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FIRST 5 PLACER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION FACT SHEET

First 5 commissions provide one of the few funding sources for prevention and early intervention services for our youngest children, and are increasingly plugging holes in the local safety net. First 5 provides children with health care, developmental screenings, dental care, obesity prevention, quality child care, preschool, and support for their families. First 5 investments in the community also provide significant economic impact to Placer County.

In Placer County, because of First funding:

- 900 children will receive developmental assessments
- 400 children will receive health insurance coverage
- 400 children will be able to attend preschool
- 200 children who are suspected victims of felony child abuse or whose parents are in high-conflict situations at the Placer Superior Court will receive services
- 450 parents will attend nutrition and dental education classes, addressing childhood obesity and healthy dental habits

One in eight children prenatal through age five in Placer county are served through First 5 Placer funding. In total, over 2,900 children and 7,000 parents and child care providers will receive services - over 10,000 people in the county, reaching

- 36% of all of the children in the County under age 5 with identified special needs
- 58% of all of teen moms in the County
- 53% of the children under age 5 in the Tahoe region
- 30% of the children under age 5 in Western Placer county

Additionally, First 5 Placer **contributes nearly \$4.6 million and over 85 jobs to the County's economy on an annual basis.** Since it was established in 1999, the First 5 Placer Commission has invested more than \$29 million dollars in programs. Recent economic development studies show that programs for children under age 5 produce economic benefits as the child grows into adulthood, ranging from **\$1.26 to \$17 for each \$1 spent.** Early childhood programs can keep children out of expensive special education programs; reduce the number of students who fail and must repeat a grade in school; increase high school graduation rates; reduce juvenile crime; reduce the number of youngsters who wind up on welfare as adults; and increase the number of students who go to college. (RAND Corporation, 2006)

First 5 Placer is an example of government that works. The framers of Proposition 10 understood that the best decisions about how to meet the needs of children are made by those closest to them.

- Prop 10 dollars in Placer County are distributed according to a community engagement process; all dollars are controlled locally.
- Through its annual audit and extensive evaluation plan, First 5 Placer holds itself and funded partners accountable for tax dollars spent.
- First 5 Placer operates at a low administrative rate of less than 15% annually. In 2009, 88% of funding was spent on services, 6% on evaluation and 6% on administration.

For more information, please see our website or contact Janice LeRoux, Executive Director for First 5 Placer. jlroux@placercoe.k12.ca.us