Report from Commission Staff
August 21, 2025

1. Administrative Updates

Proposition 10 Tax Distributions

- FY2024-25 Proposition 10 distributions total $4,447,826 million, excluding the Quarter 4 CECET distribution that has not yet been released. Without consideration of the Quarter 4 CECET revenues (approximately $15,000), there was a decrease of $661,261 or 12.9% compared to FY2023-24.
    - These revenues represent 92% of budgeted revenues and 97% of the revenues forecasted in April 2025.
- The State's overall decrease was just slightly higher at 13.0%. This variance is due to a minor increase in Ventura County's birth rate proportion from 2.089% to 2.091%.
- The delayed impact of the flavor ban and potential contributors to the higher-than-expected decline for FY 2024-25 are lower enforcement, tax evasion (i.e., purchasing from other states), and lower tobacco usage. https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/4966
- First 5 CA recently conducted a study session to explore trends in tobacco consumption and the effect on Prop 10 revenue trends and future projections. Analysis of the data is under way and First 5 VC staff will continue to participate in statewide conversations around projections and report back on the impact to local tobacco tax distributions.

New Site Location

- ECP staff opened a new NfL site at Blanchard Elementary in Santa Paula, which will allow us to serve families in a more welcoming, age-appropriate environment than our previous location at a middle school.
    - School staff have been highly supportive, and we are looking forward to their partnership

2. Updates on Commission Initiatives

Early Childhood Programs (NfL, Help Me Grow, and Welcome Every Baby)

- Parent Education and Engagement
    - Partnered with VCPH on lead poisoning prevention education and Clinicas on a "Color Me Healthy" playdate, featuring a nutrition presentation.
    - Summer activities included themed events promoting childhood play, nature walks, and park days.

- Community Outreach and Collaboration
    - NfL staff promoted F5VC at events held by the Saticoy Library and the San Buenaventura Housing Authority.
    - The NfL and WEB co-hosted a clothing swap for families on August 13.
- Fatherhood Initiative
    - ECP Program Manager, Mario Rodriguez, led a Fatherhood Engagement training for the ECP team on August 1, offering strategies to support fathers and father-figures within ECE programs.
- Training and Capacity Building
    - As part of ongoing professional development, ECP staff participated in a July 25Community of Learning session on parent support, immigration, and housing instability.
- Help Me Grow (HMG)
    - HMG team attended the 2025 HMG National Forum (July 14 – 16) in Hartford, Connecticut.
        - Highlights included workshops on improving model components, networking opportunities, and specialty session co-hosted by affiliate partners, including one hosted by HMGVC.

<u>Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)</u>

- The F5VC-funded MICOP Puentes Program employs promotores who work alongside NfL staff to provide culturally informed child and family support services.
    - In FY 2024-25, MICOP served over 300 Mixteco-speaking parents and their children through PACT classes, care coordination, developmental and health screenings, and offering Abriendo Puertas workshops
        - Promotores hold parent education workshops on topics such as child development, prenatal care, immigration services, financial literacy, tax preparation, and affordable housing.
        - The MICOP-run Radio Indigena, promotes information and awareness of child development and connection to resources.

<u>Kits for New Parents</u>

- F5CA is now accepting orders for New Parent Kits after a several-month delay. Kits are designed to provide resources for new parents and their babies.
- F5VC engaged countywide partners to promote and facilitate the distribution of New Parent Kits in Ventura
    - 25 organizations requested 952 kits to date.

<u>Parent Leadership</u>

- A new Parent Leader term has begun, and recruitment is underway to fill two vacant Parent Leader seats.
- Applied Survey Research (ASR), the Commissions external evaluation contractor, recently conducted a focus group with Parent Leaders to gather on strategic planning, including F5VC priorities and investments.

Immigration Updates

- Staff receive regular training on responding to ICE presence and activity at F5VC locations.
- The Administration and Finance Committee will review a related proposed policy in September.

All Staff Meeting

In July, F5VC hosted an "Our Staff is a Great Catch" training and team-building session:

- Completed annual trainings, including **Workplace Violence Prevention**, and celebrated accomplishments with a **Year in Review** presentation.
- Strengthened team bonds through movement-based activities like **"Happy Salmon"** and a **beach ball race**.
- Participated in a training on the **psychological impacts of transitions**, helping staff navigate internal and external organizational changes.

3. County, Regional, National Updates

Ventura County Wellness Collaborative:

- F5VC staff participate in multiple Ventura County Wellness System workgroups, an interagency collaboration convened by Human Service Agency to align countywide services and systems for families with the goal of preventing child welfare system entries and promoting overall well-being.
    - To ensure the representation of children 0-5 and their families, staff participate in the Wellness System Planning Committee, Wellness System Collaborative, Shared Metrics, Family-Level Data Sharing, and Communications Workgroups.

Gold Coast Health Plan (GCHP)

- F5VC staff attend GCHP Birth Equity Stakeholder meetings as an ongoing collaborative effort to improve outreach and quality of services for pregnant and postpartum individuals.

UpLift Central Coast Child Care Coalition

- F5VC collaborates with five other county First 5s, led by First 5 SLO, on this cross-sector coalition to promote child care as a critical economic mobility strategy.

Center for the Study of Social Policy: EC-LINC

- F5VC has been invited to discuss the impact of new immigration policies on children and share local support efforts at an EC-LINC meeting.
    - CSSP recently released a new brief: "It's Horrible to Live Like This: Immigration Policy's Real-Time Impact on Young Children", detailing how current policies are impacting children and families in real time, as young

children's anxiety surges, and child care providers are working to mitigate harm, even as they fear for their own safety.

First 5 Association (F5AC)

- F5AC recently launched Leadership Institute with current offerings including:
  - Virtual Learning Tracks
    - Focused, self-guided or facilitated sessions designed to build core competencies and explore emerging topics in early childhood leadership.
  - Communities of Practice
    - Peer-led groups where members explore challenges, share strategies, and deepen their practice in a collaborative, trust-based setting.
  - Launching soon are Affinity Groups, Mentorship Program and Fellowship Program.
  - Also planned are First 5 Commissioner, Executive Director and Staff onboarding sessions.

- Choose Children
  - With First 5 Association as the backbone organization, Choose Children is a partnership of organizations and individuals working to ensure that candidates for California Governor take action and support investment and approaches that advance the well- being, care, and learning of young children, their families, and the essential workers who care for them.
  - Public launch of the campaign is planned for Fall, with forums to provide input on policy platform, voter polling and potential candidate forums.
    - To learn more, visit https://choosechildren.org

4. Upcoming Events

First 5 Committees

- Administration / Finance Committee Meeting - Friday, September 5, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.