Report from Commission Staff

October 16, 2025

1. Administrative Updates

Proposition 10 Tobacco Tax Distributions

- **Birth rates for 2024** have been released by the Department of Finance and First 5 California will utilize the updated birth rate proportions to calculate tobacco tax disbursements for FY 2025-26.
- As reflected in the table below, birth rates went down statewide and locally, however, the reduction wasn't quite as much as the statewide average, which resulted in a slightly higher proportion of births for Ventura County compared to last year.

	2024 (for FY 2025-26)	**2023** (for FY 2024-25)	**Variance**	**% change**
Statewide birth rate	394,081	398,783	-4,702	-1.2%
Ventura Co. birth rate	8,313	8,337	-24	-0.3%
Ventura Co. % of births	2.109%	2.091%	0.018%	0.9%

- Information on **July 2025 revenues** and the Quarter 4 CECET (CA e-cigarette tax) funds for FY 2024-25 has been released. Ventura County will receive $338,094 for July 2025 revenues and $12,130 in CECET funds, which is 8% of the budgeted revenue with 8% of the year lapsed.
- Without consideration of the Prop 56 backfill, which is typically received in Spring, and quarterly CECET funds, base tax distributions are running 10.2% (or $31,337) higher than the prior year as of July.
    - There is variability in month-to-month distributions. While it is promising to see that an increase was realized in July, with only one month of revenue data for the year and without Prop 56 distribution, it's too early to make any predictions about the trend.
    - Any potential decline would be mitigated when the Prop 56 backfill distribution comes in, along with the quarterly CECET funds.
- Monthly disbursements are closely monitored and staff will report on revenues as they are received.

Procedures for Responding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

- The Commission adopted a Policy and Procedures for responding to ICE in September, and asked staff to review compliance with AB 450 and requests for I-9s. (https://first5ventura.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Rec-Responding-ICE-Sample-warrants.pdf)
    - In consultation with County Counsel, staff determined that the approved procedures were in compliance and finalized internal procedures to formalize guidance in case of various I-9 requests (see attached).

2. Updates on Commission Initiatives

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

- Parent Education and Engagement
    - Session 1 of the 2025–2026 PACT program concluded on October 10, with 290 enrolled families participating. Session 2 is scheduled to begin on November 3.
    - During the Summer session, 317 adults and 326 children participated in activities and events hosted at Neighborhoods for Learning sites.
        - Program highlights included a field trip to the Soliz Library, where families received library tours and signed up for library cards; two financial literacy workshops on Credit Success and Saving and Budgeting; and family-centered seasonal events such as *Autumn Adventures in the Park* and *Pumpkin Play Day.*
    - Additionally, the First Book Discount Website generously donated 200 Build-A-Bear stuffed animals and $200 in book credits to support participating families. These bears and books will be distributed to children enrolled in the PACT program.
- Community Outreach and Collaboration
    - NfL, HMG, and WEB staff collaborated with community partners to expand outreach efforts and strengthen connections between families and essential resources.
        - Key partnership highlights include a collaboration with the Braille Institute, which provided braille books for families to explore together at NfL sites. Additionally, organizations such as Amigo Baby and 805 Moms Meet distributed First 5 Ventura County flyers and giveaways at their specialty events across the county, further extending the reach of our programs.
        - Outreach activities also included hosting resource tables at several community events, including the Parenting Student Resource Fair at California State University Channel Islands, Vista Real's 20th Anniversary Celebration and Resource Fair, and the Wellness Fair at Rio Del Valle Junior High School.

- Fatherhood Initiative
    - New outreach materials were launched to promote father engagement, including *The Dad Playbook* and *Stronger Families, Engaged Fathers* resources.
    - Fatherhood programming continued to offer meaningful opportunities for fathers and father figures to strengthen relationships with their children through a variety of activities and events, such as *Pumpkins and Papa, Game Day with Dad, a Dads Bonding Workshop, Dads and Donuts,* and *My Daddy/Father Figures and Me.*
- Training and Capacity Building
    - On October 13, NfL staff participated in a professional development session focused on the Teaching Pyramid and Positive Behavior Support (PBS) strategies, facilitated by in-house trainers. These strategies are designed to enhance staff capacity to support families in promoting children's social-emotional development and positive behavior.
- Welcome Every Baby (WEB)
    - Diaper distribution events were held at the WEB office in South Oxnard during the first week of October. Diapers and wipes were distributed to 195 families with 362 children, helping to meet essential needs and support family well-being.
- Help Me Grow (HMG)
    - On October 15, Help Me Grow staff participated in the Help Me Grow SoCal Regional Collaborative, joining partners from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara counties. The convening focused on strengthening regional collaboration and advancing cross-county partnerships to improve early identification and connection to services for young children and their families.

Early Literacy

- Save the Dates: our 10th annual Take 5 and Read to Kids! will be May 1, 2026 and the Kick-Off Breakfast is scheduled for April 24, 2026

3. County, Regional, National Updates

First 5 California (F5CA)

- F5CA is resolving contracting issues that have delayed the distribution of the New Parent Kits. The kits should be available to order by the end of the month.

State Legislative Updates

Governor Newsom signed a variety of bills into law supported by the First 5 Association that will impact early childhood, including:

- AB 49 (Muratsuchi); School Sites: Entry Requirements and Immigration Enforcement

    - Prohibits schools from allowing ICE to enter a school site for any purpose without providing valid identification, a written statement of purpose, and a valid judicial warrant, and receiving approval from the superintendent or the principal of the charter school, or their designee, as applicable.
- AB 607 (Rodriguez); CalWORKs: Home Visiting Program
    - Extends the time in the program to at least 24 months, and not to exceed the duration of the applicable home visiting program model, and would extend the maximum age of the child at the time of enrollment to less than 36 months of age.
- AB 752 (Ávila Farias); Child Daycare Facilities
    - Requires that daycare centers collocated with multifamily housing or community amenities be treated as residential uses and permitted by right under local laws. It also bans local jurisdictions from charging business licenses, fees, or taxes on such centers.
- AB 753 (Garcia); Childcare: Facility Licensure and Teacher Requirements
    - Existing law allows individuals with certain teaching credentials and either early childhood education coursework or experience to work in preschool or childcare programs. Newly hired teachers in these programs would receive up to two years to meet credential or coursework requirements.
- AB 1123 (Muratsuchi); Commission on Teaching Credentialing Member
    - Increases the membership of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) from 15 to 18 members, to include representation from early childhood education professionals.
- SB 792 (Arreguin); Childcare State Median Income Threshold
    - Expands income eligibility for CalWORKs Stage 3 childcare services to 85% of the state median income and extends the family fee exemption for child protective services cases from 12-24 months, and broadens reimbursement rules by including medical and educational appointments as valid absences.

F5VC will also be impacted by new Brown Act requirements:

- SB 707 (Durazo); Open meetings: Meetings and Teleconference Requirements
    - Expands the Brown Act by expanding teleconferencing requirements for public meetings, mandating two-way audiovisual platforms for remote public access, requiring language accessibility and multilingual public meeting agendas to be translated into applicable languages, extending the sunset for existing teleconferencing provisions, and allowing for remote participation in advisory body meetings. The changes are to be implemented by July 1, 2026.

4. Upcoming Events

<u>First 5 Committees</u>

- Administration and Finance Committee Meeting - Friday, November 7, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Anecdotes

Families participating in NfL programming during Session 1:

East County (excerpt from an email):
“Hello! I am writing to express my great appreciation for the First 5 Neighborhoods for Learning Parent and Child Together July - October program... I would like to commend the program as a whole as well as Ms. Brenda and Ms. Maria. I am the grandma of two lucky participants in the program… I am a retired educator of 35 years, most of which was teaching science and math, and sometimes English, in grades K-12 (all of them, but not the same time!) as well as serving in later years as a vice-principal and then principal. Most of these years were in international private schools in Amman, Jordan. My undergraduate and graduate degrees are in Children Development from the University of California, Davis. I say all this in hopes that you will recognize that I have certainly observed and participated in a variety of solid, strong, academic programs. I flew in from overseas to spend 16 days with my grandsons, and was able to attend and observe four classes during that time. I was very impressed! My toddler grandsons LOVED going to “school!!” The setting was safe, visually enticing and stimulating, with a great variety of resources for independent play, and excellent organized group activities. Ms. Brenda and Ms. Maria were warm, welcoming, and very professional. My grandsons were so happy to see them every class and hated to leave. Thus, this program has instilled a deep subconscious love and positive association with the concept of “school” - which as you know is of paramount importance. I couldn’t sit back and NOT write you to thank your organization for this wonderful, wonderful program as well as the excellent staff.”

Oxnard Plains:
This child began class on the first day with significant anxiety and reluctance to participate. They were tearful and hesitant to enter the building. In response, program staff asked the parent about the child’s interests and brought preferred toys outside to help create a more comfortable environment. Staff members rotated throughout the session to provide ongoing encouragement and support, even speaking to the child through the window during circle time to help them feel welcomed and included.

Following the class, staff invited the child to explore the classroom while it was empty. During this time, the child engaged in play and was introduced to the daily routine, including a clean-up warning, the clean-up song, the goodbye song, and receiving a stamp at the door. In the weeks that followed, the child was able to enter the classroom but became upset when the door was closed. Staff accommodated this by leaving the door open as much as possible and gradually increasing the child’s comfort by partially closing it over time. Through these intentional and supportive strategies, the child’s confidence grew significantly. They began entering class eagerly, fully participating in circle time and activities, and developing strong relationships with both teachers and peers.

The child has since transitioned successfully into preschool, where they continue to thrive. The family has expressed deep appreciation for the support provided by the program and the positive impact it has had on their child's early learning experience.

West County:
Staff supported a child who initially struggled with transitions and would leave activities without cleaning up materials. Program staff collaborated closely with the child's parent to develop consistent strategies for building this skill. They began by modeling the clean-up process and encouraging the child to pick up a few items before moving on to the next activity. The parent reinforced these strategies at home, using simple, consistent language such as "all done" and "let's clean up," which helped the child understand expectations more clearly.

Over the following weeks, the child's understanding and independence increased significantly. With continued modeling and consistent routines, the child was able to clean up materials with minimal verbal prompting. Visual supports in the classroom, such as labeled containers, also helped the child successfully return items to their correct places. One day, while the parent was completing a program survey, staff observed the child independently clean up without any prompts and return materials to their designated spots. After finishing, the child clapped proudly, a clear demonstration of their growing confidence and mastery of this routine. This progress was the result of consistent support and collaboration between caregivers at home and program staff in the classroom.

PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT I-9 REQUESTS

BACKGROUND

This document provides guidelines on how to respond if Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents request I-9s or other employee/client records.

These procedures are a supplement to the Policy and Procedures for Responding to ICE approved by the Commission in September 2025, and intended for use by HR Staff, the Executive Director, or Deputy Director.

Without a valid judicial warrant or court order, F5VC will not cooperate with immigration enforcement actions and will not permit access to nonpublic areas of our facilities. For safety reasons, our staff are instructed not to physically interfere if agents enter without legal authorization.

PROCEDURES

Generally, F5VC program sites and administrative offices are considered non-public areas. In accordance with Government Code section 7285.1 and 7285.2, except as otherwise required by federal , an employer may not voluntarily consent to an immigration enforcement agent entering nonpublic areas of the worksite without a judicial warrant, or access, review, or obtain employer's employee records (including I-9s) without a judicial subpoena or warrant.

This policy does not prohibit disclosure of I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification forms and other documents for which a Notice of Inspection has been provided to F5VC.

Immigration enforcement requests related to personnel records should be forwarded immediately to the Director of HR & Operations and Executive Director. If they are not available, contact the HR Manager and Deputy Director. The Director will also contact the Ventura County Counsel's Office immediately.

Office Coordinator or Initial Contact:

- Inform ICE agents that they may not enter non-public areas, clearly identified with signs, without proper credentials and a judicial warrant signed by a judge (*not* an administrative warrant issued by a federal agency such as ICE).
- Request official credentials (badge, ID) and business card.
- Ask for the purpose of the visit (e.g. inspecting I-9s) and for the judicial warrant or subpoena.
- Politely State: "Our organization's policy states that I am not allowed to speak with you. I am referring you to the Acting Co-Executive Director or Designee who will speak to you." Do not answer additional questions – you may provide a copy of this document.
- Do not comply with law enforcement's request for access to a non-public area.
    - but must not attempt to physically prevent entry.

    - You may escort them to a nonpublic area (conference room) for the purpose of verifying the warrant.
- Shall neither assist the officer in identifying clients nor assist clients in any way in evading officers (i.e., don't help clients hide, lie, or flee).
    - If asked what to do by the client, may offer "Red Card" to the client (or read it out loud). Staff shall inform clients that they cannot provide legal guidance and that the decision on how to respond is up to the client, their representative, or guardian.
- After the encounter, take written notes summarizing the incident, including the officer's request, any documents presented, names of any impacted persons, and the officer's actions. Send a copy of these notes and documents to the Acting Co-Executive Directors.
- If an officer insists on entry to a non-public area prior to the arrival of the director, staff shall:
    - Make clear their objection to the officer's conduct but **not attempt to physically prevent entry.**
    - Document the incident and immediately inform the highest-level manager in the facility.

Director of HR & Operations or Executive Director:

- Determine if the agent has a **valid** request.
    - Call County Counsel.
    - Request the agent's credentials, make a copy, and ask why the agents are requesting access.
    - Request a copy of the warrant or subpoena signed by a federal or state judge, which specifies the name of the person under arrest or area to be searched.
- If the federal immigration enforcement agents satisfy the criteria for a judicial warrant, subpoena, or Notice of Inspection, and have produced their identification, the Director of HR & Operations or his/her designee shall oversee the agents' investigation. Such oversight includes accompanying the agent and prohibiting access to information, records, and areas beyond that specified in the warrant. Do not provide additional information contained in a personnel file.
- If the warrant or subpoena is **invalid**, decline or withhold consent to enter nonpublic areas or to access records.
    - State "We cannot voluntarily grant access to these areas or records without a valid legal order."
- **Document** the event
    - Log the date, time, name(s) of agent(s), badge number(s), copy documentation provided (judicial warrant, Notice of Inspection, etc.), and actions taken.

Notice of Inspection (NOI)

- F5VC will have at least three business days to produce the I-9s requested in an NOI.
- F5VC may be requested to provide supporting documentation such as a copy of payroll, a list of active or terminated employees, articles of incorporation, and business licenses.
- Findings could result in a "Compliance Letter" (in compliance), Suspect Documents or Discrepancies (gives the opportunity to provide correct documentation), or Technical or Procedural failure (ICE allows at least 10 business days to make corrections).

- **Notifications** - Within **72 hours** of receiving the inspection notice or order, post the required **Employee Notice of Inspection** in the place where labor notices are posted, in the employer's usual language(s). The notice should include:
    - The agency name
    - The date the NOI was received
    - Nature of the inspection (I-9s / employment records)
    - A copy of the NOI itself
    - Provide a copy of the NOI to any affected employee who requests it.
  - If ICE issues a **notice of findings** (e.g. "Notice of Suspect Documents" or "inspection results") that identifies any **affected employees**, within **72 hours** you must give written notice, by hand delivery at the workplace, if possible, to those employees of:
    - The deficiencies or suspect items
    - Time period allowed to correct
    - Date/time of meeting to correct
    - Right to representation during any such meeting

- **Correct Deficiencies** – if an employee is identified as having deficient or missing documentation, ask them to present additional acceptable documents.
    - Seek guidance from County Counsel to make corrections in accordance with I-9 rules.
    - Document all steps and keep copies.

Additional Considerations: Types of Documents Officers May Present

First 5 Ventura County's obligation will depend on the type of documentation presented by the agent making the request. Without expressing consent, respond according to the requirements of the documentation presented (See attached sample documents). ***If the agent has***:

1. A judicial warrant (either a search-and-seizure warrant or an arrest warrant)

A warrant is a document authorizing law enforcement to make an arrest, search premises, or take some other action detailed in the document. Prompt compliance with the warrant is usually required, but, where feasible, staff should consult with designated staff or County Counsel.

- A federal judicial warrant is issued by a "U.S. District Judge" or "U.S. Magistrate Judge" from "U.S. District Court." See examples attached to this packet. A state judicial warrant is issued by a Superior Court Judge.
- You are required to comply with a judicial warrant and must allow ICE to search.
- The agent is allowed to enter only the areas specified in the warrant. Staff will accompany the agent(s) while they are present on First 5 property.
- If the agent appears to be conducting any activity that falls outside the scope of the warrant, inform the agent(s) that they do not have First 5's consent to the activity.

2. An administrative warrant

Immediate compliance is ***not*** required.

- An administrative warrant is a document issued by a federal agency, such as the "Department of Homeland Security," an "Immigration Judge," or an "Immigration Officer" (see attached example in this packet).
- You are not required to provide access to non-public areas to arrest or search. You are not required to give ICE any information.
- You should politely request that the agent leave the property. If the agent(s) attempt to enter without a warrant, you should calmly say:

  "I do not consent to your entry; this area is not open to the public. Please wait while I contact our legal counsel."
  "Thank you for your cooperation. As I said, this is First 5 private property. Since you don't have written permission or a judicial warrant to enter our building (our suite), I'm going to have to ask you to leave to avoid disrupting the normal operations of our office (…or our event)."

3. A Subpoena to Produce Documents or Other Evidence

Immediate compliance is ***not*** required.

- An ICE subpoena is a document requesting that an agency/organization turn over documents or evidence.
- You do not need to provide documents on the spot and are not required to give ICE consent to search.
- Provide the subpoena to the Acting Co-Executive Director or designee and the County Counsel's Office.

4. A Notice to Appear ("NTA")

This is a document that is not directed at First 5 Ventura County. Staff are under no obligation to deliver or facilitate service of this document to the person named in the document. If you receive a copy of the document, give it to a designated staff person, as soon as possible.

You are not required to provide access to non-public areas to arrest or search. You are not required to give ICE any information. You may ask ICE to leave.

5. A Court Order

Provide the court order to the Acting Co-Executive Director or designee and the County Counsel's Office for review.