

## Summary of Policy Recommendations for Home Visiting Expansion Dollars in Fiscal Year 2019–20

On February 5, 2019, the First 5 Association, the California Children & Families Foundation, and First 5 Los Angeles drafted a memo for the Newsom Administration with policy recommendations. The memo is summarized below.

*Expand the California Home Visiting Program to a larger pool of counties:* The State should adopt federal guidelines to allow 25 percent of its California Home Visiting Program funds to support innovative home visiting models and to allow more evidence-based models currently used throughout California to receive funding. Expansion of eligible programs would open eligibility up to many additional counties and greatly increase the number of families receiving services.

*Dedicate resources to cross-agency coordination:* The need for coordination – on data collection and evaluation, training, and communication with counties – is essential for success of the two state-administered home visiting programs. The California Health and Human Services Agency should support alignment across the California Department of Public Health and California Department of Social Services home visiting offices to maximize federal funding leveraging opportunities.

*Local coordination grants for CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative counties:* Investments should be made to improve local coordination efforts between county departments of social services, departments of public health, and First 5s to ensure the CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative is successful. Local coordination grants could greatly enhance the coordination across home visiting systems where multiple efforts exist.

*Workforce development and innovation:* Funding should be dedicated to the study of the existing home visiting workforce and workforce pipeline, and infrastructure needs and considerations to prepare, retain, and expand a well-qualified, consistent home visiting workforce.

*Implement funding to maximize child outcomes and build the foundation for family supports:* The Administration should adopt a few approaches to implementing funding of the CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative, including making innovation grants to counties testing innovative multidisciplinary models, model enhancements, or embedded services; directing a portion of new Home Visiting Initiative funding to systems building activities early in FY 2019–20 to help build the capacity of counties to prepare to serve more families; and clarifying that First 5s are eligible entities to receive state home visiting funding.