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## **First 5 Sacramento Awarded \$4.1 Million in Funding for Health and Development Programs Serving Young Children and their Parents**

*Programs aimed at dental and health services, developmental screenings and referrals, and preparing children for kindergarten.*

Sacramento, CA—The First 5 Sacramento Commission awarded several community based organizations a combined **\$4,137,450** million over a three year period beginning July 2015 to address the following critical areas and improve outcomes for children ages zero through five.

### **Health and Dental Outreach, Screening and Utilization Services**

1. Link children and families to medical and dental homes by utilizing a team of health navigators targeting families accessing emergency departments for primary care: \$918,120 awarded to Healthy Community Forum of the Greater Sacramento Region DBA Sacramento Covered.
2. Provide oral health education; dental screenings; fluoride varnish applications; and navigation assistance targeting families utilizing WIC services and underserved preschools: \$918,120 awarded to the Department of Health and Human Services Smile Keepers Program.
3. Operate a children's dental center in Galt targeting low-income families in the southern region of Sacramento County: \$500,000 to WellSpace Health.

### **School Readiness**

1. Conduct developmental screenings, referrals and family support services to children and families served by transitional housing programs. Additional services include the outreach and education to health providers, case workers, and community agencies: \$765,100 to the Sacramento County Office of Education.
2. Provide community based early learning and development programs; structured playgroups; kindergarten transition services; parent education and/or engagement activities. Three agencies were awarded funding: \$409,311 to the Sacramento Public Library Authority; \$249,655 to Target Excellence, Inc.; and \$377,144 to the Crocker Art Museum.

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“The Commission is pleased to fund these cutting-edge programs to ensure that Sacramento County’s children are healthy and ready to learn when they enter kindergarten,” shared Toni J. Moore, Executive Director for First 5 Sacramento. “Additionally these programs will provide parents and caregivers with the necessary tools to ensure their children reach their greatest potential and succeed in life.”

In addition, funding in the amount of \$530,000 was awarded to Applied Survey Research for program evaluation services to coincide with the three-year funding cycle.

“With Proposition 10 dollars, First 5 Sacramento is reaching children who have historically fallen through the cracks by providing them a variety of early intervention and preventive programs,” explained Phil Serna, Chair of both the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and First 5 Sacramento Commission. “First 5’s innovative programs will improve health and early education outcomes for young children and expectant moms by increasing awareness and enhancing access to critical services.”

For more information refer to the February Commission Meeting located on the First 5 Sacramento website at [www.First5Sacramento.net](http://www.First5Sacramento.net).

### **About First 5 Sacramento**

Research shows that 90% of a child’s brain develops in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child’s growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. The First 5 Sacramento Commission oversees the allocation from Proposition 10, a tobacco tax, funding local child development, education, and health programs for children ages prenatal to five.

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