



Report from Executive Director  
November 19, 2015

I. Update on Administrative Operations

- Employee Health Insurance
  - Commission provides medical, dental and vision coverage for employees and their families with the option to select a PPO or HMO plan.
  - Effective December 1, 2015, Commission is required to convert to an Affordable Care Act (ACA) compliant plan, designated as either platinum, gold, silver or bronze by the federal government.
    - “Gold” level plan has been identified as most comparable to current benefits and provider networks.
      - Employees will experience somewhat of an increase in copays, deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums as exact prior benefit levels are not available under ACA.
      - Anthem Blue Cross, our current carrier, offered the PPO and HMO plans most similar to current benefits and provider networks.
  - Overall annual medical premiums will decrease by 14% as a result of lower benefit coverage on the gold level plans.
    - There are no changes to premiums or benefits in dental and vision plans.
- Contract Monitoring Module in Persimmony Software System Fully Implemented
  - Funded partner compliance documents (insurance certificates, personnel disclosure forms, etc.) submitted to date have been uploaded to the system along with insurance expiration dates.
    - Contracting Module automates monitoring of contract compliance through electronic tracking of funded partner compliance documents.

II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Countywide Strategies
  - 2-1-1 Information and Referral Hotline
    - Pilot project continues whereby callers with a child 0-5 in the home are asked if they have any concerns about their child’s development and subsequently receive direct referrals to Early Start or NfLs.
      - Working with Help Me Grow and Ventura County Public Health, 2-1-1 staff are exploring updates to their iCarol database to capture caller contact information for additional follow-up, such as direct mailings of Kit for New Parents to all pregnant callers, customized with inserts specific to Ventura County needs, e.g., NfL information and/or follow-up on referrals.

- Oral Health
  - Fluoride Varnish – Medical Providers (Ventura County Public Health)
    - Working with 47 active clinics, both CHDP and non-CHDP.
      - In the first quarter, 12 new providers and 254 staff were trained in fluoride varnish application and parent education materials.
      - 3,173 fluoride varnish applications and oral health risk assessments have been completed by medical clinics, exceeding the quarterly target by 673 children.
      - Outreach and education provided to 678 parents/guardians, exceeding target by 278.
  - Fluoride Varnish – Dental Providers (Santa Barbara-Ventura Counties Dental Foundation)
    - Four events coordinated in collaboration with NfL sites in Fillmore, Hueneme, Ventura and Oxnard in first quarter of FY 2015-16.
      - 227 children received oral health screening and fluoride varnish application.
        - Children needing additional services are either referred out if they have coverage or brought into the mobile clinic for needed treatment.
      - 219 parents received oral health education from volunteer dentists or staff.
- Regional Health Educators – Ventura County Public Health (VCPH)
  - VCPH health educators continue to pilot innovative approaches to achieve universal screening through training of other service providers, group screenings and screenings at intake.
    - Group screenings held at Conejo, Moorpark/Simi Valley, and Rio NfLs.
    - 8 MICOP staff trained in the use of the ASQ.
    - Screenings are distributed at intake at Conejo and Rio NfLs and during enrollment at two private preschools.
  - 22 parent education classes conducted, reaching over 350 participants on topics such as developmental milestones, temperament and infant development.
  - Close to 50 families received support for special needs or navigation assistance for accessing early intervention services.
- Communications, Education and Development
  - Early Literacy Month
    - F5VC is reaching out to parents through weekly social media contests, and with a special community newsletter focused on literacy, in addition to ongoing partnerships with public libraries and local bookstores.
    - Kicking off efforts to engage non-traditional community partners, a pilot program is bringing children’s books and literacy messaging to several laundromats in Oxnard and Hueneme, with materials provided by Talk, Read, Sing.
    - Since October, 1,050 books and 9 bags of books (collections of 10 books and a book bag) have been distributed to local children under 5.

- Parent Leadership Network
  - Local parent leadership network will be launched in December in Port Hueneme in partnership with new and established parent leaders.
    - In addition to building skills and sharing successes and challenges, network will provide an opportunity for parents to learn about organizations seeking parent participation and shared leadership.
  
- Born Learning Trail
  - Sixth Born Learning Trail was installed at Las Piedras Park in Santa Paula in early November, dedicated to Dr. Lisa Solinas for her commitment to healthy children and families in Santa Paula.
    - Over 50 people came to surprise Dr. Solinas during the dedication ceremony, including her colleagues at the Santa Paula West Medical Clinic, Ventura County Health Care Agency, and Santa Paula City Council.
    - Wells Fargo volunteers, coordinated by United Way, provided assistance with the installation; City of Santa Paula provided support and assistance from their Public Works Department.
  - Las Piedras Park is in a high-need neighborhood located within a mile of the Santa Clara Valley NfL.
  
- Community Investment Loan Fund (EDC-VC)
  - EDC-VC and F5VC working closely with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme on a collaborative project to convert existing, unused space at the Club into a preschool facility.
  - A potential operator who meets the financial and operating requirements would be selected through an RfP process.
    - Great deal of interest has already been expressed by community partners.
  
- Neighborhoods for Learning (NfL)
  - Rio NfL
    - New 4-session course was developed for parents with babies 6 to 9 months old, the majority of whom are first-time parents.
      - Public Health Educator introduces ASQ tool for parents to complete in home, with follow-up for parents with questions or concerns.
    - Two new preschool classrooms opened in September at Rio Real, providing one full-day (24 spaces) and one part-day class (24 spaces each session).
      - Rio School District supported the project with the classrooms, playground area and ongoing maintenance services.
      - Child Development Inc. is providing State Preschool funding.
      - NfL utilized unspent funds to offset the startup expenses and provided staff hours to facilitate the project.
      - New classrooms are located adjacent to a large apartment complex with a high concentration of low income families, and is the only early learning program within walking distance.

- Santa Clara Valley NfL
  - NfL hosting series of 4 classes on diabetes management, presented by the Health Education Dept. at Gold Coast Health Plan.
    - Topics covered include nutrition, exercise, weight management and medication management.
  - NfL continues to outreach to pregnant and parenting teens in Fillmore.
    - Case management services currently provided to 7 pregnant teens at Fillmore Continuation School participating in CALSafe.
  - NfL was designated by FOOD Share as the only agency in Santa Paula to distribute "Drought Boxes" for agricultural workers severely affected by the drought.
    - Boxes are distributed 3 days a week, containing enough to feed a family of four for 4-5 days.
      - 137 families have received drought boxes in the past 2 months.
- Pleasant Valley NfL
  - Expanded PACT programming in Somis, in collaboration with the Somis Elementary School, includes an in-depth focus on social-emotional development and incorporates early STEM activities for children.

### III. County, Regional and National Updates

- Breastfeeding
  - A recently released report from the California Department of Public Health shows that in-hospital, exclusive breastfeeding at 48 hours after birth has been steadily climbing in Ventura County, with rates improving from 60.4% (2010) to 69% (2014).
    - Ventura County also continues to be slightly above the state average and well above our regional neighbors in exclusive, in-hospital breastfeeding rates.
- RTT-ELC – Posting of QRIS Ratings
  - Consortia participating in the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant are required to make QRIS ratings publicly available.
    - F5VC and VCOE staff are developing a ratings communication plan, including the mandatory posting of ratings at the site level with corresponding parent information material and ratings posted on the Local Planning Council and F5VC websites.
    - F5VC and VCOE are also meeting with CDR Resource & Referral staff to explore opportunities to disseminate ratings through R&R referral counselors.
- Ventura County Together (VCT)
  - VCT hosted a presentation of United Ways of California's new report "Struggling to Get By: The Real Cost Measure in California 2015".
    - Released in July, this new financial stability report measures the true cost of living in California communities, introducing the Real Cost Measure, a basic needs budget approach to better understand the challenges facing California households. (see attached data for Ventura County)
    - Full report is available at: [http://www.unitedwaysca.org/images/StrugglingToGetBy/Struggling\\_to\\_Get\\_By.pdf](http://www.unitedwaysca.org/images/StrugglingToGetBy/Struggling_to_Get_By.pdf)

- EC-LINC – Research to Action Grants
  - F5VC took the lead in developing the Letter of Intent for a proposal to identify and implement best practices for playgroups for children aged zero to three in collaboration with other EC-LINC partners from First 5 Alameda County, Thrive in Five in Boston and the Children and Families Commission of Orange County.
    - F5VC also worked with other member communities on developing proposals around measuring the impact of early childhood systems and parent engagement.
  - All three groups have been invited to submit full proposals for up to \$60,000 each.

#### IV. Upcoming Events

- **Trauma Informed Brown Bag – “Building Resilience”**, with guest speaker Diane Hammon Kellegrew, PhD, OTR/L, December 2, 2015, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., Ventura County Community Foundation, 4001 Mission Oaks Boulevard, Camarillo (Please **RSVP** to Kathy Rangel at [krangel@first5ventura.org](mailto:krangel@first5ventura.org))
- **Prenatal Workgroup**, December 8, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., First 5 Ventura County Offices
- **Funders Forum**, co-hosted by First 5 Ventura County and Southern California Grantmakers, December 16, 2015, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m., Ventura County Community Foundation, 4001 Mission Oaks Boulevard, Camarillo
- **First 5 Committees**
  - **Administration/Finance Committee**, December 4, 2015, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., F5VC offices
  - **Joint Committee Meeting**, December 8, 2015, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Ventura County Community Foundation, 4001 Mission Oaks Boulevard, Camarillo – Community Room

## PROVIDER ANECDOTE

### Regional Educators - Ventura County Public Health

During the month of August, I received a parent navigation referral from a public health nurse. The reason for this referral was to assist an overwhelmed mother of five children. I met with the family at the Oxnard NfL Driffill office. I wanted to meet at the NfL to make the connection with the NfL and the family.

The Driffill NfL liaison, welcomed the mother and explained all the services that the center could offer. She also helped the family complete a referral for Early Head Start and helped the mother apply for CDI preschool for one child. I completed ASQ questionnaires for two children to rule out any delays in development and no concerns were found. I made a referral for City Impact for individual therapy at home.

The family was approved for Early Head Start beginning in September which provides a teacher who visits the home once a week modeling interaction with the two and three year old daughters. The preschool-age daughter is now attending preschool for 3 hours, Monday thru Friday. A therapist from City Impact started visiting family for one-on-one therapy at home in October.

Mother has been attending the PACT (Parent and Child Together) classes at the NfL. She completed infant massage and Aprendiendo classes provided by El Centrito and is actively participating at the Driffill Family Resource Center. Mother states that her stress level has dropped a lot, due to all the assistance she has been receiving from multiple agencies and that she is learning to seek assistance whenever she feels her stress level is rising.

# The Real Cost Measure in California

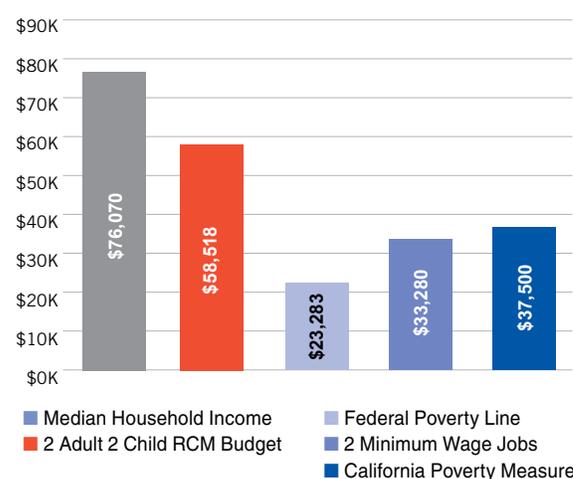
## Ventura

The **Real Cost Measure** (RCM) estimates the amount of income required to meet basic needs (the “Real Cost Budget”) for a given household type in a specific community. The Real Cost Measure builds a bare-bones budget that reflects constrained yet reasonable choices for essential expenses: housing, food, transportation, health care, taxes and childcare.

<b>Total Households Below Real Cost Measure</b>  <b>53,738</b>	<b>Percent of Households Below Real Cost Measure</b>  <b>25%</b>	<b>Percent of Households below Real Cost Measure Which Have at Least One Working Adult</b>  <b>92%</b>
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### 2012 Annual County Income Comparison

(Based on a household of 2 adults, 1 infant and 1 school-age child)



### Three Real Cost Budgets for the County

	1 Adult	2 Adults	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 School-Age Child
Housing	\$12,264	\$13,548	\$17,232
Food	\$2,424	\$4,848	\$9,359
Health Care	\$1,591	\$3,181	\$6,362
Transportation	\$4,513	\$9,025	\$9,025
Childcare (net)	-	-	\$11,433
Miscellaneous	\$2,079	\$3,060	\$4,198
Taxes/Credits	\$1,802	\$1,711	\$909
<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>\$24,672</b>	<b>\$35,374</b>	<b>\$58,518</b>

## The Real Cost Measure in Ventura

### Households of color struggle disproportionately...

- Across the state, African Americans and Latinos have a disproportionate number of households with incomes below the Real Cost Measure. In this area, of the 53,738 households below the Real Cost Measure, 29,811 are Latino.

### Families with children face a larger barrier to economic security.

- 45% of households with children under six struggle, a rate significantly higher than the rest of the county.
- Single mothers are most likely to struggle. 60% percent in the county are below the Real Cost Measure.

### Families work, but don't earn enough...

- 92% of households below RCM have at least one working adult.
- 61% of heads of household who work are employed full-time and year round.
- A family of four (2 adults, one infant, one school-age child) would need to hold more than 3 full-time, minimum-wage jobs to achieve economic security.

### High housing costs are a major challenge for struggling households...

- 46% of all households in the county spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

### Education % Below RCM

Less than High School	67%
High School Diploma	36%
Some College/Vocational	22%
College Degree or Higher	10%

### Household Type % Below RCM

Single Mother	60%
Seniors	26%
Married Couple	20%
Informal Family	23%

### Race/Ethnicity % Below RCM

Latino	47%
African American	20%
Asian American	17%
White	15%

### Citizenship/Nativity % Below RCM

Foreign Born, Non-Citizen	63%
Foreign Born, Naturalized	27%
U.S. Born Citizen	18%