



Report from Commission Staff  
February 16, 2017

## I. Update on Administrative Operations

- Form 700 – Web-based Filing System
  - Clerk of the Board has sent an email notice to all Commissioners with instructions on filing electronically by the April 1, 2017 deadline.
- Commissioner Appointments
  - 2 Commissioner positions need re-appointments in 2017 by Board of Supervisors
    - Commissioner Dr. Morales has been re-appointed to a 4 year term, concurrent with Supervisor Zaragoza's term.
    - Re-appointment of Commissioner Marquez-O'Neill for another 4 year term is in process with Supervisor Bennett's office.
- Staffing Updates
  - Commission staff bid a fond farewell to Deanna Handel, Program Manager, who left F5VC in early February for a new career pursuit.
  - Heather Hanna, Strategic Initiatives and Special Projects Manager, will be relocating to Colorado in March.
  - Recruitment is underway for program managers to support current needs while taking into consideration the transition to years four and five of the strategic plan by 2019.
    - Interviews will begin February 24, 2017.
- Funded Program Fiscal Reviews
  - Annual fiscal reviews of FY 2015-16 First 5 expenditures are being scheduled for 8 contractors, representing 9 funded programs.

## II. Update on Commission Initiatives

- Neighborhoods for Learning
  - Ojai NfL
    - NfL continues to connect Ojai Valley private childcare providers to the QRIS system.
      - Several providers have joined this year and have been excited about the support and information they have been receiving.
    - Provided 21 ASQ-3 developmental screenings during the first half of FY 2016-17.
  - Ventura NfL
    - Continues to provide numerous classes and services to a large number of families.
      - Over 430 participants receiving Parent and Child Together classes (PACT) in the first half of the year, exceeding the target of 300 clients.
        - Offered a total of 21 ongoing classes at the Midtown sites and 14 ongoing classes at the West Ventura sites.
      - Exceeded the resource and referral target of 300, with over 833 contacts.
      - More than doubled Triple P target of 20 families, by reaching 42 families.

- Santa Clara Valley NfL
  - SCV NfL worked with the Fillmore School District to transfer operation of the Sespe preschool, converting 31 of the 36 slots previously funded by the NfL to state preschool funding.
  - Collaboration
    - During this holiday season, the NfL coordinated the distribution of 100 toy vouchers to families in the Fillmore area with the Children's Services Auxiliary.
    - 100 holiday food baskets were distributed by the NfL in Fillmore.
      - Food baskets are put together with the assistance of various groups, including FUSD, Fillmore Explorers, Toys for Tots and financial contributions from the Rotary and the Fire Department.
    - Offered a series of 7 Triple P Positive Parenting sessions in English & Spanish at the request of the Sespe preschool parents in partnership with Interface.
- Countywide Strategies
  - Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
    - Laura Valles & Associates, an early childhood education consultant based in Los Angeles, was selected to assist with needs assessment and strategic planning for the work of CA-QRIS Hub Region 7 (Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo).
      - Scope of work includes analysis of each county's QRIS implementation to identify common needs across the region and opportunities for regional efficiencies.
    - Recommendations will guide the deployment of the First 5 California Hub funds for Region 7 (\$1,064,895 over 4 years).
      - F5VC serves as the lead agency for Hub Region 7.
  - Oral Health
    - Clinicas Del Camino Real's outreach team conducted 25 parent education workshops with 292 total participants in the first half of the contract year.
      - 15 of the workshops were held in Oxnard, targeting migrant and seasonal agricultural workers.
        - Sites included migrant Head Start, health fairs, elementary schools, and the NfL.
  - 2-1-1 Anniversary and Two-way-Text
    - 2-1-1 funding partners, elected officials and community leaders celebrated 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 2-1-1 Ventura County.
      - Attendees learned of advancements to 2-1-1 Ventura County since 2005 when it was the first 2-1-1 to launch in California.
      - In conjunction with anniversary, Interface launched 2-1-1 Two-Way Texting
        - "Next generation" technology that will connect thousands of community members to safety net services in our region.
- Community Initiatives
  - Prenatal Portal <http://healthypregnancyvc.org>
    - Expanded links on staying healthy and substance use before pregnancy, as well as information on postpartum depression.
    - Communication toolkit to promote site is being shared with prenatal workgroup and other key partners.
      - Toolkit includes including instructions for linking to the portal, suggested social media posts, and how to access Best Start cards.

- Staff will explore with 2-1-1 how to promote prenatal portal through new two-way text capacity.
- EC LINC Cradle to Community
  - F5VC was invited to participate in a national “Cradle to Community Action Learning Lab” facilitated by the Prevention Institute (PI) and Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)
    - Goal is to explore links between community violence prevention and early childhood systems to promote positive early childhood development.
  - F5VC is playing role of convener, bringing together Ventura County Public Health, Partnership for Safe Families, Human Services Agency, City of Oxnard Neighborhood Council, and others to begin developing action plans for addressing factors of community violence.
    - EC-LINC is a national learning and innovation network developed by and for communities sponsored by CSSP.
      - Currently, First 5s in Alameda, Ventura, Orange and LA are the CA counties represented in this national effort.

### III. County, Regional and National Updates

- 2017 Advocacy Day (see attached Policy and Advocacy Newsletter)
  - F5VC participated in First 5 Associations’ annual Advocacy Day in Sacramento, partnering with Santa Barbara and Los Angeles to engage legislators and their staff in dialog around issues facing young children and their families.
    - Top on meeting agendas were discussions of declining First 5 revenues and the governor's budget, which plateaued reimbursement rates and postponed 3,000 new preschool slots.
  - Overall, 110 First 5 staff and Commissioners held 97 meetings with legislators, Governor's Office, Lt. Governor's Office, the Women's Caucus, DHCS, CDE and DSS.
- Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education (see attached Policy and Advocacy Newsletter)
  - Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon announced launch of the Speaker’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education.
    - Goal is to develop solutions to improve results for California’s youngest learners and their families.
    - Commission is tasked with identifying ways to create a more sustainable early learning system and update an outdated funding plan that has been unable to meet the demand for child care access in California.
      - Hearings will take place throughout the state in coming months.
- New Poverty Fact Sheet
  - California Budget & Policy Center fact sheets provide county-level poverty and child poverty rates in California, as well as trends in county-level poverty rates (see attached).
    - Despite strong economic growth since the recession, many communities face economic challenges.
  - Ventura County’s child poverty rate remains slightly higher in 2015 than 2007 (13.7% as compared to 12.2%). Rates peaked in 2012 at 17.7%

### II. Upcoming Events

- **First 5 Committees**
  - **Administration/Finance Committee**, March 3, 2017, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m., F5VC offices
- **Save the Date: Take 5 and Read to Kids**, May 5, 2017, 10 a.m.

## Provider Anecdote

### Pleasant Valley NfL

Mary Claire was 17 months old when she began attending PV NfL infant PACT classes. Mom had contacted PV NfL 9 months earlier after giving birth prematurely to her first child, Mary Claire. Her premature baby girl had to stay in the NIC-U for 7 ½ months before she could go home. Mom contacted PV NfL because she needed a car seat and 211 had referred her to our office for assistance. PV NfL connected her with Safe Kids of Ventura County and also let her know how PV NfL could support her and her child. On occasion, PV NfL's case manager would call mom to learn of her daughter's progress. Mom shared that she and her husband had no other family in this country and therefore no support. The PV NfL case manager shared with mom that PV NfL could possibly be a place to make friends and that she may have information about agencies that could support her needs as well as that of her daughter's. So, at 17 months, Mary Claire was enrolled and was integrated with other children at PV NfL. At the beginning, Mom expressed her concerns and shared that her daughter was diagnosed with chronic lung disease that requires oxygen at all times. She also had a feeding tube, was in need of lenses, and had developmental delays. For example, at 17 months, she required her mother to support her in order to sit up.

To date, Mary Claire has participated in 15 PACT classes and was recently moved from the infant class to the toddler class. She is now able to make noises, such as grunting, and is crawling and standing with some support. She appears to be meeting developmental milestones sooner than expected. Mom has attended five parenting education classes that included topics on Child Temperaments, Language Development, Number Sense, and Healthy Sleep Patterns. The PV NfL PACT teacher regularly meets with mom to inform her on how she can expose Mary Claire to different environments. The PACT teacher schedules class, park and garden activities and encourages Mary Claire to participate in spite of her special needs. She also coached mom on how to prepare for each new experience to ensure success for her and her daughter. Recently, mom shared that she and her husband were able to take their daughter to the beach for the very first time. They said that Mary Claire was able to crawl, and with help, walked on the sand and enjoyed the sun. The PACT teacher expressed to mom that this experience was a big milestone!

PV NfL believes that mom is learning to be resilient, and is eager to learn and try new experiences with her daughter. Mom also noticed that her daughter's teeth may need attention but her pediatrician recommends she wait. The PV NfL case manager gave her a New Parent Kit that contains great information on oral health. She also spoke with Clinicas Del Camino Real and they are going to screen Mary Claire and make recommendations. Mary Claire is now 2 yrs. 3 months and although she is not walking independently she is attending the toddler class for ages 12 to 24 months. The PACT teacher believes that Mary Claire will do well integrating with other children close to her own age and that will give her motivation to thrive. Mom shared that her Pediatrician believes that soon Mary Claire may not need to have the oxygen 24/7. So much more to see with Mary Claire, but these few months have been amazing at what a program like the NfL, the parent's resilience, and the team of early intervention and medical specialists can do to support children, like Mary Claire, to have a great chance in life and school readiness.



BY ALISSA ANDERSON

## Few California Communities Have Fully Made Up Ground Lost Due to the Great Recession

The share of Californians facing severe economic hardship remains higher than at the onset of the Great Recession, in 2007, in many communities throughout the state. Statewide, 15.3 percent of residents struggled to get by in 2015 – the most recent year for which data are available – based on the US Census Bureau’s official poverty measure. This was 2.9 percentage points higher than in 2007 (12.4 percent), when the state poverty rate fell to a recent low.<sup>1</sup> In addition, 21.2 percent of California children lived in poverty in 2015 – 3.9 percentage points higher than in 2007 (17.3 percent). Specifically, the latest Census figures show that:

- **Poverty remained more widespread in 2015 than at the onset of the recession in 30 out of the 40 counties for which data are available** (see Map 1 on page 2). This is especially notable given that 2015 marked the sixth year since the end of the national recession. There was no statistically significant difference in poverty rates between 2007 and 2015 in the remaining 10 counties for which data are available.
- **Three counties stand out with severely higher poverty rates.** In Kings, Madera, and Sutter counties the 2015 poverty rate was more than 8.0 percentage points higher than in 2007.
- **Another 11 counties had poverty rates that substantially exceeded 2007 levels.** These counties, which include both Inland Empire counties and several counties in the Central Valley, had 2015 poverty rates that were between 4.1 and 8.0 percentage points higher than in 2007.
- **In 16 counties, poverty rates modestly exceeded 2007 levels.** These counties had 2015 poverty rates that exceeded 2007 levels by up to 4.0 percentage points. Notably, these include counties, such as San Francisco and San Mateo, where the local job market has been booming for several years.

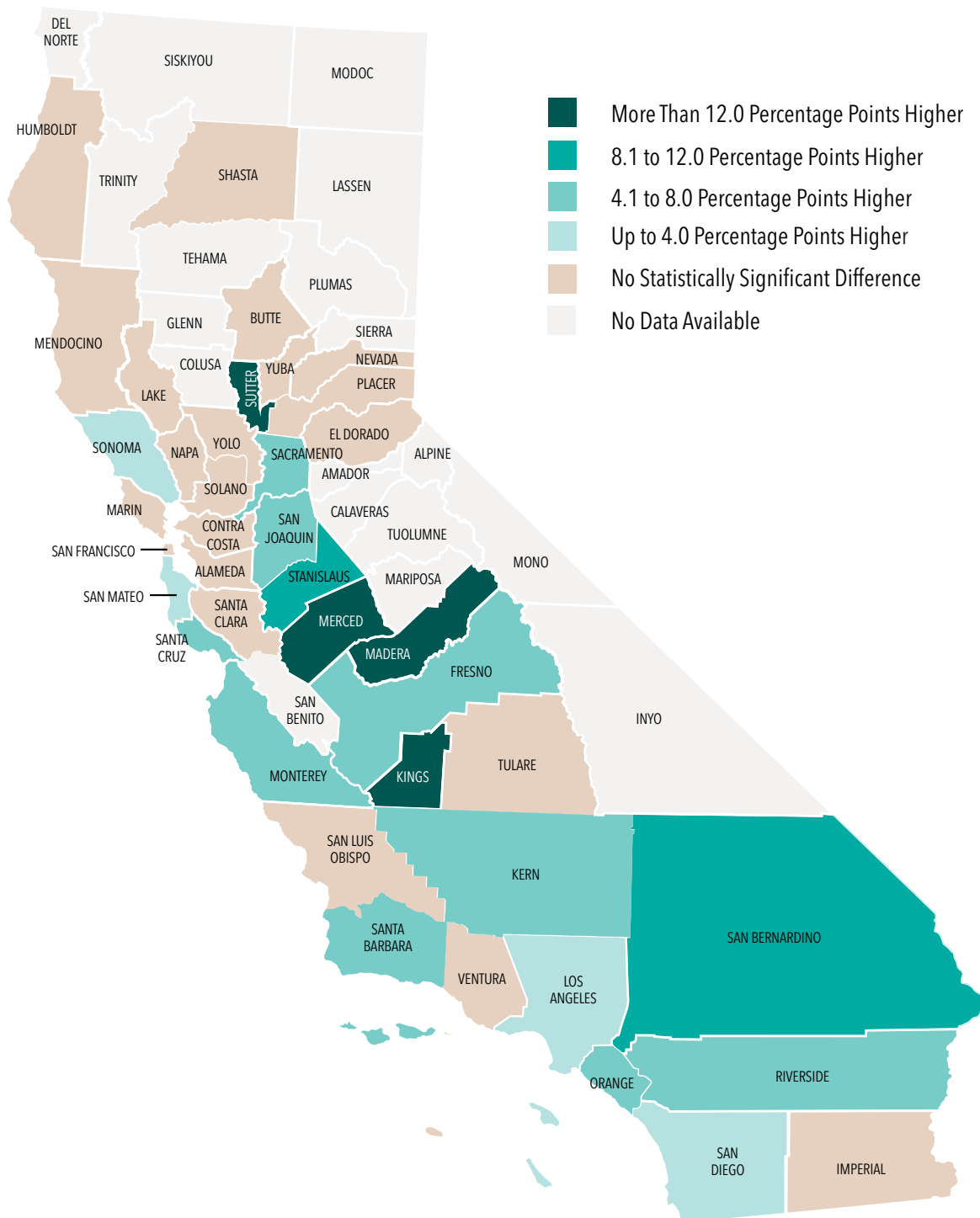
Also, child poverty rates in 19 counties were significantly higher than in 2007 (see Map 2 on page 3).<sup>2</sup> Specifically:

- **Six counties stand out with severely higher child poverty rates.** In Kings, Madera, Merced, and Sutter counties the 2015 child poverty rate was *more than 12.0 percentage points higher* than in 2007, and in San Bernardino and Stanislaus counties the 2015 child poverty rate was between 8.1 and 12.0 percentage points higher than in 2007.
- **Another nine counties had child poverty rates that were substantially higher than in 2007.** These counties, which include parts of the Central Valley, central coast, and southern California, had 2015 child poverty rates that were between 4.1 and 8.0 percentage points higher than in 2007.
- **In four counties, child poverty rates were modestly higher than in 2007.** Los Angeles, San Diego, San Mateo, and Sonoma counties had 2015 child poverty rates up to 4.0 percentage points higher than in 2007.

MAP 2

## Child Poverty Rates Remain High in Many Parts of the State

Percentage Point Difference Between 2007 and 2015 Child Poverty Rates



Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey data

## In 19 Counties, the Child Poverty Rates in 2015 Remained Higher Than in 2007, at the Onset of the Great Recession

	Change in Child Poverty Rate			Child Poverty Rate		
	2007 to 2015	2007 to 2012	2012 to 2015	2007	2012	2015
<b>California</b>	3.9	6.5	-2.6	17.3%	23.8%	21.2%
<b>Bay Area</b>						
Alameda County	-0.5	3.3	-3.8	14.1%	17.4%	13.6%
Contra Costa County	1.1	2.8	-1.7	12.1%	14.9%	13.2%
Marin County	1.2	2.9	-1.7	6.2%	9.1%	7.4%
Napa County	-0.7	-3.0	2.3	13.9%	10.9%	13.2%
San Francisco County	0.3	4.2	-3.9	10.8%	15.0%	11.1%
San Mateo County	3.3	4.6	-1.3	7.0%	11.6%	10.3%
Santa Clara County	-1.7	2.4	-4.1	10.1%	12.5%	8.4%
Solano County	3.4	6.8	-3.4	13.0%	19.8%	16.4%
Sonoma County	4.0	4.3	-0.3	10.6%	14.9%	14.6%
<b>Central Coast</b>						
Monterey County	7.5	12.6	-5.1	15.6%	28.2%	23.1%
San Luis Obispo County	4.9	5.4	-0.5	9.7%	15.1%	14.6%
Santa Barbara County	7.5	7.0	0.5	13.5%	20.5%	21.0%
Santa Cruz County	7.2	1.6	5.6	12.4%	14.0%	19.6%
<b>Greater Sacramento</b>						
El Dorado County	-1.3	-3.0	1.7	13.1%	10.1%	11.8%
Placer County	3.2	7.5	-4.3	6.3%	13.8%	9.5%
Sacramento County	5.3	9.7	-4.4	17.4%	27.1%	22.7%
Sutter County	12.1	10.1	2.0	13.3%	23.4%	25.4%
Yolo County	2.6	1.5	1.1	14.9%	16.4%	17.5%
<b>Inland Empire</b>						
Riverside County	6.9	9.0	-2.1	15.9%	24.9%	22.8%
San Bernardino County	11.2	12.1	-0.9	16.2%	28.3%	27.4%
<b>Los Angeles Coastal Region</b>						
Los Angeles County	2.0	5.9	-3.9	21.3%	27.2%	23.3%
Orange County	4.7	5.9	-1.2	12.0%	17.9%	16.7%
Ventura County	1.5	5.5	-4.0	12.2%	17.7%	13.7%
<b>Northern California</b>						
Humboldt County	3.3	11.5	-8.2	16.5%	28.0%	19.8%
Lake County	-8.1	1.1	-9.2	30.0%	31.1%	21.9%
Mendocino County	8.2	15.8	-7.6	17.4%	33.2%	25.6%
Nevada County	3.1	5.2	-2.1	10.7%	15.9%	13.8%
<b>Northern Sacramento Valley</b>						
Butte County	1.8	7.1	-5.3	19.6%	26.7%	21.4%
Shasta County	8.0	4.1	3.9	20.0%	24.1%	28.0%
Yuba County	5.3	2.1	3.2	30.4%	32.5%	35.7%

**San Diego Region**

Imperial County	2.5	3.7	-1.2	29.1%	32.8%	31.6%
San Diego County	2.6	4.7	-2.1	15.1%	19.8%	17.7%

**San Joaquin Valley**

Fresno County	7.5	11.4	-3.9	29.4%	40.8%	36.9%
Kern County	6.8	9.0	-2.2	25.1%	34.1%	31.9%
Kings County	13.4	10.4	3.0	19.3%	29.7%	32.7%
Madera County	15.0	18.2	-3.2	19.4%	37.6%	34.4%
Merced County	12.2	10.4	1.8	26.3%	36.7%	38.5%
San Joaquin County	5.3	5.5	-0.2	18.6%	24.1%	23.9%
Stanislaus County	9.8	9.8	0.0	17.9%	27.7%	27.7%
Tulare County	3.6	8.5	-4.9	33.4%	41.9%	37.0%

Note: Highlighting indicates changes that are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level. Data are not available for 18 of California's 58 counties.

Source: Budget Center analysis of US Census Bureau, American Community Survey data

<sup>1</sup> All poverty rates reported in this *Fact Sheet* come from the 2015 American Community Survey and are based on the US Census Bureau's official poverty measure. 2015 is the most recent year for which data are available. Changes in the poverty rates reported in this *Fact Sheet* are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

<sup>2</sup> There was no statistically significant difference in child poverty rates between 2007 and 2015 in the remaining 21 counties for which data are available.