



ADVOCATES  
— *for* —  
CHANGE

First 5 Alameda County Policy Platform 2013-15

**FIRST 5**



**ALAMEDA  
COUNTY**

## POLICY AGENDA OVERVIEW

Advocating for policies and programs that promote the health and well-being of children during their most critical years of development is a key role for F5AC. We work on multiple levels to support the creation of an early childhood system of care including coordination, support, and linking early childhood policy efforts across the county. We monitor key legislative and budget issues affecting early childhood systems and participate in local, state, and national policy efforts to promote our work and to learn from other innovative initiatives.

## POLICY GOAL SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria were used to develop the First 5 Alameda County policy goals:

### ALIGNMENT

The policy goals align with other local and state early childhood policy initiatives as well as First 5 Alameda County's Strategic Plan, which supports strategies to ensure children are ready for kindergarten, achieve success in third grade and are free from abuse and neglect.

### IMPACT

The policy has the ability to positively impact a large number of children and families and is linked to research.





## VISION

Every child in Alameda County will have optimal health, development and well-being from birth to 5 to reach his or her greatest potential.

## MISSION

In partnership with the community, First 5 Alameda County supports a countywide continuous prevention and early intervention system that promotes optimal health and development, narrows disparities and improves the lives of children 0 to 5 and their families.



## STRATEGIES TO ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS

- Participation in local, state and national policy initiatives
- Communication of effective policies to support the healthy development of young children
- Development and tracking of early childhood related legislation
- Promotion of early childhood's importance with City, County and State leadership
- Involvement of families in early childhood policy development and decision making processes
- Convenings of early childhood partners to discuss policy issues and develop recommendations



## FAMILIES

- Increased access and availability of mental health services for families
- Increased access to home visiting services
- Hospitals and community based programs have lactation friendly policies and programs
- Families are economically self sufficient



## CHILDREN

- Children transition successfully from early care and education to kindergarten
- Expanded access to quality early care and education programs starting at birth
- All children receive developmental screening to increase early identification & linkages to supports
- Expanded neighborhood-based early intervention and school readiness programs
- Expanded early childhood preventive mental health services

A photograph of two young children in a classroom. The child in the foreground is a young girl with dark hair, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt, looking towards the camera with a neutral expression. The child in the background is another young girl with dark hair, wearing a striped shirt, looking down and to the left. The background is slightly blurred, showing a white grid-like structure, possibly a bookshelf or a partition.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM

- Coordinated Alameda County early childhood system of care that includes countywide children's outcomes and budget
- Expanded focus on pediatric services within health care reform
- Realignment of County, State and Federal funding to support services for children birth to five to take effective services to scale



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