



2016 Steering Committee:

Rosemary Almand
Margaret Bartelt
Amapola Beenn
Tracey Black
Leah Branson
Alexandra Caraballo
Jenna Churchman
Franca Cioria
Kim Di Giacomo
Mary Anne Doan
Clarissa Doutherd
Relena D. Ellis
Diana Engel
Carlota Escarez
Carmen Gonzalez

Renee Herzfeld, Chair

Margaret Jerene
Judy Kriege
Laura McNair
Jean Monroe

Melanie Mueller, Chair Elect

Ramil Rivera
Sandra Rodriguez
Sandra Taylor
Carol Thompson
Veronica Ufoegbune

Planning Council Staff:

LaWanda Wesley

ECE Quality Manager
LPC Program Coordinator
Phone: 510-208-9651
lawanda.wesley@acgov.org

Ellen Dektar

Senior Management Analyst
Phone: 510-208-9578
ellen.dektar@acgov.org

Michael Panori

Program Support
Phone: 510-208-9620
michael.panori@acgov.org



1401 Lakeside Drive, #1116
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: 510-208-9620
Fax: 510-208-9579
www.acgov.org/childcare

DRAFT

November 21, 2016

Dr. Pamela Simms-Mackey, Chair
Alameda County First Five Commission
1115 Atlantic
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear First Five Commissioners and Staff,

Thank you for many years of support for young children and for the hard work you put into your latest strategic plan. We especially appreciate the difficult task of handling declining revenue.

As strong advocates for quality early care and education (ECE), we see a mismatch between your School Readiness research, strategic plan interviews and your funding allocations. On page 14, the Strategic Plan says "Access to childcare/cost of quality childcare" is the number one theme from the community. However, you decreased funding in this category by \$1.5 million, similar to the Home Visiting cut. First Five's recent School Readiness study points to quality preschool or Transitional Kindergarten attendance as a significant contributor to school readiness.

According to your proposed budget starting in 2019/2020:

- Quality ECE expenditures will be lower than Parent Engagement and Support and Neighborhood strategies by \$500,000 and \$2 million, respectively.
- The \$1.75 million collective budget for Early Identification, Fatherhood, and Innovation will constitute a larger investment than Quality ECE.

The Planning Council also strongly supports the Capital Investment category in the "Neighborhoods Ready for School" section. Expanding access to ECE facilities is a key performance measure for the Planning Council due to their critical role in supporting child care quality and access. We can see in Oakland how the lack of facilities resources has directly inhibited the provision of ECE. For example: although Oakland Head Start has funding for subsidies, the search for adequate facilities has resulted in the delay of service for 108 children.

We propose that you earmark \$1 million for child care facilities, and collaborate with Planning Council staff on implementing this section. For more than 10 years, Planning Council staff have:

- Searched for alternative funding sources from over 30 foundations

- Created or encouraged applications to alternative funding sources such as transportation, land use, and Community Development Block Grant funds
- Supported planning and advocacy for a developer fee for Unincorporated County

While we keep pursuing alternate funding, First Five is the sole source with capacity to fund an ECE facilities intermediary.

Finally, we urge you to continue to fund professional development advisors at community colleges and collaborate with our staff and 25 members appointed by the Board of Supervisors and Alameda County Office of Education in your increased policy work. Your staff plays a key role on our Steering Committee and policy committees and we track the Commission's work. We see joint opportunities to collaborate with city staff, school districts and elected officials on attaining our shared goals.

Thank you. We look forward to continued work together.

Sincerely,

Melanie Mueller
Chair Elect