

FY 2019/20 Annual Report Summary

Ensuring All Orange County Children Reach Their Full Potential



FIRST 5
ORANGE COUNTY

Vision: All Children Reach Their Full Potential

First 5 Orange County **served 59,136 children** ages 0 to 5 and **65,713 family members**.

During fiscal year 2019/20 First 5 Orange County has witnessed innumerable inspiring examples of resolve.

Along the way, we and our community partners have strengthened our shared commitment to the vision that all children should have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Among our collective priorities and achievements:

- We began the year focused on our core programs of hospital screenings at birth, home visiting to support children's healthy development and caregivers' parenting skills, and numerous other activities to advance Orange County children's school readiness. As in-person visits and gatherings became a health risk, providers quickly pivoted to offer virtual services in order to continue to serve and support families as they navigated new circumstances and increased needs.
- As more families and child care facilities were impacted by COVID-19, it became clear that the child care system – while a critical underpinning to the local economy – is fragile and ripe for systemwide improvements.
- In response to the pandemic, we used our vast network to bolster support for child care facilities, frontline nonprofits and providers addressing family homelessness. Measures ranged from procuring essential supplies and personal protective equipment for child care centers, to providing additional funding to keep families safe and housed, to creating a resources web page to assist families with young children in categories that included Connection to Services, Health and Mental Health, Child Care, Food & Supplies, and Tips for Talking to Your Child About COVID-19.

The experiences we've had during the 2019/20 fiscal year have opened up additional lines of communication, toppled silos, and forged new coalitions bringing more people together for a common goal. These actions – and the results they are producing on behalf of children and families – leave no doubt that even in challenging times we can create positive and lasting change when we pull together.

Commission Approves Three-Year Funding For flagship services

Prenatal-to-Three

\$14,275,000

over the next three years to support agencies that provide prenatal-to-three services

Believing in the vital importance of early prevention and intervention during children's most rapid stage of brain development from birth to age 3, **First 5 Orange County invests in services that help mitigate the impacts of childhood adversity and foster long-term individual and family resilience.** Our funds support prenatal care, hospital screenings, home visiting, mental health and parenting support and resources. We employ a two-generation approach to cultivate child and caregiver well-being while strengthening the foundational relationships between young children and caregivers that fortify children's healthy development.

School District Partnerships

\$17,000,000

over the next three years to support our school district partnerships

Our funding supports each of Orange County's 25 elementary school districts as they prioritize early childhood, collect Early Development Index data, and develop the system of care needed so that every child starts kindergarten with the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Districts engage with parents and community partners to create linkages between early care and education, health and family support systems.

Homeless Prevention

\$3,750,000

over the next three years to support system improvement work along with funding shelter operations

Providing safe, caring homes in times of crises, **First 5 Orange County funds shelters that help pregnant mothers and families with young children.** First 5 Orange County also funds the Family Solutions Collaborative. This collaborative works on a system level to align resources for homeless families in a streamlined process.

Getting Involved Early

First 5 Orange County is committed to making preventative and early intervention services accessible to children and their families, as early as in the womb, so they have the opportunity to thrive during those early, foundational years leading to preschool.

Hospital screenings

Through First 5 Orange County's partnership with 10 high-birth hospitals, nearly 70 percent of all births in Orange County are screened to identify babies and families most likely to benefit from home visiting and other services that support the child's health and a safe, stable, and nurturing home.

Home visits with pregnant women and parents

Trained home visitors build relationships with parents – providing breastfeeding support, interactive parenting education, assistance with medically fragile infants, aid with perinatal mood and anxiety disorder and mental health support, help for parents struggling with substance use disorder, and more.

Comprehensive early childhood screening and interventions

In 2019/20 First 5 Orange County led the effort with CHOC Children's to convene a multi-sector steering group of 11 agencies known as Detect & Connect OC. The collaborative's vision is to ensure all children in Orange County receive timely, recommended developmental screenings in accordance with national, evidence-based guidelines, and are connected to resources and interventions as early as possible.

Our accomplishments in 2019/20 included:

46,019 home and office visits to expand parenting knowledge and promote healthy child development

14,242 children were screened for up-to-date immunizations

16,522 families received the Kit for New Parents, which includes educational materials and parenting resources

11,498 children received developmental or behavioral screenings

8,852 children received a screening for healthy weight

13,313 mothers received breastfeeding education and support

7,892 children received preventative dental treatment

Elevating Equity



First 5 Orange County's "Engaged Neighborhoods" work focuses on closing opportunity gaps in communities.

The engagement effort includes outreach to school districts, city leadership, the business community, local nonprofits and, most importantly, residents in targeted communities.

The work looks different in each community, but the objectives are the same: to connect families on their journey, from prenatal through the start of school, to resources and supports that help children be ready for school and success.

The Early Development Index (EDI) gauges five key domains of children's development: physical health, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communications skills and general knowledge. The results of the EDI are mapped by neighborhood, allowing us to see how children are doing, what programs and opportunities are helping, and where additional resources can be leveraged.

First 5 Orange County also worked with the U.S. Census Bureau and community partners to reach families in the county's hard-to-reach neighborhoods to ensure that infants and young children are counted in this once-a-decade event that informs where funding is allocated at the federal, state and local levels.

First 5 Orange County's accomplishments in 2019/20 included:

- Engaging stakeholders in Anaheim policy development focusing on early childhood, using the EDI as a guide post.
- Forming the La Habra Little Learners task force where members work to educate the community on the importance of "learning through play every day."
- Working with the Santa Ana community through Neighborhood Leadership Teams engaging in 13 targeted elementary school neighborhoods to build capacity for parent leaders with the support of the Santa Ana Early Learning Initiative.
- Embarking on steps to include Garden Grove in future Engaged Neighborhood efforts.

Empowering Champions



First 5 Orange County places a high priority on connecting with, strengthening, encouraging and supporting parents, leaders, public agencies and community organizations to advocate for solutions to issues facing young children and their families.

In particular, **this year we focused on child care, an industry we have learned during the pandemic is all too fragile.** Sixty percent of children under age 5 are in homes with both parents working, and the average cost of full-time, center-based care in Orange County for just one infant is \$15,650 per year.

We see a desperate need for child care for infants and toddlers age 2 and younger. This age group makes up 22 percent of children needing child care; yet just 5 percent of licensed child care center capacity includes children up to age 2.

Working to build champions to address this issue, First 5 Orange County held the first-ever virtual Advocacy Day on April 30, with wide participation from federal, state, and local legislative offices who learned about First 5's child care related work.

Together with childcare providers, the Orange County Business Council and our community partners, **First 5 Orange County is spearheading a major study to uncover the severity of the child care problem specific to our area.** In addition to quantifying the economic impact of inadequate child care supply, we are interviewing Orange County parents and employers to understand their unique child care-related needs, and will use our findings to chart a strategic course to expand high-quality child care options.

Our accomplishments in 2019/20 included:

- Early in the pandemic, we partnered with Early Childhood OC to create Orange County's first-ever database of open child care centers and made that information available to the public.
- We teamed with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Garden Grove to provide emergency sanitation and PPE supplies, diapers and wipes so child care centers could keep their doors open, and connected families to food and other resources.
- In partnership with the Orange County Emergency Childcare Task Force, we hosted a webinar for more than 400 child care providers to distribute information on the county's emergency plans, available resources, health and safety protocols for re-opening.

Aligning Systems of Care



By encouraging childhood systems of care to work together, we're creating a holistic, supportive infrastructure that will let families experience seamless connections to quality services.

Take, for example, our work in the area of mental health. Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders, the term for depression and anxiety occurring during pregnancy or up to 12 months after birth, affect 1 in 5 pregnant and postpartum women in Orange County, and 1 in 10 men nationwide. Nearly half of those with a diagnosis of one of these conditions are unable to get the treatment they need. And yet, the well-being of parents is crucial for the healthy development of their children.

To guide a systems approach to the issue, First 5 Orange County's Pritzker Fellow gathered a wide array of community partners to collaborate on a systems approach to addressing the mental well-being of new parents and the subsequent social and emotional development of their infants. Recognizing providers' need for resources on how to screen for depression and anxiety and where to refer parents for help, the OC Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder Collaborative created the *OC Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit*. The toolkit offers resources for healthcare and other service providers to help them address their clients' mental well-being and connect them to resources as early as possible.

Accomplishments from participation in the Pritzker Fellowship include:

- The number of maternal mental health services received by patients more than doubled from 1,500 the prior year to 3,904 in 2019.
- A maternal mental health symposium with UC Irvine in October 2019 featured health experts, survivor stories, and comedian Angela Spicer to raise awareness about the issue.
- An "Addiction to Resiliency" event highlighted a Pritzker Fellow who shared her story and practical tips on effective and respectful ways to engage pregnant and postpartum women impacted by substance use. The presentation was followed by a conversation with key community partners to explore ways in which to better support substance exposed mothers and infants through recovery.

Program Funding Expenditures – Fiscal Year 2019/20



In 2019/20, First 5 Orange County provided a total of **1,371,824 services to children** ages 0-5, and **754,117 services to their family members.**

	PROGRAM EXPENDITURES	CATALYTIC EXPENDITURES
Comprehensive Health and Development		
Bridges Prenatal to Three Network	\$ 4,456,625	\$ –
Community Health Access and Education	586,979	–
Children’s Dental	5,647,714	1,328,247
Pediatric Health Services	1,812,070	1,059,750
School Readiness Nursing	3,065,522	–
Healthy Children Program Support	559,233	–
	\$ 16,128,143	\$ 2,387,997
Resilient Families		
Family Support Services	\$ 1,267,592	\$ 137,387
Homeless Prevention	995,044	246,930
Strong Families Program Support	96,761	–
	\$ 2,359,397	\$ 384,317
Quality Early Learning		
Early Literacy Programs	\$ 780,076	\$ 500,000
First 5 CA Early Learning Programs	3,173,522	–
Community Based Early Learning Programs	546,007	–
Early Learning Program Support	255,918	–
Early Learning Specialists	2,504,679	–
	\$ 7,260,202	\$ 500,000
Capacity Building		
Grants and Matching Funds	\$ 127,510	\$ 84,000
Fund Development and Technical Support	151,846	–
Capacity Building Program Support	10,822	–
	\$ 290,178	\$ 84,000
TOTAL	\$ 26,037,920	\$3,356,314

Note: Catalytic expenditures are one-time funding actions designed to reduce ongoing demand on First 5 Orange County’s budget, while making system-wide impacts on services for young children.