

Project Legacy's Streamlined Process

Project Legacy process

On July 15, 2009, the First 5 California Commission approved a streamlined Project Legacy Process. The Commission-approved streamlined process consisted of the following:

- Convene Expert Panel
- Develop draft measurable program goals (MPGs)
- Obtain public input
- Refine MPGs
- Develop program concepts
- Obtain Commission approval

This process resulted in MPGs that First 5 California used to develop program concepts that will lead to the development of new Signature Programs and Pilot Projects.

Expert Panel meeting

On July 29 and 30, 2009, First 5 California convened a two-day meeting with a panel of 18 experts including parents and professionals in the fields of children's health, child development, early childhood education, philanthropy, research, and economics.

Expert Panel charge

First 5 California staff charged the Expert Panel with developing MPGs guided by the following criteria:

- Define how First 5 California should improve the four school readiness areas:
 - Family Functioning
 - Child Development
 - Child Health
 - Systems of Care
 - Focus on access and/or quality of care
 - Use existing measurement tools whenever possible
 - Articulate key long-term outcomes that First 5 California's programs should have for its targeted populations
-

Continued on next page

Project Legacy's Streamlined Process, Continued

Expert Panel members

The following were members of the Expert Panel:

- Judith Jerald, Early Childhood Advisor for United States Programs, Save the Children
- Lynn Karoly, Senior Economist, RAND Corporation
- Portia Kennel, Senior Vice President, Bounce Learning Network
- John Kim, Co-Director, Advancement Project Los Angeles & Director of the Healthy City Project
- Ron Lally, Co-Director, WestEd, Center for Child & Family Studies
- Meera Mani, Program Officer, David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Peter Michael Miller, MD, MPH, Physician Consultant
- Jessica Dalesandro Mindnich, Senior Research Associate, Children Now
- Robert Phillips, Director, Health and Human Services, The California Endowment
- Cheryl Polk, Executive Director, John and Lisa Pritzker Family Fund
- Helen Raikes, Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences and Associate of the Center on Children, Families, and the Law, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- Jessie Rasmussen, Vice President, Buffet Early Childhood Fund
- Ross Thompson, Professor of Psychology, University of California, Davis
- Marcy Whitebook, Director, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California, Berkeley
- Jose Davila, Maria Luna, Arnita Porter, Candida Tapia: Parent Representatives

Continued on next page

Project Legacy's Streamlined Process, Continued

Expert Panel results

Using the aforementioned criteria, the panel drafted approximately 200 MPGs that were reviewed by WestEd's Center for Child and Family Studies (WestEd CCFS) and First 5 California. Staff consolidated the MPGs, merging related items into a single goal. This process resulted in 35 goals across the four school readiness areas. Staff also used First 5 county strategic plans as a reference to ensure that the draft MPGs aligned with existing MPGs at the county level.

Public input meetings

On August 24, 25, and 27, 2009, First 5 California convened public input meetings in Riverside, Fresno, and Woodland, California (respectively). Public input meeting attendees included educators, parents, county commissioners and commission staff, education superintendents, and other stakeholders. A total of approximately 200 participants attended the public input meetings.

Public input meeting charge

First 5 California staff charged public input meeting attendees with:

- Reviewing the recommendations from the Expert Panel
 - Suggesting alternative language to the Expert Panel's MPGs
 - Suggesting additional MPGs
-

Public input meeting results

At the end of the three public input meetings, the WestEd CCFS in collaboration with First 5 California reviewed the public's input and incorporated additional goals. This process resulted in an additional nine goals for a total of 44 MPGs.

Continued on next page

Project Legacy's Streamlined Process, Continued

Survey prioritization process

WestEd's CCFS developed an online survey in both English and Spanish so that the public could participate anonymously and prioritize their top three goals for each of the four school readiness domains of Family Functioning, Child Development, Child Health, and Systems of Care. In addition, the survey provided an opportunity for an open-ended response through which the public could add goals. The public provided more than 1,300 open-ended responses, which staff reviewed and integrated into the quantitative results.

This survey was available for ten days and the public completed approximately 3,000 surveys. A vast majority of the survey respondents (96.7%) did not participate in a Public Input Meeting, indicating that the online survey provided an additional opportunity for public feedback.

Measureable program goals

Following the prioritization process, First 5 California staff analyzed the findings and established a prioritized list of 16 MPGs – the top four goals under each of the school readiness domains.

Staff evaluated the public's recommended priority goals in conjunction with the First 5 California needs assessment report, *California's Young Children and Their Families: Demographic, Social, and Economic Conditions*, available at http://www.cafc.ca.gov/pdf/press/legacy/Item8-California_Early_Childhood_Profile_1.pdf. This report identifies areas of concern for California's 0 to 5 population including poverty, level of parent's education, teen parents, health, quality and availability of child care, and multiple risk factors. The prioritized MPGs address many areas of concern identified in the needs assessment.

In addition, First 5 California staff also evaluated the MPGs using the 3-Tiered Approach: a framework demonstrating how First 5 California's resources and proposed program concepts can maximize impact across the 0 to 5 population. As with First 5 California's needs assessment report, the priority goals successfully fit into the model, reinforcing the appropriateness of the prioritized goals.

Continued on next page

Project Legacy's Streamlined Process, Continued

Additional measureable program goals

Two goals dealing with smoking cessation did not rank high in the statewide prioritization survey. However, based on the needs assessment report, initiative mandate, and input from the Expert Panel, staff determined that a goal on secondhand smoke exposure should be included under the Child Health area, along with another MPG dealing with smoking cessation training for service providers listed under the Systems of Care area.

With the addition of these two goals, there are now 18 MPGs.

Developing proposed program concepts

Using the 18 MPGs as guides, First 5 California staff developed proposed program concepts that demonstrate program outcomes and increase access and quality to early learning services while focusing on the diverse needs of children 0 to 5 and their families. The proposed program concepts focus on the child 0 to 5, the parent/family, and the teacher, placing the proposed program concept into the appropriate tier of the 3-Tiered Approach.

In addition, the proposed program concepts have the potential of leveraging federal, state, and local funds as well as philanthropic resources. Several opportunities exist with proposed federal initiatives and philanthropic partners for First 5 California to participate in leveraging resources, expanding and improving quality of early childhood education programs, and building inter-segmental relationships.

The proposed program concepts also coincide with First 5 California's mission, enabling legislation, and the federal early learning agenda. It also responds to the direction of First 5 California's 2008 Strategic Plan.

First 5 California Commission approval and next steps

At the First 5 California Commission meeting October 21, 2009, the State Commission approved the outcomes of the Project Legacy process. Using these outcomes, First 5 California staff will develop three Signature Programs (a child program, a parent program, and a teacher program) for approval at the January 27, 2010, Commission meeting. Once the proposed Signature Programs are approved by the State Commission, staff will develop and issue a funding application that will be available on the First 5 California Web site along with the associated timelines.