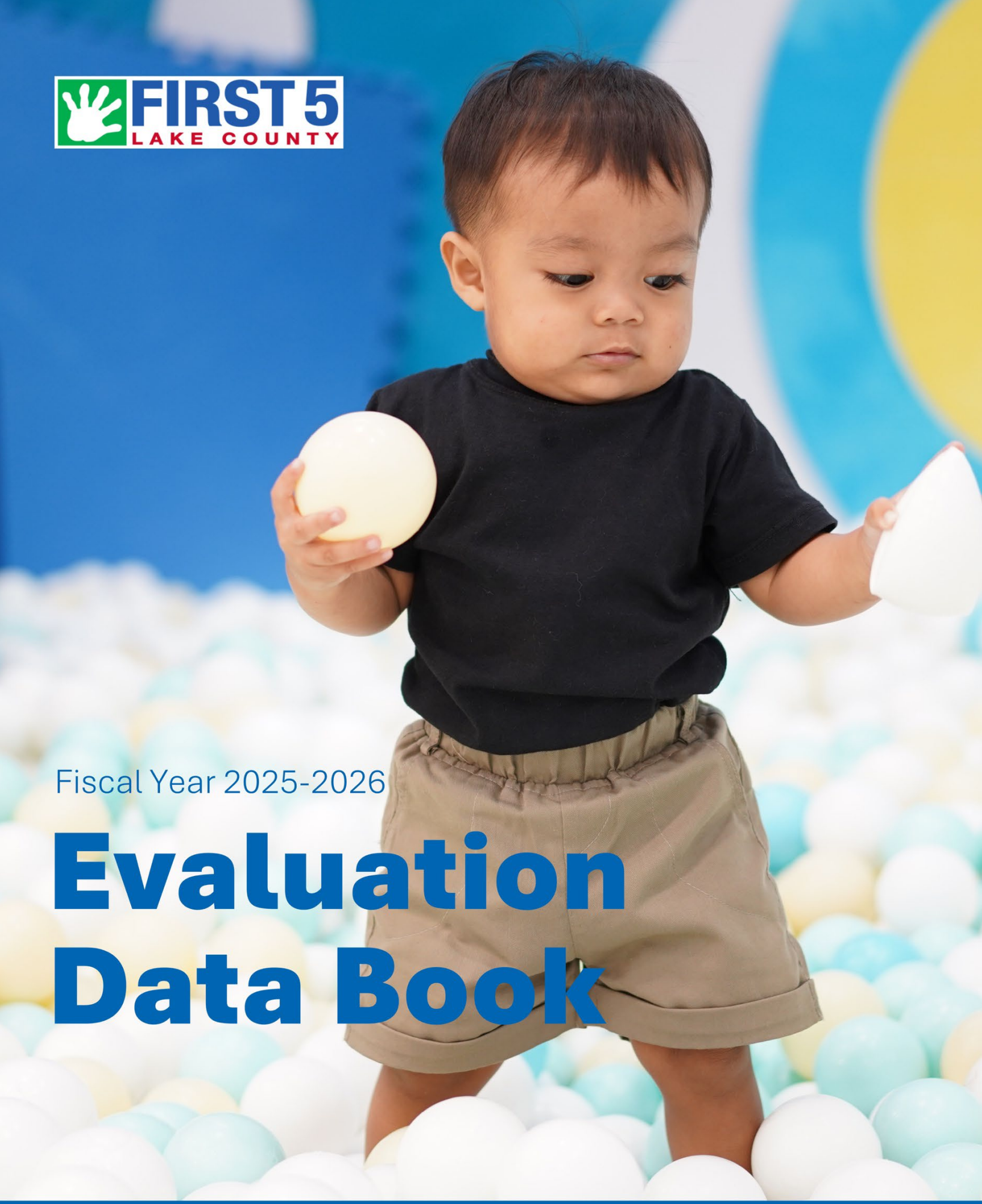

FIRST 5 LAKE COUNTY

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Evaluation Data Book

ASR

Table of Contents

Background & Purpose **1**
First 5 Lake Strategic Plan Alignment: 1
Methodology & Data Limitations 2
Countywide Indicators 3
Clients Served **6**
Clients Served by Program 6
County Service by Demographic 7
Priority Area 1: Child Health **9**
Perinatal Supports 9
Preventive Care 12
Oral Health 13
Basic Needs & Nutrition 14
Safe Environments 17
Priority Area 2: Child Development **20**
ECE Quality 20
Access & Knowledge of ECE Programming 21
Screening & Early Intervention 23
Priority Area 3: Family Support **25**
Understanding Child Development 25
Community Supports & Resources 28
Families Read Together 29
Priority Area 4: Systems of Care **30**
Integrated, Responsive Systems 30
State, County, & Local Policy Advocacy 33
Resources to Sustain High-Impact Initiatives 34
County Evaluation Summary & Highlights **36**
Evaluation Activities 36
County Highlights 38
SPCFA Annual Performance Report (APR) 40

Background & Purpose

The First 5 Lake County Children and Families Commission (herein referred to as "First 5 Lake" or the "Commission") is required to submit an annual audit and report pursuant to Section 130150 of the California Children and Families Act and in accordance with Senate Bill 35 (Chapter 243, Statutes of 2005). The First 5 California Annual Report (AR) contains three sections (*See descriptions of each below*).

AR-1 County Revenue & Expenditure Summary:

The County Revenue and Expenditure Summary form (AR-1) captures First 5 county commission fiscal data showing the relationship between financial resources and services. The fiscal data must be consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and each commission's audited financial statements.

Annual audits are used to fulfill this section of the report and are approved by the Commission separately. This Data Book reports program data only; for a complete account of revenues and expenditures, please refer to the approved annual audit.

AR-2 County Service Demographic Worksheet:

The purpose of the County Demographic Worksheet (AR-2) is to capture demographic information about the population served by each First 5 commission at the county level.

AR-3 County Evaluation Summary and Highlights:

The purpose of the County Evaluation Summary and Highlights (AR-3) is to provide a standardized format for each county commission to submit information about evaluation activities completed and findings reported in its Annual Evaluation Report or other evaluations conducted during the fiscal year. County highlights are reported and will be published in F5CA's Annual Report.

SPCFA Performance Report:

Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) counties are required to submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) as part of the SPCFA grant reporting requirements. The purpose of the APR is to provide First 5 California (F5CA) with a summary of SPCFA-specific program accomplishments, lessons learned, challenges, strategies used to overcome those challenges, and use of resources to inform future funding opportunities and allocations. This report is captured in the AR reporting system in conjunction with the rest of the Annual Report.

First 5 Lake Strategic Plan Alignment:

This report is intended to display the data and alignment to First 5 Lake Strategic Plan. The First 5 Lake Commission defined four key priority areas: Child Health, Child Development, Family Supports, and Systems of Care. These priority areas and objectives are not in direct alignment with First 5 California's Result Areas (Improved Family Support, Improved Child Development, Improved Child Health, and Improved Systems of Care) or Service Categories. The listing of Service Categories under Result Areas is meant to allow for the greatest possible aggregation of county data at the state level, and not to suggest that a particular service or program is narrowly focused on specific outcomes.

In order to best showcase the efforts that First 5 Lake is working towards its Strategic Plan, this report categorizes services in alignment with the First 5 Lake Strategic Plan and makes notes of where it would fall within the AR.

To best showcase First 5 Lake's progress toward its Strategic Plan, this Data Book is organized first by Strategic Priority Area and then by Strategic Result Area. Within each area, program activities and results are aligned with the First 5 Lake's Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Objectives and Key Results (OKRs), where applicable. This structure connects annual program activities and outcomes to First 5 Lake's broader Strategic Plan goals and Annual Report requirements.

Methodology & Data Limitations

Data sources: Program data were reported by funded partners and First 5 Lake County staff through quarterly reports and compiled in the First 5 Lake AR Data Workbook for FY 2025–26. Targets shown in the Key Results tables come from the FY 2025–26 Objectives and Key Results (OKRs), which translate the Strategic Plan 2024–2029 into annual milestones. Countywide indicators are drawn from external sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau and UC Berkeley California Child Welfare Indicators, to provide broader context about children and families in Lake County.

Counting clients served: Lake County does not have a countywide system for identifying individuals who participate in more than one program. As a result, program-level counts may include the same individual more than once (i.e., duplicated), and cannot simply be added together to determine the number of unique children and families served (i.e., unduplicated). For AR-2 reporting, the evaluation analyzed the populations served across programs and estimated the degree of overlap. Based on this analysis, First 5 Lake estimates duplication among children and caregivers at approximately 10-15%, with moderate confidence. For providers reached through multiple First 5 Lake efforts, duplication is estimated at approximately 40–50%, with high confidence. Additionally, some client counts are not included in the AR-2 due to the requirements surrounding what is to be included in the overall count.

Age: "Children 0-5" includes children from birth up to their sixth birthday, consistent with First 5 California definitions. Some partners report demographic information for every child who participated, including children older than five.

Race/ethnicity and language: First 5 Lake County uses its established data collection categories. The FY 2025–26 Annual Report Guidelines introduced new categories, such as Middle Eastern or North African and Tagalog, after this year's collection tools were already in use; they will be considered for future years.

Surveys: Before-and-after surveys are not matched at the individual level, and sample sizes tend to be small. Results describe what participants reported and should not be read as statistically tested change.

Missing data: At the time of compilation, fourth-quarter data were not available for the Car Seat Program or the Home Visiting Collaborative. Results presented in this Data Book reflect the data available at the time of reporting and will be updated if additional data are received prior to final reporting.

Systems-level work: Many Strategic Plan objectives are advanced through collaboration, planning, and advocacy rather than direct services. For these efforts, the Data Book reports milestones and participation in place of clients served.

Countywide Indicators

Families with young children in Lake County face significant economic and social stressors that can shape children and family well-being. These indicators provide countywide context for the conditions experienced by children and families in Lake County and inform First 5 Lake County's investments across its Strategic Plan priority areas.

Countywide Trends		Source
Total Lake County Population	67,772	US Census estimate (2025)
Estimated number of children ages 0-5	4,145	California Department of Finance Projection (2025)
Children under age 6 below the federal poverty level		
County	18.1%	U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates (2023)
State	5.1%	
Children under 18 in poverty		
County	25%	County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2025)
State	17%	
Median family income		
County	$68,631	U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates (2024)
State	$100,149	
Unemployment rate		
County	7%	California Employment Development Dept. (2025)
State	5.4%	
Child maltreatment allegation rate, ages 0-5 *(per 1,000)*		
County	82.5	California Child Welfare Indicators Project (2023)
State	46.9	
Substantiated child maltreatment rate, all children *(per 1,000)*		
County	10.7	California Child Welfare Indicators Project (2024)
State	5.5	
Domestic violence-related calls for assistance		
County	507	California Dept. of Justice OpenJustice (2024)
State	163,024	
Drug overdose mortality rate *(deaths per 100,000)*		
County	91.5	CDC/NCHS mortality data; USAFacts county extraction (2024)
State	21.7	
Suicide mortality rate *(deaths per 100,000)*		
County	19.6	NIH HDPulse Data Portal (NCI/CDC mortality files) (2020-2024)
State	10.0	
Households without a broadband internet subscription		

County	12.9%	U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates (2024)
State	44.9	
Any perinatal mental health condition at delivery		
County	14.8%	CDPH, three-year estimates (2022-2024)
State	8.7%	
Any or exclusive breastfeeding at hospital discharge		
County	71.4%	CDPH, three-year estimates (2022-2024)
State	68.8%	
Children under 18 participating in CalFresh		
County	5,104	California Dept. of Social Services CalFresh Data Dashboard (2025)
State	1,913,371	
Estimated child food insecurity rate		
County	22.6%	Feeding America Map the Meal Gap (2023)
State	16.9%	
Residents enrolled in Medi-Cal *(interim proxy; not limited to ages 0–5)*		
County	49.15%	UC Berkeley Labor Center analysis of DHCS enrollment data (2026)
State	35%	
Children under age 6 without health insurance		
County	1.6%	U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates (2024)
State	2.6%	
Licensed child care facilities		
County	91	California Child Care Resource & Referral Network Data Tool (2023)
State	35, 836	
Licensed center infant and preschool *(spaces per 200 children)*		
County	13.7	California Dept. of Finance population projections (2023)
State	22.8	
Median full-time monthly child care price by age and setting		
Family Child Care		Lake County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council (2025)
Infant	$1,100	
Toddler	$1,300	
Preschool	$1,000	
School Age	$1,000	
Center Based Childcare		
Infant	$1,200	
Toddler	N/A	
Preschool	$900	
School Age	$550	

Students reported in a preschool special education setting		
Count	5.8%	California Department of Education DataQuest (2025-2026)
State	6.1%	
Transitional kindergarten enrollment		
County	278	California Dept. of Education DataQuest (2024-2025)
State	177,570	
Kindergarten enrollment		
County	755	California Dept. of Education DataQuest (2024-2025)
State	366,002	

Clients Served

Clients Served by Program

The program-level counts in the chart below include some individuals more than once, and cannot be used to determine the number of unique individuals served. See Methodology & Data Limitations for more.

Program by Strategic Priority Area	Children 0-5	Parents/ Caregivers	Providers
Child Health			
Home Visiting	247*	207*	7*
Transportation Supports	-	27	-
Perinatal Mental Health Screening Project	-	-	-
Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Advisory Board	-	-	-
Oral Health Advisory Committee	-	-	-
Breastfeeding Coalition	-	-	-
General Nutrition	-	-	-
Diaper Program	-	-	-
Children's Council & Resilient Lake	-	-	12*
Car Seat Safety Program	94	77	1
Safe Sleep	-	-	-
Child Development			
Pyramid Model Training	140	152	23
Local Child Care Planning Council & Universal Pre-Kindergarten	-	-	72**
Child Care Landscape	-	-	-
Early Start Collaborative	-	-	-
Safe Choices, Stronger Communities	-	-	60*
Family Support			
Motherhood and Fatherhood is Sacred	1	1	-
Positive Indian Parenting Collaborative	-	-	-
HOPE Framework	-	-	37**
Rooted & Regulated	13	23	7
Imagination Library	2,754	3,055	-
Systems of Care			
Cross-Sector Participation	-	-	-
Science of the Positive	-	-	-
Title IV-E Trainings	-	5*	414*
Policy & Public Advocacy	-	-	-
Manage Care Plan Engagement	-	-	-
Small Population Counties	-	-	-
Total (Duplicated)	3,249	3,546	524

*Some programs will not be reported in the F5CA AR due to the Result Area Type classification and reporting requirements.
** Provider number is duplicated in Title IV-E, not counted in Total.

County Service by Demographic

Total Population Served	Count	Percent*
Children less than 3 years old	1,914	28%
Children from 3rd to 6th birthday	1,087	16%
Children, age unknown (birth to 6th birthday)	1	0%
Primary caregivers	3,340	49%
Providers	524	8%
Total	6,866	-

Children Served, by Ethnicity	Count	Percent*
American Indian/Alaska Native	17	5%
Asian	7	2%
Black or African American	8	2%
Hispanic/Latino	181	49%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	1%
White	128	35%
2 or more	27	7%
Other	0	0%
Unknown	2,632	-
Total	3,002	-

Parents/ Caregivers Served, by Ethnicity	Count	Percent*
American Indian/Alaska Native	10	4%
Asian	4	2%
Black or African American	6	2%
Hispanic/Latino	129	49%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	1%
White	98	37%
2 or more	15	6%
Other	1	0%
Unknown	3,075	-
Total	3,340	-

Children Served, by Language	Count	Percent*
English	2,602	86%
Spanish	430	14%
Cantonese	0	0%
Mandarin	0	0%
Vietnamese	0	0%
Korean	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Unknown	37	-
Total	3,069	-

Parents/ Caregivers Served, by Language	Count	Percent*
English	184	69%
Spanish	83	31%
Cantonese	0	0%
Mandarin	0	0%
Vietnamese	0	0%
Korean	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Unknown	3,073	-
Total	3,340	-

*Percentages calculated amongst those for whom data were available; excludes "Unknown."
**Language and Ethnicity data do not match the totals due to the reporting number given by grantees.
***Provider Language and Ethnicity data is not reported for the F5CA AR-2, therefore is not shown here.
****Home Visiting counts reflect clients of MOU partner agencies rather than First 5 Lake funded services. Therefore, they are not included in the counts listed in this section.

Priority Area 1: Child Health

Perinatal Supports

Families have access to Perinatal Supports

Home Visiting

Strategic Plan Strategy
Home Visitor and Doula trainings and coordination efforts.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Health Systems

Program Description

The Home Visiting Collaborative brings together agencies serving families with young children across Lake County to strengthen coordination and connection among home visiting programs. The Collaborative is working toward a more coordinated system where participating agencies can share practices, strengthen referral pathways, and better understand how families are being served across programs.

The effort includes developing a shared intake and referral process, strengthening communication and alignment across agencies, and creating opportunities for joint training and learning. By building stronger connections among home visiting partners, the Collaborative aims to make it easier for families to connect with the services and supports that meet their needs.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	247	207	7

Key Results	
Total number of families the program can serve at this time (Capacity)	213
Total number of families served	250
Total number of visits completed	1,680
Number of clients currently being served (not in intake)	210
Number of clients in intake	14
Number of clients referred to program	30
Number of participating agencies	7

*Data was received from a small number of Home Visiting Programs who signed a MOU with First 5 Lake.
**Quarter 4 data was not received by the time of this reporting.

Transportation Supports

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Outreach and education about the importance of early and regular prenatal care.		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Family Support	General Family Support	Local Model

Program Description

Adventist Health Clearlake (AHCL) received funding to help reduce transportation barriers for pregnant and postpartum families in Lake County. Through the transportation assistance program, families can receive support getting to perinatal healthcare appointments, including travel outside of Lake County for specialty care.

For families who need services that are not available locally, transportation can be an added barrier to receiving care. This program helps address that barrier by supporting families in reaching prenatal, postpartum, and specialty healthcare services.

*Adventist Health received several small grants prior to FY 2022-23 that were paid upfront and are continuing to spend down the funds. First 5 Lake's records show that from FY2015-16 to FY2025-26, AHCL received a total of $27,000 and expended $25,345.70, of which $23,035.00 were issued and $2,310.70 were purchased but not issued. AHCL will continue to provide quarterly reports until all dollars are expended and issued.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	0	27	N/A

Key Results	
Gas Cards purchased	$2,000.00
Bus Passes issued	$12.50
Gas Cards issued	$1,375.00
Number of Bus Rides	10
Number of Gas Card Rides	36
Average transportation support per caregiver served	$51.39
Average transportation support per ride	$30.16

Perinatal Mental Health Screening Project

Strategic Plan Strategy
Provider and parent education around Perinatal Mood Anxiety Disorders and Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Health Systems

Program Description

Through a grant to Mother-Wise, the Perinatal Mental Health Screening Project strengthens how Lake County identifies perinatal mood and anxiety disorders so parents can be connected to support early.

*This was intended to be Year 2 of the scope of work, focusing on bringing partners together in a multidisciplinary collaborative, assessing current screening practices across the county, and producing a draft standardized screening protocol. Mother-Wise did not carry out the scope of work during the fiscal year. No activities were completed and no expenses were incurred.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	0

Key Results	
Multidisciplinary collaborative established	[Pending]
Assessment of current screening practices completed	[Pending]
Draft standardized screening protocol produced by June 30, 2026	[Pending]

Preventive Care

Families have access to and knowledge of preventive medical and dental care for children ages zero through five.

Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Advisory Board

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Information and education about the value of regular well child visits.		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Health Systems

Program Description

The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Advisory Board promotes and advocates for the physical, social, and emotional health of pregnant people, children, adolescents, and their families in Lake County by sharing resources and coordinating activities.

The Board's stated vision is that all pregnant people and families with young children in Lake County can reach coordinated, culturally responsive perinatal and early childhood care close to home. The MCAH Advisory Board has identified the following focus areas: Breastfeeding, SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), Birth Disparities, Home Visiting, Harm Reduction, Doulas, and access to OBGYN and midwives.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results
Board recruitment: 2 seats filled
Assessment of gaps in access to OBGYN and midwifery services completed
Assessment of training needs for healthcare providers and community members completed
Training calendar created (breastfeeding support, SIDS prevention, birth disparities, maternal health)
System in place to gather training participant feedback
Birth outcome data collected and will be analyzed to identify disparities in FY 26/27.

Oral Health

Children receive oral health services and education

Oral Health Advisory Committee (OHAC)

Strategic Plan Strategy
Oral Health education and treatment services.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Health Systems

Program Description

First 5 Lake County participates in the Oral Health Advisory Committee (OHAC) to represent the needs of children prenatal through age five as local partners plan oral health education and services. Consistent participation supports the Strategic Plan goal of increasing the number of young children who receive oral health screenings.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results

No OHAC meetings were held in FY2025-26 as far as First 5 Lake staff were aware

Basic Needs & Nutrition

Children's basic needs are met

Breastfeeding Coalition

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Appropriate nutrition services and resources (to include breastfeeding).		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Child Health	General Health Education and Promotion	Nutrition/Breastfeeding

Program Description

The Lake County Breastfeeding Coalition is a collaborative network of community organizations, healthcare providers, public health professionals, advocates, and families working together to create environments where all forms of infant feeding are normalized, accessible, and supported for all families in Lake County. The Coalition advocates for systemic change that fosters breastfeeding-friendly policies and practices, supports families through education and resources, collaborates with stakeholders to build a supportive infant feeding ecosystem, and promotes equity by addressing disparities in breastfeeding rates and access to resources.

First 5 Lake County convenes the Coalition as a sub-group of the MCAH Advisory Board.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results
Breastfeeding Awareness proclamation presented at the BOS
"No Shaming" social media campaign designed and is set to launch in FY26/27
"Who Dis" Coalition introduction campaign launched
First 5 Lake is now an affiliate with the Mothers' Milk Bank

General Nutrition

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Appropriate nutrition services and resources (to include breastfeeding).		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Child Health	General Health Education and Promotion	Nutrition/Breastfeeding

Program Description

First 5 Lake County shares practical nutrition information with families of young children through its social media channels, helping parents and caregivers find trusted nutrition support content where they already spend time.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results	
Nutrition support posts shared on social media	37

Diaper Program

Strategic Plan Strategy
Diaper resources for families.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Family Support	General Family Support	Local Model

Program Description

First 5 Lake County is developing a diaper resource program that includes diaper drives and distributions, in partnership with First 5 California, SupplyBank.Org, and other small First 5 counties.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results

FY25-26 was spent primarily working to get matching dollars from First 5 California, as they continued to verbally agree, however due to changes in staffing the agreement did not go forward.

SupplyBank did agree to work with small counties and local CAAs, however, First 5 Lake was unable to get the first delivery due to needing a space to receive a freight truck. First 5 Lake has been working with Adventist Health to utilize their warehouse temporarily.

SupplyBank was unable to fulfill the second delivery due to delayed funding at the State level.

Safe Environments

Children live in safe and stable environments

Children's Council & Resilient Lake

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Safe environment practices, instruction, and support.		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Family Resiliency

Program Description

The Children's Council, Lake County's designated Child Abuse Prevention Council, serves the role of convening cross-sector partners to strengthen the safety and well-being of children. Hosted by the Lake County Office of Education, the Council brings together representatives from education, health, social services, and community-based organizations to share resources, discuss challenges facing children and families, and coordinate strategies to address them. The Council provides a forum for agencies to report on their work and explore collective solutions for system-level concerns. Resilient Lake, a subcommittee of the Children's Council, focusing on the Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP).

First 5 Lake County is an active partner in both the Children's Council and Resilient Lake. Through these groups, First 5 Lake County supports the county's Comprehensive Prevention Plan, helps update the community Asset Map, and supports public awareness efforts, such as April flag displays, the Children's Festivals, and participating in the Positive Community Norms efforts.

*2026 Theme "*Keeping Kids Safe in Every World*"

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	12

Key Results
Attended Children's Council and Resilient Lake meetings
Developed signage and aided in 12 agencies flying over 21 flags in honor of the "Missing Child"
Attended both the opening and closing Flag ceremonies.
Designed 6 posters displayed at the Children's Festivals
Children's Festivals planning and execution supported
Developing an Event Planner to support next year's Children's Festival efforts.
Developed the proclamation and accompanying speech for all 3 jurisdictions
Participated in both Kid Art Contest Award Ceremonies
Won the Pinwheel Garden Challenge with our window art design.

Car Seat Safety Program

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Safe environment practices, instruction, and support.		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Child Health	General Health Education and Promotion	Safety Education

Program Description

The goal of the Car Seat Safety Program is to reduce preventable injuries and fatalities among children under age five by increasing the correct use of child safety seats through education, hands-on support, and equitable distribution of car seats to families in need.

Mother-Wise, through a grant, provides a comprehensive set of services designed to educate families, promote safe travel practices, and ensure that every eligible child travels in a properly installed, developmentally appropriate car seat.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	94	77	1

Key Results	
Caregivers who applied to participate	135
Caregivers who completed the online car seat safety course	69
Caregivers who received installation support	54
Car seats distributed	44
Booster seats distributed	3

Caregiver Knowledge Survey (% answering correctly)	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Children should ride in the back seat until at least age 13	38 %	77 %
The right seat fits a child's age, height, weight, and development	26 %	83 %
Car seat modes: rear-facing, forward-facing, and booster	65 %	91 %
A booster positions the seat belt across the hips, upper thighs, and shoulder	79 %	91 %
A rear-facing seat never goes in front of an active frontal airbag	59 %	86 %
Harness straps are snug at the shoulder and pass the pinch test	65 %	94 %
The "dynamic duo": car seat manual and vehicle owner's manual	50 %	86 %
State car seat laws are listed by the Governors Highway Safety Association	50 %	86 %
Stay in each seat until reaching the manufacturer's height and weight limit	62 %	57 %
Before course n = 34; after course n = 35 (Q1–Q3). Respondents were not matched individually.		

*Quarter 4 data was not received prior to this report being generated.
**Total Parents/Caregivers includes significant others who also receive installation support but may not have completed the online car seat safety course.
***Some Parents/Caregivers may have completed the online car seat safety course in previous fiscal year or may receive a car seat after the time of this reporting as the program is ongoing beginning in Fiscal Year 2023-24.

Safe Sleep (SIDS Prevention)

Strategic Plan Strategy
Safe environment practices, instruction, and support.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Child Health	General Health Education and Promotion	Safety Education

Program Description

Safe sleep practices are a recognized method of reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). First 5 Lake County is developing a train-the-trainer Safe Sleep curriculum and workshops for providers, including partnerships with local hospitals, pediatricians, and child care centers to share SIDS prevention information with families.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results

Safe Sleep curriculum developed reviewed by PHO and other providers.

*Trainings are expected to be held in FY26-27.

Priority Area 2: Child Development

ECE Quality

The Early Care and Education (ECE) field offers high quality educational instruction and environments for young children

Pyramid Model Training

Strategic Plan Strategy		
ECE provider trainings and resources.		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Child Development	Quality Early Learning Support	Preschool/Childcare

Program Description

Through a First 5 Lake mini-grant, NCO provides Infant Toddler Pyramid Model training to licensed family child care home (FCCH) providers. The training builds providers' knowledge and confidence in using developmentally appropriate practices and Pyramid Model strategies to support the social and emotional development of infants and toddlers in their care.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	140	152	23

*The number of children and parents/caregivers listed above represent the number of clients served by the providers trained.

Key Results		
FCCH providers trained	23	
Children ages 0-5 in participating providers' care	140	
Caregiver Knowledge Survey (% answering correctly)	**Pre-Survey**	**Post-Survey**
Provider knowledge assessment before and after Pyramid Model Training n=21		
Which tier of the Teaching Pyramid focuses on building positive relationships?	60 %	100 %
What is the primary purpose of the Infant-Toddler Pyramid Model?	100 %	94 %
True or False: The Pyramid Model is only for children with challenging behaviors.	100 %	100 %
Percentage of respondents rating their current understanding of supporting social-emotional development as High or Very high before and after participating in the Pyramid Model Training.	55 %	94 %
Percentage of respondents reporting Confident or Very confident in their ability to support infants' and toddlers' social-emotional development before and after participating in the Pyramid Model Training.	70 %	100 %

Access & Knowledge of ECE Programming

Families have access to and knowledge of Early Care and Education Programming

Local Child Care Planning Council (LPC) & Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Collaborative

Strategic Plan Strategy
Outreach and education about what qualifies as high-quality care, what UPK resources are available and how to access all types of care.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Child Development	Quality Early Learning Support	Quality Counts California

Program Description

First 5 Lake supports coordination and planning across Lake County's early care and education system through active participation in the Local Planning Council (LPC) and Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) collaborative. These partnerships bring local organizations together to share information, coordinate efforts, and strengthen early learning opportunities for children and families.

Additionally, First 5 Lake County invests in the people who care for and teach young children. This includes sponsoring local early childhood educators to attend the Quality Counts Conference and sponsoring and supporting the ECE Awards, which celebrate excellence in Lake County's early care and education field.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	72

* Provider number is duplicated in Title IV-E

Key Results	
LPC Meetings attended	All plus sit on the Executive Committee
UPK Collaborative Meetings attended	All attended
Local early childhood educators sponsored to attend the Quality Counts Conference	72 participants
ECE Awards sponsored and supported	Sponsored and had a Commission present an award

Child Care Landscape

Strategic Plan Strategy
Outreach and education about what qualifies as high-quality care, what UPK resources are available and how to access all types of care.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Family Resiliency

Program Description

The Child Care Landscape study gives Lake County a clear picture of child care access. The project brings together local data to better understand the families and children who need care, the existing child care supply, and factors affecting access and availability in two phases. Phase I provides a snapshot of the current child care landscape. Phase II, planned with support from the county's Economic Development team, will examine the fiscal and economic impact of child care in Lake County.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results
Child Care Landscape Phase I Report was presented to the Commission
Child Care Landscape Phase II Report design has begun.

Screening & Early Intervention

Children receive early screening and intervention for developmental delays and other special needs

Early Start Collaborative

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Early screening and intervention for developmental delays and other special needs		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Early Identification and Intervention

Program Description
First 5 Lake County is working with Early Start partners, Redwood Coast Regional Center (RCRC), and SELPA to help more children receive developmental screening and early intervention.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results
First 5 Lake County's participated in the Early Start Collaborative established by SELPA
Sit on the RCRC board
ASQ research completed (limited data)

Safe Choices, Stronger Communities (SCSC)

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Early screening and intervention for developmental delays and other special needs		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Health Systems

Program Description

First 5 Lake County supports the design and development of Safe Choices, Stronger Communities (SCSC), led by SELPA, which equips first responders to support young children during stressful encounters. The work includes placing sensory bags in first responder vehicles and training first responders on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs).

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	60

Key Results
Secured 100 books to go inside sensory bags to be placed in first responder vehicles
60 sensory bags distributed to first responders
[PENDING] First responders trained in ACEs and PCEs

Priority Area 3: Family Support

Understanding Child Development

Families and those that serve them understand child development

Motherhood is Sacred & Fatherhood is Sacred

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Family strengthening activities (to include but not be limited to parenting education).		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Family Support	Intensive Family Support	Local Model

Program Description

Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians received a grant to deliver Motherhood is Sacred and Fatherhood is Sacred, culturally rooted parenting programs that strengthen Native families by honoring traditional values and the role of mothers and fathers in raising healthy children. The scope of work also included providing baby baskets as incentives for program enrollment.

*The contract ended in February 2026 due to the contracted services not being delivered.

** While programming did not launch during the year, the effort helped identify opportunities for future collaboration and continued development of culturally responsive supports for Lake County families.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	1	1	N/A

Key Results	
Parents and caregivers who participated in the parenting program	0
Baby baskets distributed	1

Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) Collaborative

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Family strengthening activities (to include but not be limited to parenting education).		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Family Resiliency

Program Description

The Positive Indian Parenting (PIP) Collaborative brings together agencies that offer PIP classes and parent cafes, led by Probation and Resilient Lake (which includes First 5 Lake). The Collaborative is mapping who is trained in which curricula, what classes are offered, and where there is interest in additional training, and is building a training provider list to share across agencies.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results
[Pending] Agencies participating under a data-collection MOU
Provider list designed for all Parenting Programs known in the county.
Inventory of trained staff, class offerings, and training interest completed

HOPE Framework

Strategic Plan Strategy		
PACEs and Developmental Milestones outreach and education information.		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Trauma Informed Care/ACEs

Program Description

The HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) framework recognizes that positive childhood experiences, such as nurturing relationships and safe, stable environments, help children thrive even in the face of adversity. First 5 Lake County is building staff expertise in HOPE and beginning the work to become a HOPE-informed agency.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	37

* Provider number is duplicated in Title IV-E

Key Results
Staff trained as HOPE Champions
Work began to become a HOPE-informed agency
Hosted 3 HOPE Introduction webinar sessions delivered through Title IV-E trainings

Community Supports & Resources

Families have access to community supports and resources

Rooted & Regulated

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Resource and referral information to families with young children.		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Family Support	General Family Support	Local Model

Program Description

Optimum Wellness Group, through a mini-grant, hosted Rooted & Regulated, a community resource event for families with young children. The event helped caregivers understand how stress affects a child's brain, body, and behavior, practice co-regulation, and learn EMDR-based calming strategies they can use at home.

Families also connected with local early care and education programs and community resources that support young children.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	13	23	7

Caregiver Skill, Confidence & Awareness	Pre-Survey	Post Survey
Percentage of participants Agreeing or Strongly agreeing with statements related to Skills and Confidence before and after participating in the Rooted & Regulated workshop (N = 14)		
I understand how stress (including toxic stress) affects my child's brain, body, and behavior	43 %	100 %
I feel confident calming my own body during stressful parenting moments	36 %	100 %
I understand what co-regulation means and how to practice it with my child	50 %	86 %
I understand at least one EMDR-based calming resource I can use with myself or my child	15 %	100 %
I can recognize signs that my child (or I) am in a stress response (fight, flight, freeze or shut down)	36 %	93 %
I feel confident helping my child calm their body and emotions when they are upset	46 %	85 %
I feel supported in my role as a parent or caregiver	46 %	85 %
I have strategies to help my child feel safe and supported during stressful moments	38 %	92 %
Percentage of participants Agreeing or Strongly agreeing with statements related to Community Resources (N = 14)		
I am aware of early care and education programs available to families in Lake County	20 %	93 %
I am aware of community resources that support families with young children	40 %	100 %

Families Read Together

Families read to their children on a regular basis

Imagination Library

Strategic Plan Strategy		
Early literacy reading and education efforts.		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Family Support	Family Literacy and Book Programs	Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Program Description

The Imagination Library program, held by Lake County Office of Education (LCOE) with a grant, has made strides in expanding early literacy access through sustained collaboration, strategic integration, and operational improvements. The team worked closely with hospitals, medical offices, libraries, and social services to embed registration opportunities when families are already engaged. Administration of the program transitioned to the agency's early childhood department during the year, further positioning the program for integrated service delivery and broader provider engagement.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	2,754	3,055	N/A

Key Results		
Books mailed to Lake County children	27,240	
Number of families participating in the program	2,394	
Share of Lake County children under age 5 enrolled	74 %	
New children enrolled	549	
Children who graduated from the program	507	
Number of new enrollment surveys distributed	363	
Number of program exit surveys distributed	272	
Family Literacy Practices and Access	**Pre-Survey**	**Post Survey**
Percentage of respondents engaging in activities with their child at least five days per week before and after enrolling in the DPIL program (n=11)		
Read stories or look at picture books with their child every day	73 %	80 %
Have a consistent daily reading routine, such as reading before bedtime	82 %	70 %
Have a library card that can be used to check out children's books	82 %	100 %
Take their child to the library at least once a month	55 %	70 %
Have a designated reading area or bookshelf for their child	100 %	100 %
Say Imagination Library books are age appropriate	-	90 %
Say Imagination Library books are culturally appropriate	-	90 %
Say Imagination Library books are high quality	-	90 %

Priority Area 4: Systems of Care

Integrated, Responsive Systems

Services are responsive to the needs of children and their families

Cross-Sector Participation

Strategic Plan Strategy		
First 5 participates in collaborative efforts that impact families with young children.		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Family Resiliency

Program Description

First 5 Lake County participates in the local and regional bodies where decisions affecting young children and families are made. This includes supporting the redevelopment of the AB 2083 Interagency Leadership Team MOU to meet Welfare and Institutions Code §16521.6 requirements, and sustained participation in the Education Partnership (Cradle to Career), the Health Education Coalition, Healthy Start, and Behavioral Health Cultural Competency meetings.

Through these partnerships, First 5 Lake stays connected to broader community efforts, shares information and resources, and helps strengthen coordination across local systems.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

External Meetings
Health Education Coalition
Healthy Start
Education Partnership
Interagency Leadership Team
Behavioral Health Cultural Competency
Behavioral Health Service Act (BHSA) Community Meetings
Lake County Feeding Partners
*Other external meetings have already been noted in other sections

Science of the Positive

Strategic Plan Strategy
First 5 participates in collaborative efforts that impact families with young children.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Trauma Informed Care/ACEs

Program Description

Led by the Lake County Office of Education and The Montana Institute, Science of the Positive brings decades of research on building healthier communities to Lake County. Rather than focusing only on problems, it uses local data to show the strengths already here. Because people shape their behavior around what they believe others do, sharing the positive truth helps the positive majority grow. First 5 Lake County is supporting its introduction to the community and the launch of a community-level Positive Community Norms survey.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results
Science of the Positive introduced to the community
Supported the community-level Positive Community Norms survey that launched in April 2026

Title IV-E Trainings

Strategic Plan Strategy		
First 5 participates in collaborative efforts that impact families with young children.		
Result Area Type	**Service Category**	**Program Model**
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Trauma Informed Care/ACEs

Program Description

With Title IV-E funding, First 5 Lake County delivers free webinars and learning opportunities for the providers, educators, and caregivers who work with young children. Topics this year included The Growing Brain series, Adverse Childhood Experiences, the lasting impact of poverty, trauma and developmental disabilities, neurodiversity, cultural perspectives of trauma, and the HOPE framework.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	0	5	414

Key Results	
Unique individuals trained	222
Number of agencies served	62
Number of providers who attended more than one training	72
Total training hours completed	195.5
Number of webinars provided	26
Total number of webinar feedback surveys completed	193
Average rating on webinar feedback survey (1 = Poor; 2 = Fair; 3 = Good; 4 = Very Good; 5 = Excellent)	
Effectiveness of information presented	4.53
Usefulness of resources shared	4.57
Trainer demonstrated knowledge	4.66
Overall rating	4.60

State, County, & Local Policy Advocacy

State, county and local policies and practices effectively serve families with young children

Policy & Public Advocacy

Strategic Plan Strategy
First 5 will monitor state, county and local policies and practices that impact young children and their families.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Systems of Care	Policy and Public Advocacy	None selected

Program Description
First 5 Lake County monitors and helps shape state, county, and local policies that affect young children and their families. This work happens through the F5N Communication Workgroup, Policy Committee, and Fiscal Workgroup (including an ad hoc group completing a Prop 10 fiscal analysis), Northwest Regional meetings, and the First 5 Leadership Institute (F5LI).

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results
F5N Communication Workgroup and Policy Committee calls attended
Digital voting system created and implemented for Regional votes
F5N Fiscal Workgroup participation, including the Prop 10 fiscal analysis ad hoc
F5LI Leadership Lab Cohort 1 completed (in-person meeting and monthly partner meetings)
Seat held on the F5LI Advisory Council
Northwest Regional meetings attended

Resources to Sustain High-Impact Initiatives

Lake County has the resources necessary to implement and sustain high-impact initiatives that serve families with young children

Manage Care Plan Engagement

Strategic Plan Strategy
First 5 will leverage and expand existing funding that supports services to families with young children.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Systems of Care	Systems Building	Health Systems

Program Description
First 5 Lake County meets regularly with the local Medi-Cal managed care plan to strengthen coordination and identify opportunities to expand resources and supports for families with young children.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results
Quarterly managed care plan meetings attended
Focused on getting more local supports (ex. transportation)
Secured funding for Breastfeeding campaign

Small Population Counties

Strategic Plan Strategy
First 5 will leverage and expand existing funding that supports services to families with young children.

Result Area Type	Service Category	Program Model
Improved Systems of Care	Policy and Public Advocacy	Revenue Sustainability

Program Description

The Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA) from First 5 California helps small counties like Lake sustain core services as tobacco tax revenue declines. First 5 Lake County takes an active part in SPCFA processes and small county meetings to advocate for funding that is fair and equitable to small counties.

Clients Served	Children 0-5	Parents/Caregivers	Providers
Number served	N/A	N/A	N/A

Key Results
Two-year SPCFA funding contract in place (current cycle ends June 30, 2028)
Attended small county meetings and conversations

County Evaluation Summary & Highlights

Evaluation Activities

Program Overview & Objectives

Please share one to two key programs or initiatives you provided to the community for the fiscal year. For each one, tell us about its purpose, core service elements, and target population. (2,000 characters maximum)

First 5 Lake County supported two key initiatives focused on early literacy and child safety: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) and the Car Seat Safety Program.

Imagination Library expands early literacy access by providing free, age-appropriate books to Lake County children from birth through age five. First 5 Lake works with hospitals, medical offices, libraries, and social services to integrate enrollment opportunities into places where families already engage. The program promotes access to books and early literacy experiences while reducing barriers to participation for families with young children.

Car Seat Safety Program, through a grant to Mother-Wise, the program aims to reduce preventable injuries and fatalities among children under age five by increasing caregivers' knowledge and correct use of safety seats. Families receive car seat education, hands-on installation support, and developmentally appropriate care and booster seats when needed. The program serves Lake County families with young children, with resources and seats available to eligible families in need.

Methodology & Evaluation Approach

For the program or initiative you mentioned above, please outline the evaluation methodology, including how data was collected and analyzed (e.g., surveys, interviews, data analysis), the type of data used (quantitative or qualitative), and any sampling techniques applied. Additionally, identify any limitations, such as data gaps, sample size constraints, or external factors that may have influenced data collection and analysis. (1,000 characters maximum)

Evaluation used quantitative program participation, service, and survey data reported by implementing partners. For DPIL, data included enrollment, books distributed, family participation, and new enrollment and exit surveys measuring family literacy practices and access. Car Seat Safety data included applications, course completion, installation support, seats distributed, and caregiver knowledge surveys administered before and after the course.

Together, these data provide a picture of program reach, participant experiences, and patterns in outcomes associated with participation. Descriptive analysis examined service delivery and patterns in survey responses. In this small-population county, survey samples were relatively small; findings provide meaningful information about participants but are not intended to represent all Lake County families. Pre- and post-surveys were not matched at the individual level; so findings are interpreted as overall patterns among participants rather than individual-level change.

Key Findings & Outcomes

For the program or initiative you mentioned above, please summarize key findings in a clear, data-driven manner, highlighting whether the program met its intended objectives. Please use specific data points gathered throughout the year to support your analysis. If possible, compare pre- and post-program data or provide longitudinal trends to highlight progress over time. (1,000 characters maximum)

Both initiatives demonstrated strong reach and positive outcomes during FY 2025-26. DPIL reached 2,754 children and 3,055 parents/caregivers, mailing 27,240 books to Lake County children. Seventy-four percent of Lake County children aged 0-5 were enrolled, demonstrating countywide reach. Among survey respondents, 90% rated the books as age appropriate, culturally appropriate, and high-quality. Car Seat Safety served 94 children and 77 caregivers. Among survey respondents, correct knowledge of selecting a seat based on a child's age, height, weight, and development increased from 26% before participation to 83% after. Knowledge that children should ride in the back seat until at least age 13 increased from 38% to 77%. These findings show expanded access to safety resources alongside positive patterns in caregiver safety knowledge.

Equity & Access

For the program or initiative you mentioned above, use evaluation findings to assess whether it successfully reached the intended populations, particularly marginalized communities. If there were challenges in reaching these groups, describe the obstacles faced and any evidence-informed strategies being implemented to address them. (1,000 characters maximum)

Both initiatives are designed to reduce practical barriers to resources that support young children. DPIL provides free books directly to families and integrates enrollment through hospitals, medical offices, libraries, and social services, helping families connect to the program through settings they already use. With 74% of Lake County children aged 0-5 enrolled, DPIL demonstrates broad countywide reach. Car Seat Safety addresses both knowledge and resource barriers by combining safety education with hands-on installation support and care and booster seats for eligible families in need. Together, these approaches extend access beyond information along by connecting families with tangible resources and support that promote early literacy and child safety.

Lessons Learned & Reccommendations

Based on the evaluation findings, please identify key lessons learned and provide recommendations to improve or refine the program or initiative mentioned above. (1,000 characters maximum)

Findings reinforce the value of making support both accessible and practical for families. DPIL's broad reach demonstrates the value of embedding enrollment within hospitals, medical offices, libraries, and social services where families already connect with family resources. Continued outreach through these partnerships can help sustain and expand participation. Car Seat Safety findings suggest that pairing education with hands-on installation support and access to safety seats provides families with multiple ways to strengthen child passenger safety. Continued implementation should build on this combination of education, practical support, and needed resources. Across both initiatives, First 5 Lake should continue using program data and participant feedback to refine outreach, service delivery, and family support.

County Highlights

This section is intended to highlight impactful work through a concise, public-facing narrative suitable for the First 5 California Annual Report. Please identify ONE key highlight or accomplishment during the fiscal year and provide responses to the prompts for each highlight. Consider efforts related to:

- Strengthening family resilience
- Advancing child health and development
- Enhancing quality early learning
- Promoting sustainability and scaling successful initiatives
- Responding to a community crisis

Purpose & Activities

Please identify one highlight from the programs or initiatives that your county currently focuses on. Briefly describe the purpose of the work highlighted and specific activities undertaken and mention significant contextual information such as funding shifts or emerging community needs. Your narrative should clearly convey the impact of your work and align with First 5 California's mission. (1,000 characters maximum)

For years, Lake County's story has been told through its deficits: high poverty, poor health rankings, and high ACE scores. The county's rate of child maltreatment allegations for children ages 0-5 is nearly twice the state rate. That story shapes how families see themselves and what children believe is possible. Through Resilient Lake, the Children's Council subcommittee guiding the county's Comprehensive Prevention Plan, partners across sectors are working to change it without ignoring the hard parts. Two strength-based frameworks work together: the Lake County Office of Education (LCOE) and The Montana Institute lead Science of the Positive across the community, and First 5 Lake leads the HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) framework within agencies. This year, First 5 Lake supported the launch of a Positive Community Norms survey, delivered HOPE Introduction webinars, and began work to become Lake County's first HOPE-informed organization.

Key Achievements & Outcomes

For the highlights mentioned above, please include one or two key data points that demonstrate measurable impact, e.g. number of children served, training conducted, percentage increase in participation, or improvement in skills/capacity/quality. Your narrative should clearly convey the impact of your work and align with First 5 California's mission. (1,000 characters maximum)

The 2026 Positive Community Norms survey of 466 Lake County adults revealed a striking gap between perception and reality. Parents reported that their own child has an average of 5.5 of 7 positive childhood experiences (PCEs), with 61% in the high range (6-7). Yet they estimated that most other Lake County children have only 2.2 of 7, placing 65% in the low range (0-2). Most families are doing well but believe they are the exception. This gives partners a local, data-driven message to share: the positive majority is real. First 5 Lake staff also completed HOPE Champion training, and three HOPE Introduction webinars, delivered through First 5 Lake's Title IV-E trainings, reached 37 providers, who rated the sessions 4.7 out of 5 overall.

Community Engagement, Partnerships, & Equity-Focused Efforts

For the highlight mentioned above, please describe how the selected program or initiative supports equity and engages diverse community partners, such as reaching underserved populations, elevating parent voice, or establishing collaborations with new partners that extend community reach. (1,000 characters maximum)

Changing the Story is built on cross-sector partnership. Resilient Lake operates under the Children's Council, Lake County's designated Child Abuse Prevention Council, which brings together education, health, social services, and community-based organizations. LCOE leads the outward-facing Science of the Positive work, and First 5 Lake leads HOPE inside agencies, so one strengths-based message reaches both the public and the professionals who serve families. The Positive Community Norms survey elevates parent voice by letting families describe their own children's experiences instead of relying only on deficit-based indicators. Free HOPE training through Title IV-E reaches child welfare staff, early educators, health and behavioral health providers, tribal partners, and resource families. During Child Abuse Prevention Month, First 5 Lake helped 12 agencies fly flags and drafted the proclamation for all three local jurisdictions.

Qualitative Impact

For the highlight mentioned above, please include a brief quote or story that reflects the voices of those impacted this fiscal year by your county's programming. (1,000 characters maximum)

This year, the clearest voice came from Lake County parents themselves. Asked about their own children, they described childhoods full of positive experiences. Asked about other families' children, the same parents assumed the opposite. That gap reflects the story Lake County has heard about itself for years, and it shows why changing the story matters: Science of the Positive teaches that people shape their behavior around what they believe others do, so when struggle is assumed to be the norm, it can shape what families expect for their neighbors and their children. Sharing the positive truth helps the positive majority grow. First 5 Lake is starting with its own story, reviewing its strategic plan, internal and external policies, and communications through a HOPE lens.

Looking Forward

Please close with a brief statement about what's next, highlighting your county's commitment to continued progress, innovation, and collaboration in the year ahead. (1,000 characters maximum)

In the year ahead, First 5 Lake will continue its path to becoming Lake County's first HOPE-informed organization, applying a HOPE lens to its strategic plan, policies, and communications and sharing what it learns with partner agencies. With LCOE and Resilient Lake, we will use the Positive Community Norms findings to share the positive truth about Lake County's children, and we will keep weaving HOPE and positive childhood experiences into Title IV-E workforce training. Together, these efforts advance the county's Comprehensive Prevention Plan and a belief that guides our work: the positive is real, and it is worth growing.

SPCFA Annual Performance Report (APR)

1. What are the major successes, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing the SPCFA RFA focus areas implemented by the county? (2,000 characters maximum)

Operations:

Success: SPCFA, blended with First 5 Lake's Prop 10 allocation, stabilizes core operations for a two-person staff and allows the Commission to sustain contracted community programs as tobacco tax revenue declines. With the current SPCFA cycle in place through June 30, 2028, the Commission can plan multi-year investments.

Challenge: With limited staff capacity that must cover governance, compliance, grant management, evaluation, and reporting the added burden of SPCFA requirements and late implementation made it challenging for staff to be more effective. However, with targeted grants and mini-grants to trusted local partners extend reach well beyond what a small staff could deliver directly.

Systems Development and Sustainability:

SPCFA funds helped sustain and grow programs that are becoming part of the county's early childhood system. Imagination Library reached 74% of children under five, and the Car Seat Safety Program has distributed 257 seats since its 2023-24 pilot. Both leveraged additional resources: State Imagination Library funding and a one-time Foundation contribution.

Technical Assistance:

SPCFA funds supported trainings that reached 23 family child care providers through the bilingual Pyramid Model series and 7 providers alongside families at Rooted & Regulated, and Car Seat families received hands-on help from certified technicians. Trainings in Spanish and online increases access, but shorter modules and make-up options are needed to support completion.

2. For focus areas 2 and 3, provide the following information (To the extent possible, please indicate activities and outcomes specifically supported by SPCFA funds. If SPCFA funds were blended with other funding sources, describe the shared effort and the proportional contribution of SPCFA): (2,000 characters maximum)

SPCFA funds were blended with First 5 Lake's Prop 10 allocation to support all four grant-funded programs below; because the funds are blended, outcomes reflect the shared investment rather than SPCFA alone. Imagination Library also receives state funding, and the Car Seat Safety Program received a one-time contribution from a Foundation.

- Early literacy (Imagination Library, LCOE): free monthly books for children birth to five.
- Child passenger safety (Car Seat Safety Program, Mother-Wise): caregiver education, free seats, and certified installation.
- Family support (Rooted & Regulated, Optimum Wellness Group): a community event teaching co-regulation and EMDR-based calming tools.
- ECE quality (Pyramid Model Training, NCO): social-emotional training for family child care providers.

Increasing impact:

- Imagination Library embedded enrollment at hospitals, clinics, libraries, and social services and moved administration into LCOE's early childhood department; books mailed rose 32%.
- Car Seat pairs education with hands-on installation so knowledge becomes correct use.
- Grantees report quarterly, with pre/post surveys guiding improvement.

Outreach and communication:

Enrollment at birth (44% of Imagination Library enrollments occur at the hospital), bilingual training, family activities and resource connections at Rooted & Regulated, and a public Highlight Snapshot sharing results with the community.

Training and technical assistance:

- A nine-hour Infant-Toddler Pyramid Model series for 23 providers (15 in Spanish);
- a Rooted & Regulated workshop for caregivers and 7 providers, where participants who understood how stress affects a child rose from 43% to 100%; and
- an online car seat course with one-on-one CPST installation support for 54 caregivers.

3. How did the SPCFA-funded projects align with other State and locally funded efforts? (2,000 characters maximum)

SPCFA-funded projects were designed to complement, not duplicate, state, local, and philanthropic efforts, including a one-time Foundation contribution to the Car Seat Safety Program.

- Imagination Library is co-funded with state funding and in-kind hours from Lake County Office of Education, extending each local dollar.
- Pyramid Model Training advances the same early care and education quality goals.
- Rooted & Regulated and Pyramid Model Training complement First 5 Lake's trainings (not funded by SPCFA) on brain development, trauma, and resilience for child welfare, education, and health professionals.