

Vision: California’s children receive the best possible start in life and thrive.

2021–22 CHILDREN’S POLICY AGENDA

First 5 California will advocate for the strong start all children deserve by prioritizing children prenatal through age 5 and families from historically marginalized communities, to optimize early childhood development, reduce childhood poverty, and increase learning readiness. First 5 California’s efforts will focus on addressing the needs of struggling children and families, recognizing the disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic racism have had on low-income communities and communities of color.

RESILIENT FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Support effective parent education and engagement, including parent engagement on child brain development, early literacy, and *Talk. Read. Sing.*®

Support sustainability of Family Resource Centers and other comprehensive community hubs for integrated services for children and families.

Support multi-generational family strengthening policies including economic security, breastfeeding resources, paid family leave, and a fair work week, for California’s highest need families.

Expand access to voluntary home visit programs.

Ensure digital equity across family serving systems, including access to broadband and the necessary devices that are important in bridging the gap in telehealth and early learning services.

CHILD HEALTH

Protect children and families’ access to health care, and support coordination across health systems to ensure affordable and comprehensive health insurance coverage and services for every child and mother, prenatal through age 5.

Support and promote universal developmental, behavioral, and ACEs screenings, linkages to appropriate services, and seamless coordination across systems to improve outcomes for children and families.

EARLY LEARNING

Expand access to safe, quality early care and education programs for children ages 0 to 3.

Support implementation of safe, high-quality universal preschool access for all low-income three- and four-year-old children, and safe, high-quality transitional kindergarten and kindergarten state-wide.

Define, measure, and achieve school readiness for all California children.

Support a healthy, safe, and high-quality early learning workforce through adequate compensation, stability, diversity, health and safety policies and supports, and robust professional development systems.

Promote statewide access to and participation in quality improvement systems.

REVENUE

Promote inclusion of funding for children ages 0 to 5 and their families in existing and new revenue policy proposals.

Promote regulation of tobacco-related products, including electronic cigarettes, and sustainability of licensing and enforcement programs.

Promote inclusion of funding for prenatal and 0 to 3 two-generation prevention strategies in new tax funding structures.