

First 5 Tehama
Annual Report Funding Year 2005-2006
Executive Summary

Background

In November 1998, California voters passed the California Children and Families Act, also known as Proposition 10, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes. The Act provides funds to create a comprehensive and integrated delivery system of information and services to improve child health, strengthen families, and help children be ready to learn by the time they start school. It applies to children, prenatal to age 5, and their families and caregivers. This initiative became known as "First 5" to emphasize the importance of the first five years of a child's life. The Tehama County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance creating the Tehama County Children and Families Commission, currently known as First 5 Tehama. First 5 Tehama oversees the implementation of the tobacco tax allocations and supplemental funding from the First 5 California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California) and distributes approximately \$940,000 a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

The driving force of First 5 Tehama can be found in its mission statement:

"All Tehama County children will be born healthy and thrive in safe, supportive, nurturing, and loving environments; and will enter school as healthy, active, socially appropriate learners."

Major Accomplishments in FY 2005-06

Highlights of First 5 accomplishments in 2005-06 include:

1. Growth in services and participants since 2004-05
 - 64% increase in children served intensively, 150% increase in children served in groups; 71% in parents/guardians served intensively, 11% increase in parents served in groups
 - 68% increase in home visits, 45% increase in classes offered, 26% increase in in-person consultation services
2. Overall improvement in health access for families served intensively
3. More special needs children identified and served compared to the previous year

4. First 5 is effectively reaching Spanish speaking families:
 - 63% of participants in programs to strengthen families are Spanish-speaking
 - One third of St. Elizabeth's perinatal class participants are Spanish-speaking
5. First 5 initiatives are reaching the residents of Corning:
 - 33% of CCRE Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregiver activities are in Corning
 - One third of St. Elizabeth's perinatal classes are in Corning
6. High levels of participant satisfaction reported in surveys for all funded programs

Program-level accomplishments

Direct Services Efforts:

Project: School Readiness Initiative--Gerber/Los Molinos School Readiness Program

The School Readiness program was fully implemented in Central Tehama County at the First Steps Family Resource Center housed at Los Molinos Elementary School which serves both the Gerber and Los Molinos Elementary School Districts. The fiscal agent for the project is the Tehama County Department of Education. Children under the age of five and their families who have been historically underserved due to the rural nature of their address were targeted for participation. The program addresses the needs of a rural county through a combination of home based and school based services with attention to reach out to non-English speaking families. Transportation services are provided to enable families to participate in project activities and to obtain needed services.

The School Readiness program supports children 0-5 by providing, supporting, and advocating for early care and child development programs and services, family support, provision of and/or referral to basic health care, counseling, nutrition services, child abuse and prevention services, transportation services, and building school capacity.

Services have had a positive impact on children and families. Children are learning school readiness skills, parents are becoming more familiar with school and more involved, children are receiving check-ups and immunizations in a timely manner, and KinderCamp is beginning to help build confidence and ultimately school success.

The School Readiness program has bridged the gaps in linkage to services that were often times unavailable or unknown to the local communities within the county. Families and schools were brought together, reducing stigma and increasing communication. Through collaboration with schools, county agencies, families and other providers, we were able to identify specific needs/goals of the community members and provide programs or link services that were of direct benefit to the community.

Project: Family Start

Northern California Child Development, Inc., implemented their Direct Services grant funded project known as the Family Start Early Intervention Collaborative Project. This bilingual (English/Spanish) family-focused early intervention home visiting program serves pregnant women and families with children 0 to 5, with priority given to children 0 to 3.

Family Start involves intensive and comprehensive home visitation, including educating parents about child development, developing a plan based on the parents' needs and desires, and obtaining needed resources. Services are provided through home visits, socializations at Head Start Centers and field trips in the community.

Home visitors assist families in obtaining access to health care by obtaining insurance coverage and identifying a source of regular health care. Compared to their access to health care at the time of intake, the percentage of children with health insurance, dental insurance and a medical home increased in six months. All participating families had health insurance and a regular source of medical care for their children, and 90% had dental insurance at the six-month follow-up. The percent of children with recommended well child care increased from 62% of children at intake to 95% of children at six month follow up.

The DADS program, operated by the Tehama County Health Services Agency, Drug/Alcohol Division, is a 16-week, 3 session per week program of substance abuse treatment, parenting education and parent support for fathers. In 2005-06, 7 (26%) of 27 participants completed the DADS program of 16 classes.

Project: Genesis

New Directions to Hope, a local non-profit, continued to implement its First 5 Tehama Direct Services grant-funded project, the Genesis Project. In collaboration with community referral sources, specialized professional therapeutic services were delivered to pregnant women and children 0 to 5. The Genesis Project offers three primary components: 1) in-home therapeutic support services; 2) office and school-based therapeutic and educational services; and 3) community outreach and education of professionals. The Project provides training for mental health professionals in early childhood issues, training for community (parents, care providers, etc.) in issues related to children age 0 to 5, and development of resource and referral partnerships to benefit target population.

Clients have received intensive, comprehensive and holistic therapeutic services aimed at improving family functioning for the target population. Children 0 to 5 are benefiting by growing up in more functional, healthy homes. They are better prepared for school as their family literacy activities increase; are healthier as the family receives appropriate referrals for health and dental services; and receive appropriate mental health care for themselves and family members that impact the development and life of the child.

In 2005-06, there was an increase in children served by Genesis who had health insurance and parents reporting an increase in family literacy activities with their children. However, Genesis families continued to struggle to provide ongoing preventive health and dental care for their children. Satisfaction with the program as measured by a self report survey showed that 73% of respondents strongly agreed that they learned new skills and that counselors made useful suggestions and referrals. 53% of respondents strongly agreed that their family relationships had improved.

Project: Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Program

Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) Program, a joint project with Local Child Care Planning Council and Tehama County Department of Education, completed a successful second year with 34 total participants - 23 returning and 11 new, including 7 private center staff, 8 Head Start staff, 15 Family Child Care home providers/assistants, and four family/friend/neighbor providers. A total of \$24,971 was paid in stipends. The CARES Program goals include supporting, educating, and retaining committed and qualified licensed childcare providers to ensure quality child care services for children & families.

New providers received many professional growth hours through Early Childhood Education (ECE) trainings offered throughout the county while returning participants showed an increase in ECE units as well in addition to professional growth hours. Participants voiced a continued desire to remain in the field and an increased interest in applying for a Child Development Permit. Sixteen providers applied for a Child Development Permit. Six providers who serve children with special needs received a stipend.

Project: Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Caregiver Outreach Program

Child Care Referral and Education (CCRE) operate the Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Caregiver Outreach Program. The program continues to provide outreach, support, and training activities for family, friend, and neighbor child caregivers and Spanish-speaking caregivers through home visits, outreach, workshops, and technical assistance. Approximately 88 FFN caregivers working with children ages 0-5 were served this year, as well as 30 parents and 147 children in that age group. Activities included free workshops and trainings on various child development topics for providers and parents; "Morning Out" and Playdates in the Park for children; Incentive program for providers who attend trainings/workshops where caregivers receive educational materials, health and safety items, such as first aid kits, fire extinguishers, and outlet covers, and gift certificates for educational catalogs; Information on child development issues, assistance with licensing, and linkages to other community resources. Four FFN caregivers applied and qualified for the CARES stipend program. Six participants applied for a child care license and four received a child care provider license.

Project: St. Elizabeth Community Hospital (SECH) Perinatal Education Program

Prior to this program, there were no perinatal education classes in Spanish and only one childbirth class in English, taught by someone outside the community. The program is designed for prenatal parents and their support people; provides postpartum services, including infant massage classes and basic breastfeeding support; and referral services. Other perinatal classes are: childbirth, water birth, breast feeding, and baby basics. Special classes have been designed for special interest groups such as Latinos, rural teens, and most recently those in juvenile hall. The program has also successfully trained staff as childbirth and lactation educators. This past year, approximately 220 pregnant women participated in the classes which represents about one-third of all of the infants born in Tehama County.

Satisfaction with the perinatal classes was high, with 99% of 168 participants reporting they were completely satisfied. There was a 47% completion rate for the multi session childbirth preparation classes. For Spanish speakers and teens, the completion rate for a four session course was 82%.

Systems-level accomplishments

There were two major systems levels accomplishments in 2005-06: (1) integrated services for at risk families with children 0 to 5 in target communities and (2) adoption of community indicators to measure progress in achieving the desired results in the revised Strategic Plan.

Integrated Services for Families

In Tehama County, continued commitment to collaboration has extended the reach of First 5 funding and added depth and richness to services to high-risk families in isolated rural settings. In the past year three major First 5 funded projects serving families in the county have worked closely together to maximize services, eliminate duplication and ensure that the greatest number of families in need are served appropriately. This effort has been effectively targeted in Gerber, Los Molinos and Corning.

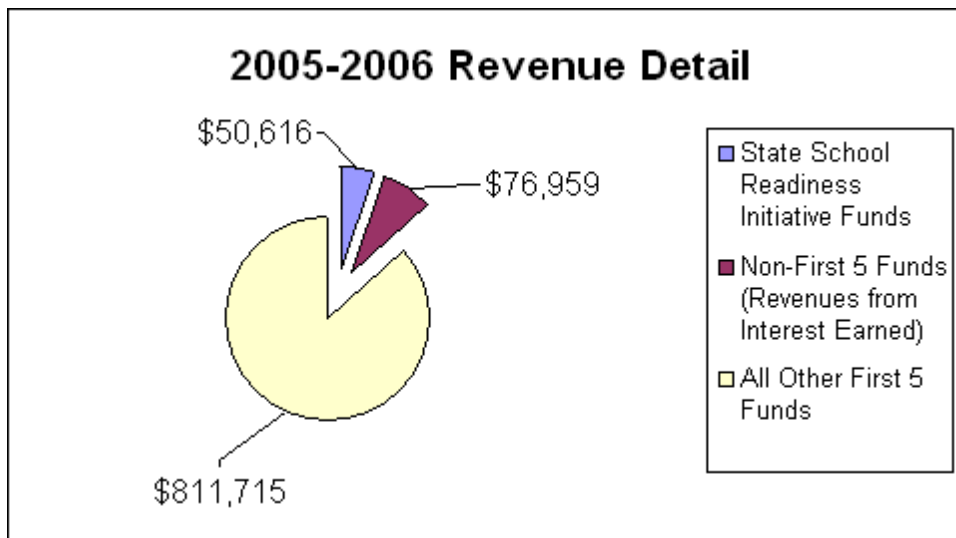
The three projects include the school readiness project implemented in two schools (Gerber and Los Molinos Elementary Schools) and their respective districts, Family Start

implemented by Northern California Child Development Inc. and Genesis implemented by New Directions to Hope. All three projects offer case management and home visitation services. Project staff worked together in the past year, meeting monthly to review work with individual families and assure that they were receiving the most comprehensive and tailored services to meet their needs. Using a common referral and consent form, school readiness project staff, Genesis therapists and Family Start home visitors, shared information, concerns and insights on a regular basis on individual families and needed services. Evidence of close collaboration includes the full caseloads in all projects. Regular communication among staff of all three projects improved the quality of services to families and extended the benefit of First 5 funding.

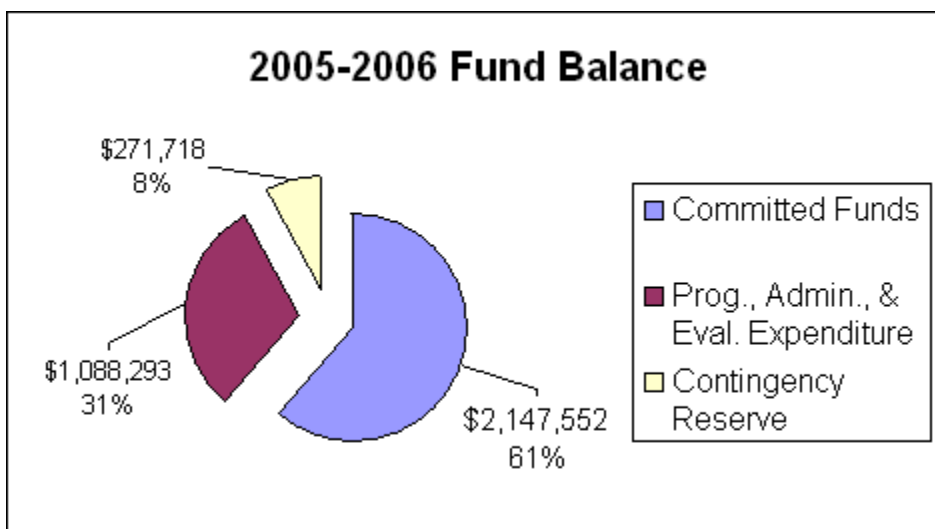
Adoption of Community Indicators

Tehama County First 5 adopted a new set of streamlined community indicators to measure progress in meeting the four goals in the Strategic Plan: improved child health, improved family functioning, improved child development and comprehensive integrated services. The community indicators mirror measures adopted in other organization's plans and assessments in order to integrate county efforts at the highest level. Indicators were drawn from the Local Child Care Planning Council, the Child Welfare Redesign effort, and the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Plan. The Commission assessed the indicators using the three criteria from Results Based Accountability: Communication Power, Proxy Power, and Data Power. The new indicators were integrated into the annual report for Tehama County First 5 along with performance measures for funded programs to measure progress in meeting the goals of the Strategic Plan.

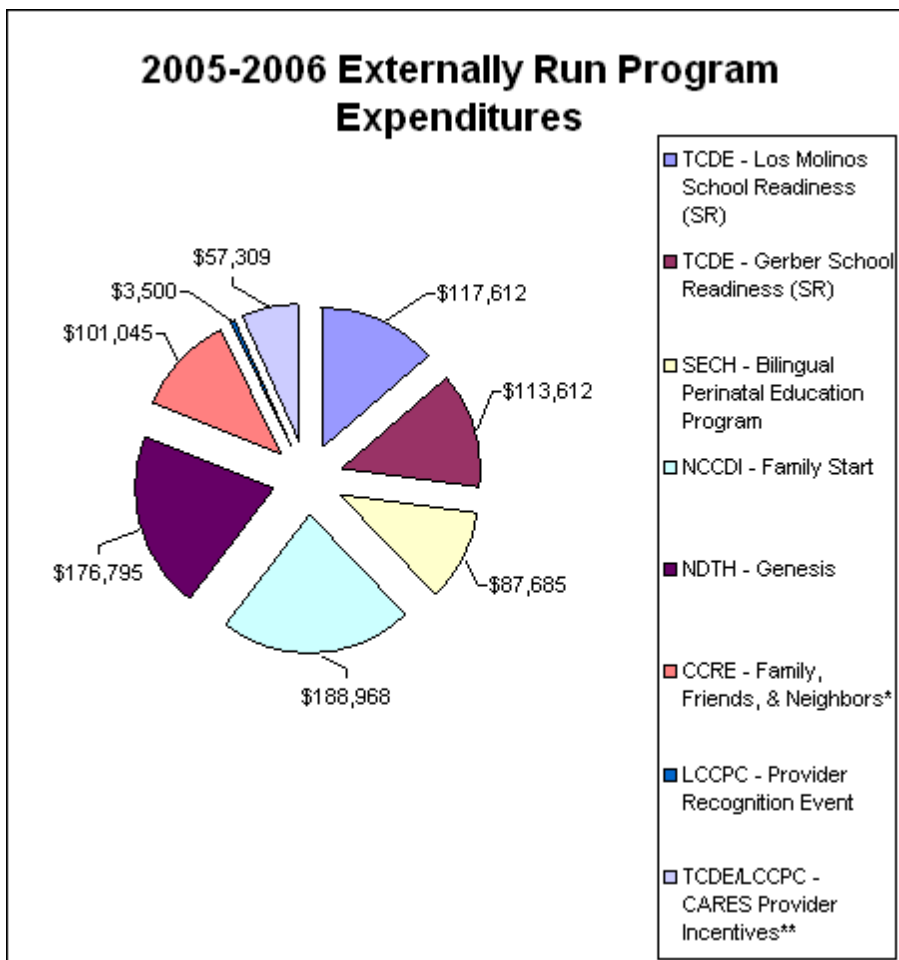
FY 2005-2006 Revenue Detail	
State School Readiness Initiative Funds	\$50,616
Non-First 5 Funds (Revenues from Interest Earned)	\$76,959
All Other First 5 Funds	\$811,715
Total Revenues	\$939,290



2005-2006 Fund Balance	
Funds Available	\$3,507,563.00
Committed Funds	\$2,147,552.00
Prog., Admin., & Eval. Expenditure	\$1,088,293.00
Contingency Reserve	\$271,718.00



2005-2006 Program Expenditures Detail: Externally Run Programs	
Program Name	
TCDE - Los Molinos School Readiness (SR)	\$117,612
TCDE - Gerber School Readiness (SR)	\$113,612
SECH - Bilingual Perinatal Education Program	\$87,685
NCCDI - Family Start	\$188,968
NDTH - Genesis	\$176,795
CCRE - Family, Friends, & Neighbors*	\$101,045
LCCPC - Provider Recognition Event	\$3,500
TCDE/LCCPC - CARES Provider Incentives**	\$57,309



*Caregiver Support Program

**Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards