



2022 POLICY PLATFORM

F5VC's Policy Priorities are aligned with the strategic priorities and goals outlined in the 2020 – 2022 Strategic Plan. These priorities are intended to help us achieve the vision that all children are born healthy, thrive in nurturing environments, and enter school prepared and eager to learn.

1. Comprehensive Child Health and Development
 - a. Ensure all children prenatal to age 5 and their families have and utilize comprehensive health and dental insurance
 - b. Increase routine screenings for prenatal substance use, developmental delays, childhood trauma/Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and parental mental health, and improve the system for referral and follow-up through our Help Me Grow system of care
 - c. Enhance primary care practices to include social and emotional development
 - d. Address the social determinants of health and promote general healthy practices such as good oral health, healthy eating, physical activity, and breastfeeding, and avoiding exposure to harmful substances including tobacco, vaping, hookah, marijuana, and illicit substances
2. Quality Early Learning
 - a. Promote the importance of the early years (prenatal – age three) and early relational health including home visitation programs and developmental screenings, optimum attachment and bonding, and early literacy experiences, particularly through Family Resource Centers
 - b. Increase access to high quality early care and education programs for young children and their families, including through facilities, funding, and available spaces
 - c. Promote early literacy as a pathway to school success
 - d. Strengthen the compensation and professional qualification of the early childhood workforce
3. Strong and Resilient Families
 - a. Increase parent and caregiver knowledge, understanding, and awareness of opportunities for early childhood development, healthy lifestyles, and the impact of trauma and toxic stress
 - b. Increase social connections and support for parents, through policies promoting improved family leave, flexible work schedules, and family friendly benefits
 - c. Provide parents, families, and the community with relevant, timely and culturally appropriate information, services, and support, especially for immigrant families who regularly report fear of utilizing services
4. Program and Systems Integration
 - a. Support communities to prioritize the health, education, and well-being of young children
 - b. Ensure a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion to address and prevent childhood poverty, abuse, and neglect
 - c. Increase awareness among policymakers and business owners around the importance of investing in early childhood and identify additional revenue streams to support the early childhood system
 - d. Align and integrate systems of care at the state and local level to ensure that young children and their families have timely and seamless access to supports and services that best meet their needs