



**Memo**

**To:** Commissioners, First 5 Ventura County

**From:** Petra Puls, Executive Director

**Date:** May 18, 2023

**Re:** **Review and Discussion of FY2023-26 Areas of Focus within Strategic Priorities**

---

**Background**

After several months of engaging in discussions to better understand the conditions impacting prenatal – age 5 and their families and to identify issues, trends and opportunities, the Commission affirmed the continued relevance of the current FY2020-22 Strategic Plan and approved a three year extension, through FY2025-26 at its April 20, 2023 meeting.

Previously, the Commission also discussed potential areas of focus for FY2023-26 within its strategic priorities to achieve the greatest impact for Ventura County’s youngest children. The proposed areas of refinement and focus for FY2023-26 (**Attachment 1**), reflect emerging needs, trends and opportunities and will be reviewed at a minimum on an annual basis to make adjustments as needed.



**FY2023-26 Areas of Refinement and Focus**

FY2020-26 Strategic Priorities*	FY2020-26 Strategic Investments*	FY2023-26 Areas of Focus and Refinement - Proposed	Desired Outcomes*
<p><b>Child Health and Development</b> Services for families that support healthy infant/toddler development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to and utilization of health care services</li> <li>• Early identification of developmental delays and social emotional issues</li> <li>• Increased emphasis on parental mental health</li> <li>• Enhanced primary care practices to include social and emotional development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Improve</b> rates of well-child visits, preventative dental visits, screenings, and linkage to services</li> <li>• <b>Promote</b> earliest possible screenings and linkage to services</li> <li>• <b>Expand</b> reach of home visiting through piloting Welcome Every Baby, coordination with other existing HV programs, and advocacy</li> <li>• <b>Leverage</b> partnership with primary care practices and Managed Care Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are meeting developmental milestones, have health insurance, and are up to date with well child &amp; dental visits</li> <li>• Children with developmental or health concerns are identified and connected to services</li> <li>• Mothers identified at-risk for depression are connected to appropriate services and support</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strong and Resilient Families</b> Provide families with the foundational support and knowledge to be their child’s first and best teacher</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Needs Screenings</li> <li>• Parent and Child Together Classes</li> <li>• Community Resource and Referral</li> <li>• Service Coordination and Case Management</li> <li>• Parent Education and Support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Promote</b> services that support Protective Factors for children and families</li> <li>• <b>Expand</b> opportunities for families to access concrete supports, grow parent knowledge, build resilience, increase social connections, and</li> </ul>	<p>Parents have ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of and capacity to promote healthy child development</li> <li>• Confidence in their ability to meet their child’s developmental needs</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Engagement</li> </ul>	<p>strengthen social/emotional competencies through NfLs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Co-create</b> Child, Youth, and Family Wellness System with government, community and family stakeholders by focusing on Whole Child – Whole Family</li> <li>• <b>Elevate and honor</b> REDI and parent voice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access and connections to essential community services/resources</li> <li>• Positive relationship with their child and secure attachment</li> <li>• Opportunities for social connections and sources of support</li> </ul>
<p><b>Quality Early Learning</b> Promote access to high quality early learning opportunities as early as possible (0-3), especially for children most at risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality enhancement of PACT</li> <li>• Take 5 and Read! Early Literacy Campaign</li> <li>• Community Investment Loan Fund</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Expand</b> quality PACT for 0-3 through capacity building and coaching</li> <li>• <b>Promote</b> importance of early literacy</li> <li>• <b>Strengthen</b> partnerships with school districts and community based providers to increase number of 3 and 4 year olds enrolled in UPK/UTK</li> <li>• <b>Support</b> mixed delivery system and rate reform</li> <li>• <b>Assess</b> and develop strategies to increase availability and accessibility of quality child care for 0-5 that meets family needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents have access to high-quality early care and education</li> <li>• Parents promote their child’s early learning and literacy</li> </ul>

\*from First 5 Ventura County FY2020-26 Strategic Plan