

First 5 California Project Legacy - Streamlined Project Legacy Description

**First 5
California's
Vision**

“All children in California enter school ready to achieve their greatest potential.” (2008 Strategic Plan)

Accomplishing this vision requires an ongoing commitment to ensure that children are born healthy, raised in nurturing homes, and ready for school. This commitment has been at the heart of the work of both First 5 California and First 5 county commissions in communities large and small across our state.

The work done over the past 10 years has helped countless youngsters grow toward their potential. This is our opportunity to learn from past efforts and do even more for our state's children in the next 10 years. This is where Project Legacy will contribute by pooling collective wisdom, lessons, and research.

**What is
Project
Legacy?**

First 5 California's Project Legacy will help First 5 California create its “Roadmap to the Future” by establishing a distinctive set of programs for children 0 to 5 and their families: two to three Signature Programs and additional innovative Pilot Projects. Project Legacy will result in general funding goals and specific measurable program goals that will enhance decision making and accountability while improving outcomes for children 0 to 5. First 5 California envisions applying the program goals to guide future funding decisions.

**Purpose of
Project
Legacy**

The purpose is to provide guidance and direction to First 5 California commissioners and staff in determining the programs to support, develop, and/or fund.

Why now?

It has been 10 years since the passage of Proposition 10. It is a time to acknowledge and celebrate our successes as well as learn from the past. It is time to look ahead and create our “Roadmap to the Future.”

First 5 California currently faces two challenges that are the impetus for Project Legacy:

- Declining revenues. Proposition 10 funds, tied to the Tobacco Tax, are declining. Although that decline signals the hopeful trend of less tobacco use, it also signals a future deficit if First 5 California continues to fund programs at current levels.

- Desire to Strengthen Continuous Quality Improvement: Instead of evaluating programs individually, First 5 California seeks to develop programs that include a comprehensive evaluation cycle to continually improve service delivery and better demonstrate outcomes.
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What are the impacts of these challenges?

Taken together, these challenges have two significant impacts:

1. In the aggregate, funding for current First 5 California programs will diminish, and programs in their current configuration will likely need to be discontinued.
 2. The First 5 California Commission will set clear funding priorities for future Signature Programs and Pilot Projects.
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What will happen to the programs currently funded by First 5 California?

Project Legacy's goals may be consistent with aspects or components of current programs and First 5 California may incorporate some of those components into future Signature Programs or Pilot Projects. No existing First 5 California program can continue in its current configuration. That is why the Legacy Workgroup's efforts in identifying the goals are so critical to the success of Project Legacy.

Why develop program goals?

These program goals are necessary to assist First 5 California in meeting its mandate of promoting, supporting, and improving the early development of children, prenatal to five years of age, by the coordination and integration of comprehensive programs emphasizing community awareness, education, nurturing, child care, social services, health care, and research.

What are the areas of emphasis?

These efforts will impact children by improving:

- Family functioning
 - Child health, including tobacco cessation
 - Child development
 - Systems of care
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What assumptions and primary funding goals will guide the

Project Legacy will reflect First 5 California's Mission and Guiding Principles, as established by the Commission in September, 2007 (See Attachment A). Each of Project Legacy's Signature Programs and Pilot Projects will also:

1. Address School Readiness gap

**work of
Project
Legacy?**

2. Emphasize comprehensive, collaborative, and integrated programs and services.
 3. Reflect on evidence-based and promising practices.
 4. Leverage lessons learned from past First 5 California programs.
 5. Promote collaboration with public and private partners building on existing systems to leverage resources and support.
 6. Include an evaluation component that assesses outcomes to support sustainability.
 7. Include a continual program improvement process.
 8. Maximize resources and impact to leverage public support of policy development.
 9. Promote systemic change.
 10. Incorporate incentives to improve access and quality, when appropriate
 11. Secure funding commitments for multiple years
 12. Incorporate a competitive process into the acquisition of funds to ensure only the best proposals are approved
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**Program
goals
consistent
with First 5
California's
vision**

The program goals must be consistent with First 5 California's vision, "*All children in California enter school ready to achieve their greatest potential,*" and lead First 5 California toward attaining this vision.

**Research to
support need
for program
goals**

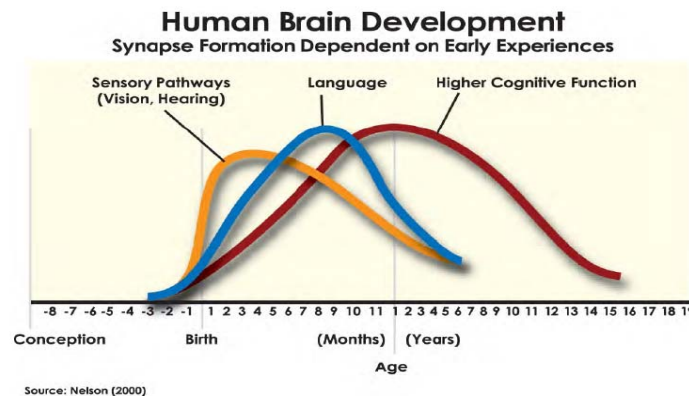
In defining program goals, it is important to capitalize on current research findings, especially those relating to brain development and program effectiveness factors. In doing so, First 5 California can better maximize its resources by developing programs that have the greatest potential of positively impacting children and families.

**Brain
research
findings**

Scientific research findings on the developing brain clearly support quality programs and early intervention for young children. "*The science of early brain development can inform investments in early childhood. These basic concepts, established over decades of neuroscience and behavioral research, help illustrate why child development – particularly from birth to five years – is a foundation for a prosperous and sustainable society.*"¹

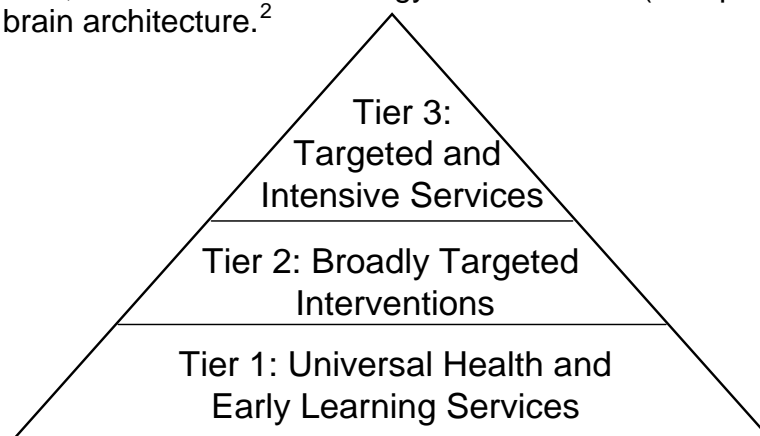
Human brain development

The chart below shows the sequence of brain development in a child's early years. Synapse formation for sensory pathways, language acquisition, and higher cognitive functioning peaks before a child's fifth birthday. This finding reinforces that early experiences shape brain development that lead either to a strong or weak foundation for the child's learning, health, and behavior.



Research points toward a 3-tiered approach to ensure healthy development

First 5 California seeks to impact systemwide change to ensure all children receive the support they need to achieve their greatest potential. As a result of First 5 California's limited resources, it is important to use a model that most effectively impacts the healthy development of children. The model below, from the Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, reflects a science-based, 3-tiered approach that significantly impacts school readiness and ensures healthy development. It is based primarily on evaluation research, with a nod to the biology of toxic stress (multiple risk factors) and brain architecture.²



Tier 1	Focuses on providing basic health and early learning ³ services to all children to help build and sustain strong brains and bodies.
Tier 2	Broadly targets interventions for children in poverty (e.g., income supports and early enrichment).
Tier 3	Requires narrowly targeted, specialized services for children experiencing toxic stress (multiple risk factors). These factors include severe poverty, neglect, abuse, parental substance abuse or mental illness, maternal depression, and exposures to violence that can damage the developing brain's architecture leading to disrupted circuits and a weakened foundation for future learning and health.
Program goals to support the 3-tiered model	First 5 California will modify the Project Legacy process to establish program goals for each tier of the 3-tiered model. Once adopted by the First 5 California Commission, these program goals will serve as a framework in guiding future First 5 California funding and programs.
Proposed Streamlined Project Legacy process	To develop the program goals, First 5 California proposes to modify its original process by accelerating the procedures. First 5 California will convene a panel of 10 to 13 experts in the fields of health, child development, education, and family interventions. The expert group will be charged with recommending program goals for each tier. These recommendations will then be shared with county commission representatives, program administrators/operators, advocates, and other interested parties to receive their input. This will be done at three forums throughout California (North, Central, and South). Following these sessions, First 5 California staff will finalize the goals and present them to the First 5 California Commission for adoption.
Timeline for proposed streamlined process	The streamlined Project Legacy timeline and process includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ July 15, 2009 - Seek First 5 California Commission approval for the streamlined Project Legacy process▪ July - August 2009 – Convene expert panel to develop proposed program goals▪ August - September – Hold three public input forums▪ September 2009 – Finalize proposed program goals▪ October 21, 2009 - Seek First 5 California Commission approval of the proposed program goals

¹ *The Science of Early Childhood Development*, (2007) National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, <http://www.developingchild.net>

² Magnuson, Yoshikawa, Brook-Gunn. (June 2008) *What Research Tells Us About Program Effectiveness in the First Five Years*. National Symposium on Early Childhood Science and Policy. Center on the Developing Child. Harvard University.

³ “Early learning” is a term used to describe public and private services for children birth to five, including Early Head Start, Head Start, state preschool and child care (center based and family/home care).

Attachment A
Project Legacy Definitions

SIGNATURE PROGRAM

In the future and for the purposes of this project, a “Signature Program” is a long-term, evidence-based, First 5 California-sponsored program that allows First 5 California to support children ages 0 to 5 and their families so children can maximize their potential. In addition, a Signature Program allows First 5 California to achieve its mission.

PILOT PROJECT

In the future and for the purposes of this project, a “Pilot Project” is a limited-term, experimental, First 5 California-sponsored project designed to impact a specific target population through promising practices.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

An “evidence-based practice” is a service delivery process that repeatedly and consistently demonstrates desirable outcomes through application of scientific research methods. The scientific method and resulting outcomes should consider social and economic differences in study participants. Evidence-based practices are frequently referred to as “best practices.”

PROMISING PRACTICE

A “promising practice” is a service delivery process that demonstrates desirable outcomes. These practices may be too new to demonstrate repeated and/or consistent outcomes. This may include adaptations of evidence-based practices.

PROGRAM GOALS

The “program goals” developed by the Legacy Workgroup are the measurable standards or guidelines used to make decisions about program design.

IMPROVE FAMILY FUNCTIONING

Family functioning includes behavioral and mental health services, basic family needs, targeted intensive parent support services, and general parenting classes.

IMPROVE CHILD HEALTH

Child health includes services such as tobacco cessation education and treatment, breastfeeding assistance, nutrition, fitness, health education, health access, home

visitation for newborns, oral health, prenatal care, primary care services, safety education and injury prevention, and specialty medical services.

IMPROVE CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Child development includes services and programs such as infant/toddler care and preschools, comprehensive screening and assessments, early education provider programs, and family literacy.

IMPROVE SYSTEMS OF CARE

Systems of care includes activities such as school readiness for children, service outreach, planning, support and program management, provider capacity building, training and support, and community strengthening efforts.

Attachment B

**First 5 California Strategic Plan
Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles**

Adopted September 2007

Vision

All children in California enter school ready to achieve their greatest potential.

Mission

By 2012, be recognized as California's unequivocal voice for children 0 – 5 to ensure greater equity in their readiness for school.

Guiding Principles

Child Centered:

Focus all programs and activities on the needs of California's children.

Family focus:

Support families as children's primary caregivers and first teachers.

Diversity:

Ensure that families from all of California's diverse populations connect to services needed to succeed.

Public Support:

Build a foundation of support for a comprehensive, integrated, and holistic early childhood development system.

Quality Standards:

Incorporate the highest quality, evidence-based standards when assessing program effectiveness.

Partnerships and Leveraging:

Promote collaboration with public and private partners, building on existing systems.

**Attachment C
Project Legacy Roadmap**

STEP	TASK
1*	Identify Project Legacy process. This includes the discussion and First 5 California Commission adoption of the First 5 California Project Legacy Description and the Project Legacy Workgroup Membership Categories.
2	Develop educational materials for Legacy Expert Panel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs Assessment Report, identifying gaps in services where First 5 California can have the biggest impact. ▪ Initial lessons learned from the past 10 years of First 5 California programs.
3	Organize Legacy Expert Panel.
4	Convene Expert Panel to identify measurable program goals for Signature Programs and Pilot Projects.
5	Before finalizing the program goals the First 5 California staff will consider public comments obtained from 3 regional input forums in Northern, Southern and Central California.
6	Present Project Legacy Program goals to First 5 California Commission.
7	Apply program goals to develop Signature Programs and Pilot Projects.
8	Present detailed Signature Programs and Pilot Projects to First 5 California Commission for funding.
9	Release funding for Signature Programs and Pilot Projects.
10	Monitor and evaluate Signature Programs and Pilot Projects to glean lessons learned.

*Indicates need for First 5 California Commission approval.