (F5CA) for First 5 Fresno County to continue serving as the Fiscal Lead Agency and Regional Hub Lead Agency for the final year of the Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) project and authorize execution of nine subcontracts for up to \$2,478,201 for one year.

BACKGROUND:

On April 21, 2026, the Finance and Program Review Committee moved this item for full Commission consideration. First 5 Fresno County (F5FC) currently serves as the local lead agency for the F5CA Improve and Maximize Programs so All Children Thrive (IMPACT) project and the Commission partners with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools as the implementation lead to increase the number of high-quality early learning settings locally by providing stipends and professional development to child care providers. F5FC also serves as the Regional Hub Lead agency for the IMPACT Regional Coordination and Training and Technical Assistance Hub (Regional Hub) which focuses on strengthening the early learning and care system across the region by providing coordination, high quality trainings, and technical assistance to child care providers in seven counties.

In May 2023, F5CA released the IMPACT Legacy Request for Applications (RFA) as the final phase of the IMPACT project. The RFA was designed for First 5 Commissions to apply on behalf of multi-county regions. With approval from our regional First 5 and County Office of Education partners (Region 5) First 5 Fresno County applied to serve as the newly created IMPACT Legacy Fiscal Lead Agency (i.e. lead grantee and fiscal agent) and continue serving as the Regional Hub Lead Agency (i.e. coordinator of regional IMPACT projects) for Region 5, inclusive of seven counties across the Central Valley. The last three years of this grant (2023-2026) provided approximately \$8.5 million to expand access to professional development opportunities and quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) resources for priority populations (e.g. center and home-based child care providers serving communities with high-needs) not currently receiving quality support.

Last December, F5CA released an RFA for a fourth year of funding. If our application is approved by F5CA, it is staff's recommendation to accept \$2.7 million for the fourth and final year of funding for the region. As Fiscal Lead Agency, the Commission is responsible for executing sub-agreements,

receiving, and distributing IMPACT Legacy funds to the six regional partners listed in Table #1.

Table #1

IMPACT Legacy Local Leads Allocations FY 26-27		
Local Lead Agency		1-Year Amount
#1	First 5 Kern	up to \$506,651
#2	First 5 Madera	up to \$189,218
#3	Fresno County Superintendent of Schools	up to \$463,826
#4	Merced County Office of Education (Multi county partnership with Mariposa)	up to \$343,828
#5	Tulare County Office of Education	up to \$408,963
#6	Kings County Office of Education	up to \$271,255
Total Amount for One Year:		up to \$2,183,741

In addition, based on feedback from Region 5 partner counties, staff recommends executing new agreements with the three current Regional Hub subcontractors listed in Table #2. These subcontractors will help to carry out essential components of the Hub.

Table #2

Proposed IMPACT Regional Hub FY 26-27 Subcontractors				
Agency		Program	Description	1-Year Amount
#1	Early Quality Systems	Hubbe Database System	A database system to support the required data collection for seven regional Hub counties	up to \$194,460
#2	Teachstone Training	CLASS Program	The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is a tool that measures and helps improve the quality of teacher-child interactions	up to \$40,000
#3	Fresno County Superintendent of Schools	Region 5 Coaching Support & TA	The Hub Regional Lead Coach provides coaching support and technical assistance to the 7 Hub counties	up to \$60,000
Total Amount for One Year:				up to \$294,460

Procurement: First 5 Fresno County was originally nominated by its regional partners, represented by First 5 Commissions and County Offices of Education in Fresno, Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties to apply as the Fiscal Lead Agency for the Regional Hub funding opportunity in 2016. In April 2023, the Region 5 partners collectively approved for First 5 Fresno County to take on the Fiscal Lead agency and Regional Hub Lead agency roles for this final IMPACT Legacy funding.

The Commission’s procurement policy allows the Commission to select a vendor via sole source if, among other things, the vendor’s capabilities and experiences are so unique that no other vendor may comparably meet the Commission’s needs. Each of the six IMPACT Legacy Local Lead Agency subcontractors are based on recommendation and approval between each individual county and First

5 California. The three proposed Regional Hub subcontractors were originally procured using a sole source process in accordance with the Commission's approved procurement policies.

Alignment with 2025-2030 Strategic Plan: This agreement aligns directly with the Early Learning focus area of the Commission's Strategic Plan with the goal to increase our community's capacity to provide quality, accessible, and inclusive early learning and care opportunities for every child and family, across rural and urban neighborhoods.

Short-term goal(s) and long-term outcomes: To meet the RFA requirements, staff submitted a renewal application to First 5 California by the due date of February 2, 2026. If approved by First 5 California and the full Commission, staff will continue to work with Region 5 partners and Hub subcontractors to execute agreements with a start date aligned with the execution of the partnership between First 5 California and First 5 Fresno County. The long-term desired outcome is to build a more integrated and effective statewide, regional, and local early learning quality improvement system. This includes a growing focus on key topics such as expanding access to quality for priority children and educators, multilingual learner support, culturally responsive family engagement, inclusion and support to multilanguage learners, and creating connections to other services, such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), to strengthen and align quality improvement efforts.

Fiscal Impact: F5CA funding covers the entirety of these agreements, and no local Proposition 10 revenues would be utilized. \$2,183,741 will be allocated to the Local County Leads, \$536,345 to the Regional Hub (up to \$294,460 for subcontractors and \$241,885 for administrative and regional activities coordinated by First 5 Fresno County) and a separate \$21,600 will be allocated to First 5 Fresno County staff, as the Grantee, to take on the Fiscal Lead Role for this project, for a total amount of \$2,741,686.

CONCLUSION:

If approved, staff will work with the nine subcontractors to execute nine agreements with the start date of July 1, 2026. Subsequently, if the Commission chooses not to accept this funding from F5CA, the Region will have to nominate another agency to serve in these roles, in a short amount of time, to ensure funding from First 5 California reaches the counties that make up the Central Valley Region 5.

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REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

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2405 Tulare Street
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AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Audit Services Agreement

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve an agreement with Hudson & Company Inc. for audit services in an amount not to exceed \$19,680 for one year with the option to renew for up to five additional years based on performance and availability of funds.

BACKGROUND:

On April 21, 2026, the Finance and Program Review Committee moved this item for full Commission consideration. Government Code Section 12410.6(b) requires the First 5 Fresno County Commission to rotate auditors after six consecutive years. The Commission's auditing firm is also charged with preparing the annual audits for the Lighthouse for Children, Inc. (LFC), a discretely presented component unit of the Commission, and providing tax preparation and filing services for LFC. As stated in the Administrative Agreement between the Commission and LFC, these services for LFC are the responsibility of the Commission to coordinate.

Procurement: In March 2026, the Commission released procurement for auditing services to span up to six fiscal years beginning FY 2025-2026. Submissions meeting the minimum criteria moved forward for review by a panel of community reviewers who scored each submission and provided feedback and recommendation. Hudson & Company Inc. was recommended by the review panel based on the firm's body of work with like entities, combined staff career experience, and total cost.

Fiscal Impact: Total funding from the Commission, for the F5FC audit, will be allocated from the Commission's upcoming 2026-2027 Agency Budget in the amount of \$19,680 for one year, with the option to renew the contract for up to an additional five years based on performance and availability of funds. The total contracted amount, should the contract be renewed for five years, would not exceed \$122,040 inclusive of the present year.

CONCLUSION:

Completion of the annual financial audit and expanded audit is a critical, mandatory function of the Commission in its role as steward of public funds. Entering into a contract with Hudson & Company Inc. will begin the process of fulfilling this requirement.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Unarmed Security Guard and Patrol Services Agreement

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve an agreement with Securitas USA for the delivery of security services to the Lighthouse for Children facility, for an amount not to exceed \$112,109 with the option to renew for up to four additional years based on performance and availability of funds.

BACKGROUND:

On April 21, 2026, the Finance and Program Review Committee moved this item for full Commission consideration. The Commission owns and manages the Lighthouse for Children (LFC) facility, a three-story building in the heart of downtown Fresno, where families with young children can access services and resources on how to support the transformative first 5 years of their child's life. Facility services are contracted by the Commission for the daily operation of the Lighthouse for Children (LFC). The LFC facility houses a Child Development Center, the Community Learning Center, tenant office space and the Commission's administrative offices.

Procurement: Per the Administrative and Programmatic Procurement Policies and Procedures Manual, staff released a procurement opportunity in the form of a Request for Quotations (RFQ) to select a qualified and capable entity to provide unarmed security guard and patrol services at the LFC. Submissions received were reviewed by a panel inclusive of staff and community reviewers and the panel recommended Securitas USA to move forward, for Commission consideration, for the delivery of security services to the LFC facility based on the company's long-standing history of delivering services and longevity of contracts held with other entities. Additionally, Securitas is the current contractor for these services, and their contract is in good standing with the Commission.

Fiscal Impact: Funding for this agreement, not to exceed \$112,109 for one year, with the option to renew for up to four additional years (five years total) based on performance and availability of funds will be allocated from the Commission's Operating Overhead Expense line items inclusive of the administrative offices, the Community Learning Center and the Child Development Center. The contract amount for these services is subject to increase by three percent based on state-required minimum wage increases and the Commission will be updated on any contract changes and renewals.

CONCLUSION:

Unarmed security services are essential to the facility to ensure the LFC continues to be a safe space for families with young children to receive services. If approved, Commission staff will begin contract development in order to meet the start date of July 1, 2026.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Janitorial Services Agreement

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve an agreement with CCS Facility Services- Fresno Inc. for janitorial services at the Lighthouse for Children facility, in an amount not to exceed \$92,869 for one year with the option to renew for up to four additional years based on performance and availability of funds.

BACKGROUND:

On April 21, 2026, the Finance and Program Review Committee moved this item for full Commission consideration. The Commission owns and manages the Lighthouse for Children (LFC) facility, a three-story building in the heart of downtown Fresno, where families can access services and receive resources and information on how to support the transformative first 5 years of their child's life. Facility services are contracted by the Commission for the daily operation of the Lighthouse for Children (LFC). An essential component of maintaining the facility is janitorial services which provide a clean and safe environment for all LFC partners, occupants, and visitors. Such services include daily routine cleaning, vacuuming, mopping, trash disposal, and supplies restocking and more specific cleaning services done on a monthly, quarterly, and semiannually basis such as carpet/tile cleaning and interior window cleaning.

Procurement Process and Procedure: With the current janitorial services contract expiring at the end of June 2026, staff released a Request for Quotations (RFQ), in January 2026, seeking qualified companies to submit quotations to offer janitorial services at the LFC Facility. Three (3) quotations were received, and all met the minimum standards. The submissions were then passed along to a community review panel who reviewed and scored each submission before electing to move CCS Facility Services- Fresno Inc.'s (CCS) quotation forward due to their adequate experience with similar sized facilities, cost-efficient pricing, and the completeness of their submission.

The proposed agreement includes filling the need of two Day-Porter positions at the LFC; one full time and one part-time. If approved by the Commission, the agreement with CCS for janitorial services would begin July 1, 2026.

Fiscal Impact: Funding for this agreement, not to exceed \$92,869 for one year, with the option to renew for up to four additional years (five years total) based on performance and availability of funds will be allocated from the Commission's Operating Overhead Expense line items inclusive of the

administrative offices, the Community Learning Center and the Child Development Center. The annual amount is subject to a three percent increase due to mandated minimum wage increases.

CONCLUSION:

Since the inception of the LFC facility, janitorial services have been essential in providing a safe, clean, and welcoming space for all children and families. If approved, staff will finalize the new agreement with CCS Facility Services- Fresno, Inc. In the event this recommendation is not approved, the current contract terms may need to be extended if not enough time permits for a new procurement opportunity to be released in time.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Data Management System Agreement

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve, an agreement with Subvertical LLC (VerticalChange) to provide a data management system in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 for one year, with the option to renew annually for up to five additional years, based on performance and availability of funds.

BACKGROUND:

On April 21, 2026, the Finance and Program Review Committee moved this item for full Commission consideration. A web-based data collection and reporting system is a critical tool and primary mechanism for First 5 Fresno County staff and Funded Partners to meet both data and fiscal reporting requirements related to contract management, local evaluation and First 5 California reporting requirements. In May 2020, the Commission approved an agreement with Social Solutions Global Inc. to provide data system management services. This agreement is set to term at the end of December 2026. With this timeline in mind, over the past year staff gathered feedback from community partners and internal data system users (including current and needed data entry and reporting capacity) to inform the focus of the next data system procurement. Based on the information received, staff determined the primary functions of a future data system must include: 1) collecting and reporting aggregated data (basic demographics and participant counts) and program narratives, and 2) submitting and monitoring contractor invoices and related budgeted amounts. Together the primary functions, in particular, the collection of aggregated data and program narratives will help to further complement our evaluation approach to our First 5 Fresno County investments.

Procurement: In January 2026, staff released a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a qualified contractor to provide a web-based data collection and reporting system, along with associated data support services to meet the Commission's reporting requirements. A total of four submissions were received. A panel of community reviewers scored each submission, provided feedback, and unanimously recommended VerticalChange to move forward for Commission consideration.

Fiscal Impact: If approved, the total agreement amount with VerticalChange will be allocated from the 2025-2026 Approved Budget - Accountability and Evaluation line item, in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 per year and will be renewed on an annual basis, up to five additional years, based on performance and availability of funds.

CONCLUSION:

If approved, staff will work with VerticalChange to execute an agreement with the start date of July 1, 2026. The proposed implementation timeline includes an initial period of discovery sessions, configuration and data migration prior to full system operation anticipated for early 2027. A data management system is a key component of the Commission's evaluation and contract monitoring required activities under statute to track services, outcomes and improvements needed in the system of services for children and their families. Should the agreement not be approved, the Commission would need to seek a timely and appropriate alternative to ensure Funded Partners accurately track and report programmatic data and budget expenses to in turn comply with the state mandate requirements from First 5 California and local contract management.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Evaluation Presentation on Theory of Change

BACKGROUND:

The California Children and Families Act requires outcome-based accountability and evaluation from local First 5 county commissions. In June of 2025 the Commission approved an agreement with Learning for Action (LFA) to develop and implement a range of family and community-centered evaluation activities aligned with the Commission's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Since this time, LFA has worked alongside Commission staff to develop a theory of change and corresponding evaluation framework. As an entity solely focused on supporting families with young children, the theory of change focuses on systems that most affect this population including but not limited to: maternal and child health care; early intervention services; social services; and early childhood education and care. The theory of change builds on the Commission's vision and mission statement to outline the changes we will seek and hold ourselves directly accountable for along with the ultimate community impacts we are working toward as one piece of a quality, accessible early childhood service system.

During the April 29th Commission meeting staff will be joined by representatives from Learning for Action to introduce Commissioners to the Learning for Action team and provide an overview of the drafted theory of change. Attachment #1 includes the 2025-2030 Theory of Change for review and reference.



Our Vision & Mission

VISION: We envision a future where young children and their families are healthy, loved, and nurtured.

MISSION: We pursue this vision by **partnering** with, **advocating** for, and **investing** in our community to create a seamless system of quality, accessible services that support the well-being of every child and family.

Our Focus

As an entity solely focused on supporting families with young children, **First 5 Fresno County focuses on systems** that most affect this population including but not limited to: maternal and child health care; early intervention services; social services; and early childhood education and care.



Our Approach to Improving the Early Childhood Service System

We strengthen how we and our partners do our work* so that children and families have **access to high quality services***.



* See next page for descriptions of each

The Outcomes We Envision

We believe that a stronger early childhood system will lead to better outcomes for children and families. **These are the changes we seek and hold ourselves directly accountable for:**



A coordinated and resourced system of services for families with young children



Families with young children able to **access needed services**



High-quality and culturally responsive services for families with young children



Families with young children **build skills and confidence to support their children and navigate supports**



Our Ultimate Impact

Our ultimate impact is to improve health, well-being, and learning for young children and their families. Examples include, but are not limited to these community indicators of progress:

Maternal and infant health:

- preterm birth rate
- infant mortality rate
- early-trimester prenatal care

Family well-being:

- median household income
- poverty
- food insecurity

Child well-being:

- adverse childhood experiences
- preschool or TK enrollment
- developmental screenings by age 3

Our Approach to Improving the Early Childhood Service System



We strengthen how we and our partners do our work through:



Coordination & Collaboration: We work to intentionally bring partners together to align efforts and maximize collective impact. We are also committed to innovative, community-informed solutions to dramatically improve the quality of care in our health and community systems.



Sustainability: We partner with local entities to create sustainable fundings streams for services and system infrastructure, through contracting and leveraging local, state, federal, and philanthropic funds.



Influence/Advocacy: We use our position as a trusted member of the community to influence and advocate for the needs of families with young children in all the spaces they are part of, so they are prioritized across diverse agendas and policies.



Equity: We strive to advance equity so that system leaders, including ourselves, intentionally examine and address power dynamics, disproportionate impacts, implicit bias and historic inequities.



Capacity Building: We work to build capacity of partner organizations and entities and this includes seeding innovative demonstration projects that can serve as new models for effectively and equitably serving families with young children.



Through partnerships, we improve the system of services for families by increasing:



Access: We invest in strengthening identification and referral pathways so that children and families can access the services they need.



Availability: We focus investments on services that close a current critical system gap or meet an immediate short-term need.



Quality: We work to improve the quality and cultural responsiveness of services available to children and their families.

We further detail how these outcomes show up in each area we work in the narrative version of our Theory of Change.



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AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

TO: Children & Families Commission of Fresno County

FROM: Fabiola González, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report

This report intends to keep the Commission apprised of local and statewide activities and involvement of the Executive Director and Commission's staff that further the vision and mission of the Commission and are in support of strengthening our early childhood systems of care.

General Administration Update

- On April 27th, we welcomed Denise Sahatdjian, **Policy & Communications Manager** who will be primarily responsible for the engagement and implementation of government, advocacy, communications, and community relations strategies to support and enhance the Commission's vision, mission and strategic plan priorities. Prior to joining our team, Denise worked at both the federal and local levels as District and Field Representative for several elected officials, including Congressman Jim Costa, Senators Diane Feinstein and Laphonza Butler, and most recently Fresno City Councilmember Nelson Esparza.

Local and Statewide Involvement in Early Childhood Efforts

Early Matters Fresno Policy Advisory Council - April Meeting

On April 10th, the Early Matters Fresno Coalition - of which First 5 Fresno serves as the backbone organization - convened local policymakers, funders, and community partners for a focused discussion on Fresno County's child care crisis. The meeting highlighted the complexity of the child care system, including challenges related to access and affordability, workforce and quality.

A panel of local voices shared their lived experiences navigating the child care system as a local employer, a former family child care provider, and as parents. Their perspectives helped ground our discussion and created a space for attendees to ask questions and engage in dialogue around policy and system-level opportunities. The meeting reinforced the value of cross-sector engagement and set the stage for future convenings. The next Policy Advisory Council is scheduled for July 17th.

2026 Advocacy Day

Staff and I traveled to Sacramento on Tuesday, April 14th, to participate in Advocacy Day. Alongside our First 5 counterparts from across the state, we met with staff from the offices of Assemblymembers Macedo, Soria and Tangipa, as well as Senators Caballero, Grove and Hurtado. During our meetings, we shared information about the First 5 Network and provided local context on how proposed policies and legislation before them could further strengthen the system of services that support families raising young children in their respective districts.

2026 Child-Friendly Business of the Year Award Activities

On April 22nd, I participated in an interview on *Central Valley Today* alongside the 2026 Child-Friendly Business of the Year Award winner, Art of Comfort. The interview highlighted Art of Comfort's recognition and promoted an upcoming Small Business University segment focused on sharing insights on building supportive environments for employees and their families. The segment will take place on April 30 and is open to both members and non-members of the Fresno County Chamber of Commerce.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Fresno County

- This month, the Dollywood Foundation shared with us they will be enhancing our local match to further expand the reach and impact of our local Imagination Library effort that is mailing books to young children's homes every month. From now through June 30, 2027, this new match will cover 75% of our program costs, an increase from the current 50%.
- On April 15th, we were proud to be one of 90 grant award recipients selected by the Central California Women's Conference. The \$1,500 award will help us provide over 2,300 books to approximately 200 children.
- Lastly, there has been recent [news](#) pertaining to the administration of state funds by a nonprofit organization created by the California State Library to support the rollout of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library across the state. These concerns have no direct impact on our Fresno County Imagination Library partnership. All funds received to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Fresno County are accounted for and used as prescribed given our local match funds are provided directly to the Dollywood Foundation, which is the entity administering all match funds.

Administrative Agreements and Renewals

Pursuant to the Commission's Procurement Policies and Procedures, which grant the Executive Director the authority to "execute operating contracts that are administrative in nature and affect the day-to-day operations of the Commission (no dollar limit)" and, "to renew agreements within the originally approved term, including its approved renewal period, and within the approved contract amount without additional Commission approval," the following agreements will be renewed based on satisfactory performance:

Evaluation Services

Purpose: Learning for Action works alongside Commission staff to develop and implement a range of family and community-centered evaluation activities aligned with the Commission's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

Agency: Learning for Action

Amount: \$300,000

FY 2025-2026 Approved Revised Budget Line Item: Accountability and Evaluation - Evaluation Services

Term: July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027