October 2026



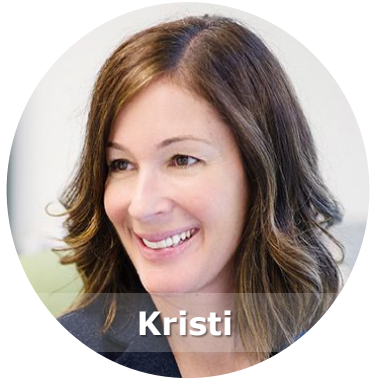
First 5 Placer

FY 2025-2026 Annual Evaluation Report

harder + co | community research

Harder+Company Community Research

- Vision: *Stronger and more equitable communities through actionable, culturally based research and consulting*
- Providing evaluation support to First 5 Placer since 2014







First 5 Placer Evaluation

- Evaluation is an opportunity for **continuous learning** that improves services, discovers new approaches, and supports sustainability of positive child, family, and community outcomes.
- Committed to using data to **advance equity**, including reducing disparities.
- Focus on **participant characteristics and experiences**, as well as **impacts** on children, families, and systems.
- Aligned with F5 Placer **Strategic Plan**.



First 5 Placer Evaluation

To what extent are funded partner services equitably reaching First 5 identified priority populations?

Equitable Access to Services

How are children and families served by F5P faring across the focus areas and to what extent are outcomes equitable?

Child Abuse Prevention

Oral Health

Early Literacy

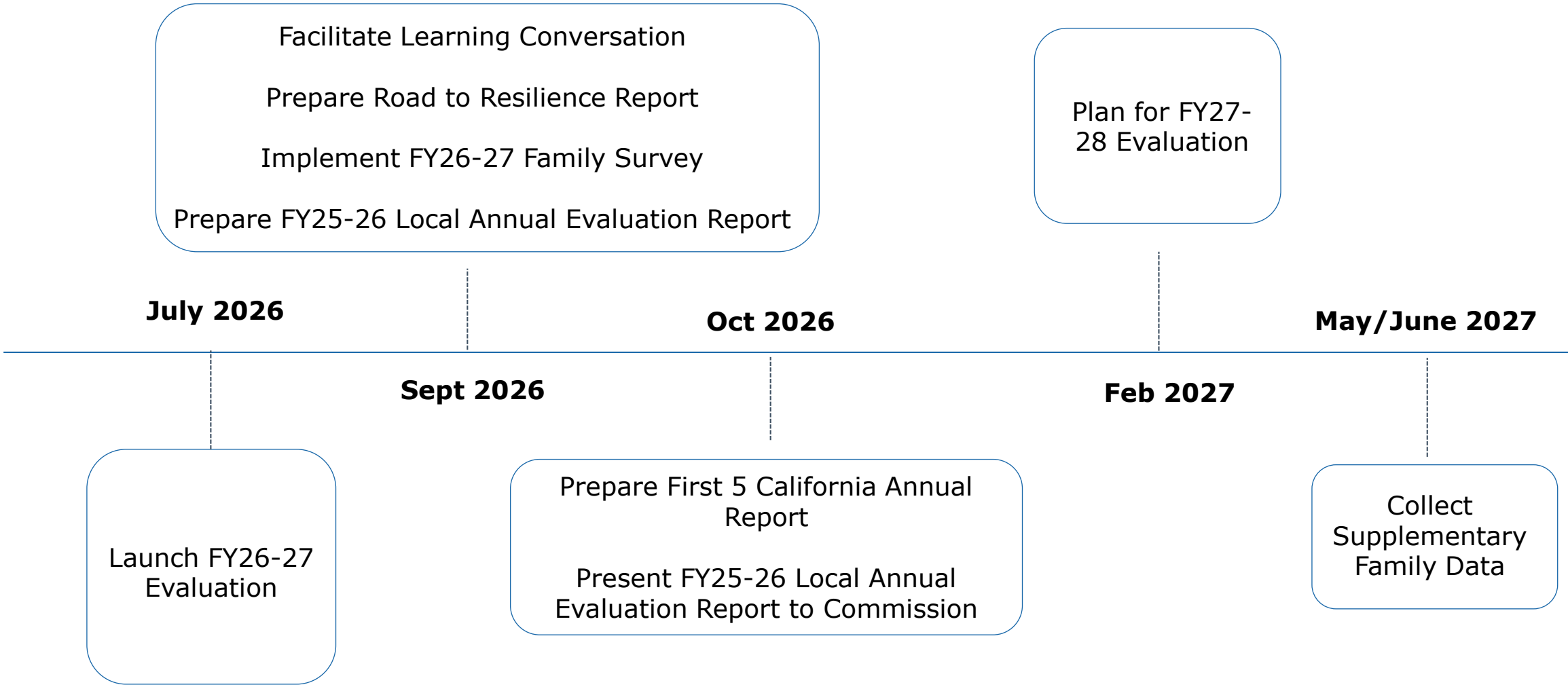
Maternal and Child Health

Early Learning and Child Care

How is the system of care for families stronger and more equitable for families given F5P's role?

Systems Impact

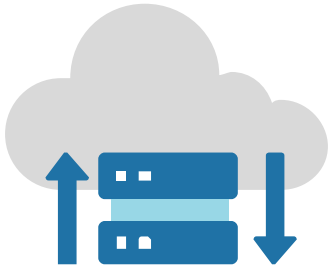
FY 2025-2026 Evaluation Activities



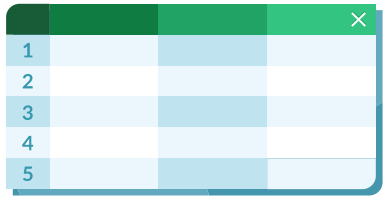
Methods



Family Survey



Persimmony data



Secondary indicator data



Conversations with funded partners



Supplemental funded partner evaluation data

Evaluation Report

- **Equitable Access to Services**
- **Outcomes by Focus Area**
- **Systems Impacts**
- **Continuous Learning & Improvement**





To what extent are funded partner services equitably reaching priority populations?

Equitable Access to Services

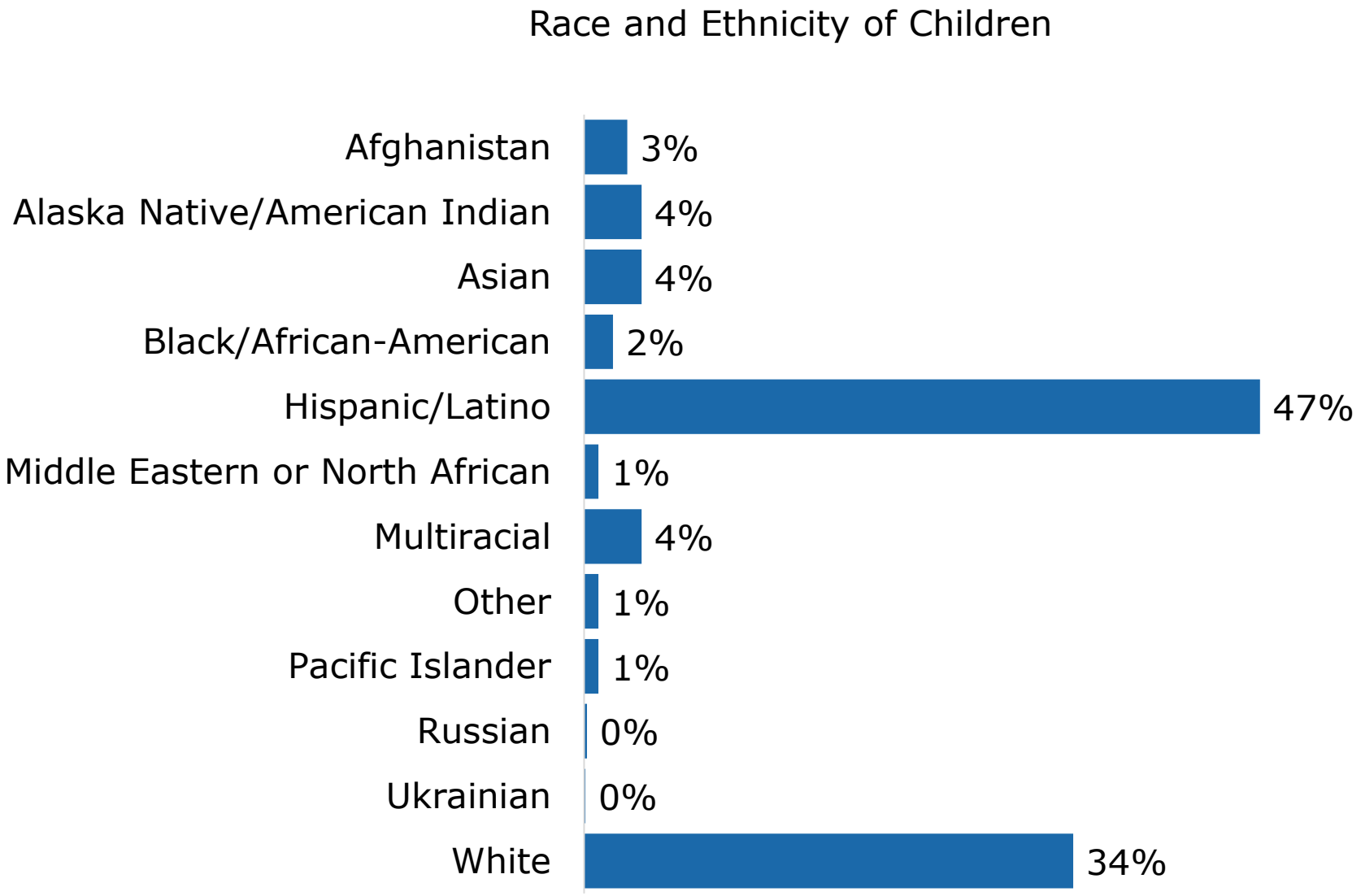
10,440 children, parents/caregivers, and providers were served in FY 25-26

64% Earned less than $24,000

37% Identify as single parents

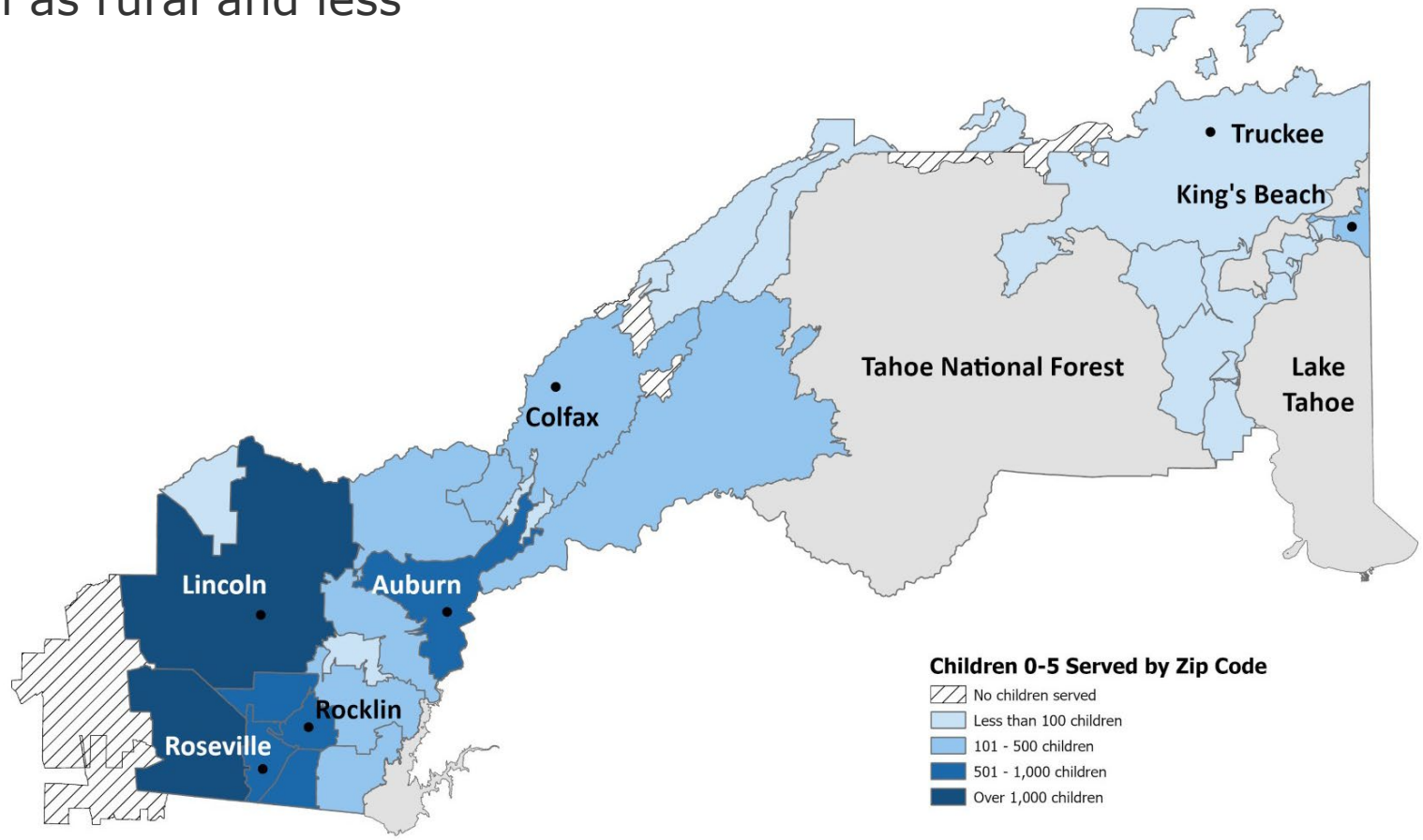
22% Experienced unstable housing or homelessness

Equitable Access to Services



Equitable Access to Services

Funded partners are reaching families in populated areas of the county as well as rural and less resourced areas.



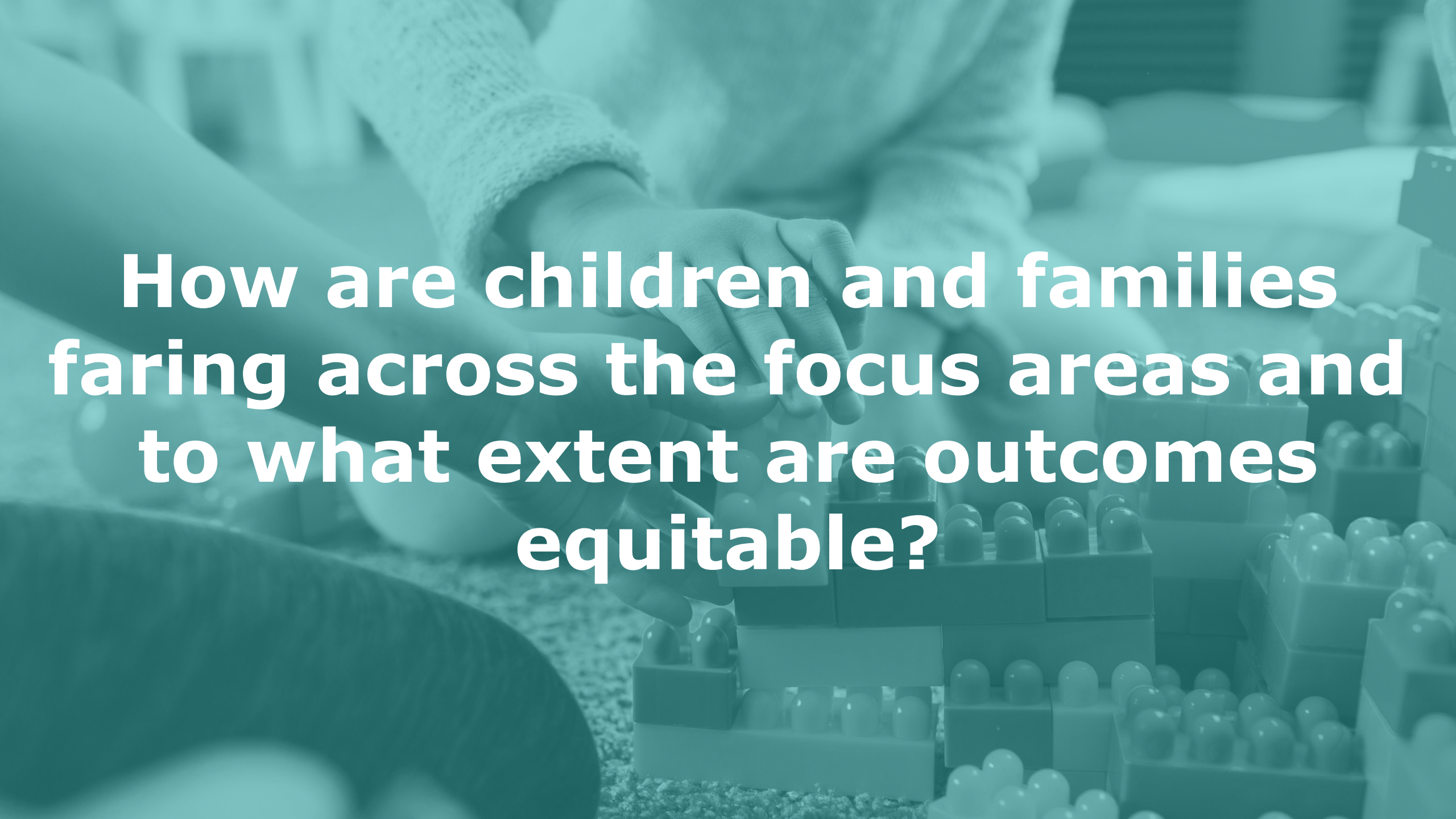
Equitable Access to Services

Parents reported high levels of satisfaction with programs and services:

- **100%** languages spoken by program staff
- **99%** staff communication
- **99%** program times
- **97%** service location
- **94%** transportation options

"As an immigrant family, programs like the Dolly Parton Imagination Library mean a lot to us. They make quality children's books accessible and help us create special moments together through reading. We are very grateful for this opportunity."

- Parent



How are children and families faring across the focus areas and to what extent are outcomes equitable?



Oral Health

Overview

- **Service Activities:** Oral health education, promotion of toothbrushing routines through the Brush, Book, Bed campaign, and connections to Placer County Public Health and other dental resources.
- **Facilitators:** Integration of oral health education into broader family education and support activities, including connections to existing dental resources.
- **Challenges & Context:** No direct F5P investment in oral health services this year; limited access to Medi-Cal dental providers.

Oral Health

75% of children visited a dentist in the past year for a routine visit, a slight decrease compared to last FY (78%)



76% of parents encouraged their child to **practice oral health routines more often**

74% of parents helped their child **brush and floss more**

62% of parents reported **greater awareness** of dental providers and oral health practices



Maternal & Child Health

Overview

- **Service Activities:** Maternal mental health screening and counseling, trauma-informed therapy, and strengthened referral pathways with healthcare and community partners.
- **Facilitators:** Healthcare and community partnerships supporting referral pathways and connections to services.
- **Challenges & Context:** Barriers to timely prenatal care, particularly difficulty finding services and long appointment waits, alongside ongoing maternal mental health and well-being needs.

Maternal and Child Health

40% of mothers reported receiving prenatal care in the first trimester, a decrease compared to last FY (55%)

96% of children had a doctor's visit in the last year (no change from last FY)

Mothers reported improvements in the following areas:

- **89%** feelings of joy or happiness
- **83%** physical health
- **82%** stress management
- **73%** ability to focus and concentrate on activities

"This program has given me more confidence that I am enough and fully capable as a single, unmarried mother. I got more motivated to take my daughter to story time multiple times a week and events locally."

- Parent

Maternal and Child Health

Family Success Story

► A mother participating in the Parents as Teachers home vising program became concerned about a setback in her child's speech. An ASQ screening identified lower scores related to phonology, comprehension, and sound production. In response, the parent educator introduced word play, writing, and sound-based games for the mother to use with her child and encouraged continued shared reading. As the mother incorporated these activities, her child's speech gradually became clearer, and he began attempting increasingly difficult words like “hippopotamus.”





Early Literacy & Early Learning/Child Care

Overview

- **Service Activities:** Distribution of books and literacy resources, parent education on early language development, support and training for early childhood educators, and assistance connecting families to child care and early learning resources.

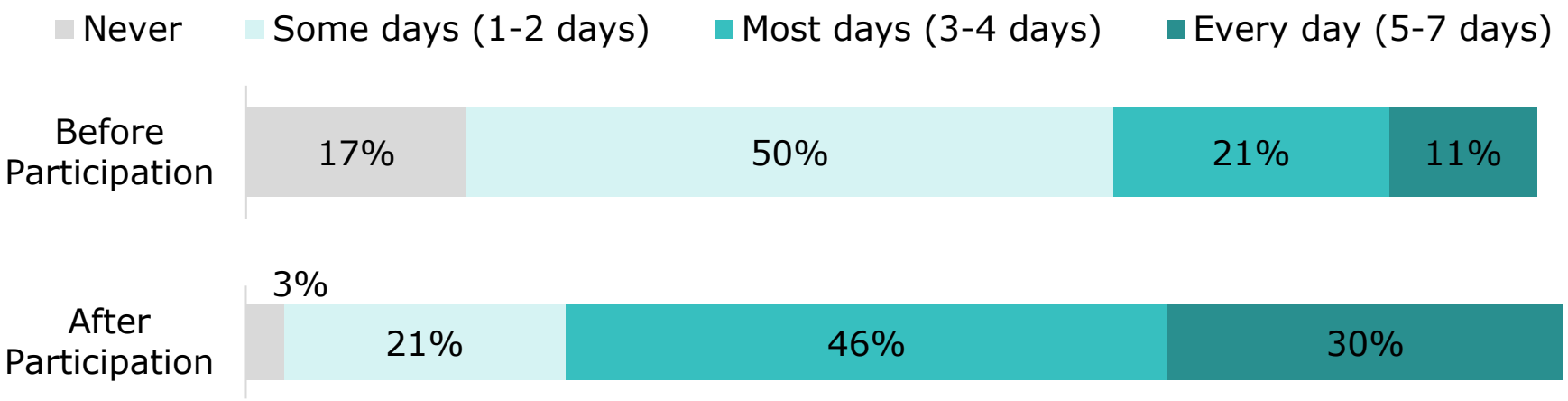
- **Facilitators:** Countywide literacy partnerships, including Placer County Reads, and funded partner support connecting families with available early learning and child care resources.

- **Challenges & Context:** Barriers to accessing child care that meets families' needs, particularly cost, limited availability, and scheduling constraints.

Early Literacy

Families reported more frequent reading at home, surpassing state averages:

76% of families reported increased frequency of reading and storytelling



Early Literacy

Families participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library reported positive changes across early literacy outcomes:

96% of parents reported increased interest in reading among their children

96% of parents that DPIL helped their family save money on books

94% of parents reported improvements in their children's literacy skills

91% of parents reported regularly reading books with their child after participating

Early Learning and Childcare

64% of families reported that finding childcare that met their needs was easy or very easy, a slight increase compared to last FY (60%)

Primary difficulties finding childcare included:

- **52%** cost
- **29%** available hours
- **24%** no available slots when needed
- **14%** not convenient/too far





Family Strengthening

Overview

- **Service Activities:** Parenting education and coaching, home visiting, family mentorship and peer support, and individualized navigation and connections to basic needs and community services.

- **Facilitators:** Trusted relationships and coordination across community partners, individualized support, and connections to resources that help families navigate multiple service systems.

- **Challenges & Context:** Families navigating interconnected needs, including substance use, housing and financial instability, and barriers to accessing services, which may require sustained, flexible support.

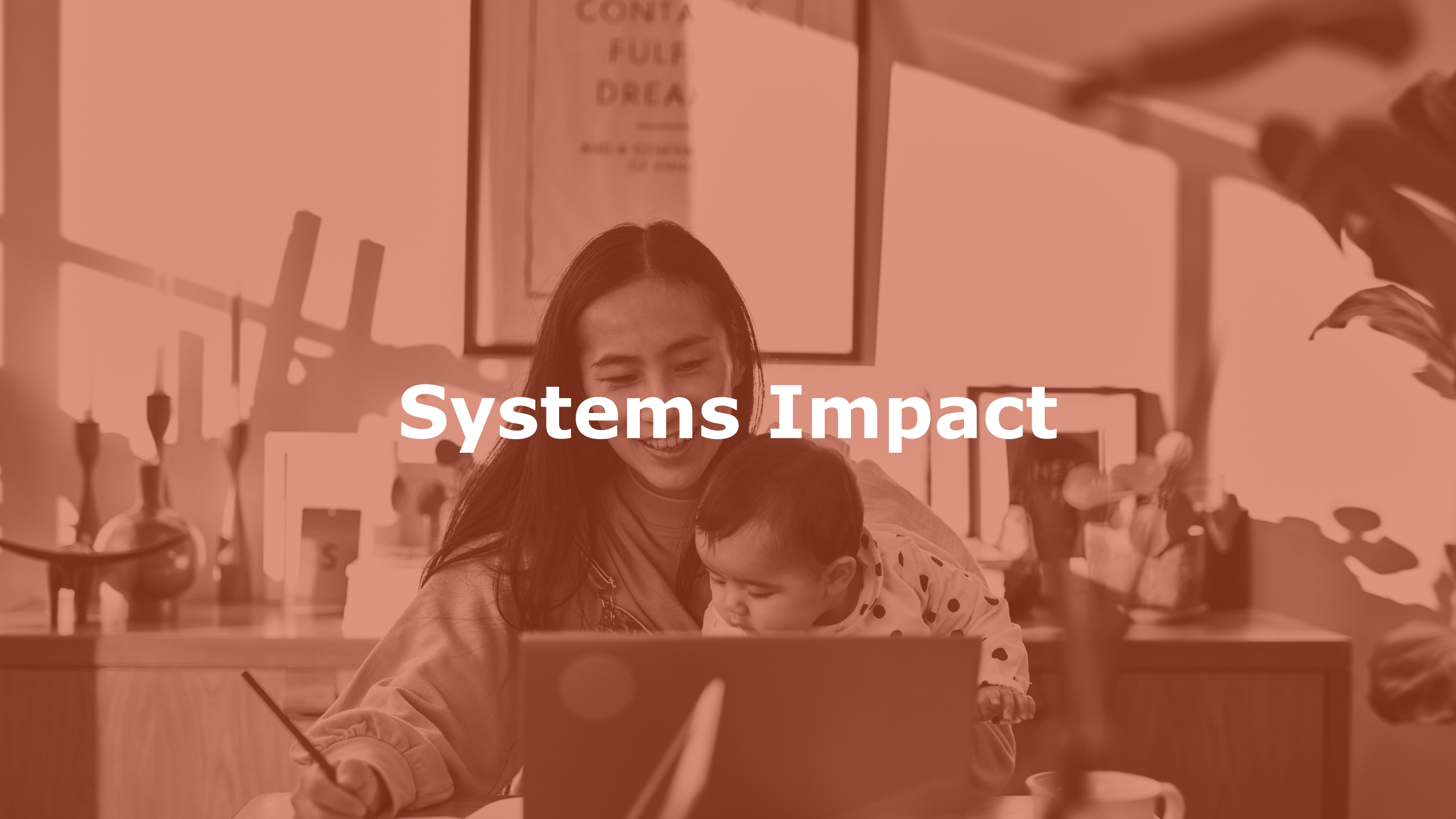
Family Strengthening

Parents reported a range of benefits from participating in programs, including:

- **95%** better able to set goals as a family
- **93%** gained knowledge of available services
- **92%** felt more support in times of need
- **90%** developed a better understanding of how to care for their child
- **87%** increased confidence as parents

"[This program] helped us tremendously by giving us the support we needed to complete the services to successfully reunify with our son and be the best parents we can be for him."

-Parent



Systems Impact

Systems Impact

First 5 Placer strengthens infrastructure around services for 0-5 children and their families through:

- Strengthening coordination and sustainability
- Building relationship and provider capacity
- Leveraging partnerships across the system
- Grant-funded systems investments





Continuous Learning & Improvement

Continuous Learning & Improvement

- Continue examining factors affecting families' access to essential services
- Explore what education partners are seeing as children enter school
- Continue refining the definition and rationale for priority populations
- Explore collaborative funding approaches to strengthen sustainability and capacity




Thank You