



First 5 Ventura County Talking Points

- Voters made kids a priority in 1998 by passing Proposition 10, and since then F5VC has invested more than \$195 million here in Ventura County to ensure our county's youngest children have the best start in life possible. We have piloted new programs and built comprehensive systems of care for children prenatal – 5 and their families in Ventura County. We will continue to provide valuable programs, resources and community partnerships to support early childhood learning.
- **There are 60,000 children in Ventura County age 0-5**, and what happens to them today will impact all of us tomorrow. **Science tells us that 90% of a child's brain is developed by age 5**, and that children are affected by experiences from early on, even before birth. We are continuing to lay the foundation for our community's social and economic future through investments in the youngest members of our community.
- F5VC will deepen its strategic investments in capacity building efforts to support and strengthen the overall early childhood system of services and expand its role as advocates to build and support communities that prioritize the wellbeing of young children and families.
- The Proposition 10 tax on tobacco products has been steadily declining as anticipated. These planned funding reductions will result in budgeted local investments changing from approximately \$11 million today to \$6.5 million in FY 2019-21 and to \$5.3 million in FY 2021-26.
- Even with upcoming planned funding reductions, we will **continue to positively impact forever** the lives of Ventura County children. We are committed to keeping the innovation going with continued investments in: Parent and Child Together classes, family support services, early identification of developmental concerns, and preschool, so that when children reach kindergarten they are ready to learn!
- F5VC is committed to expanding our partnerships with foundations, businesses, parents, and local leaders so together we continue to make sound, lasting investments in our children.
- After an in-depth review of current investments, innovative services, outcomes, and stakeholder input, the F5VC Commission **voted to adopt a new long-term financial plan** that will continue our significant investment in early childhood education: **\$6.5 million in Fiscal Years 2019-21 and \$5.3 million in Fiscal Years 2021-26.**

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- The new long-term financial plan invests \$2.9 million annually for Parent and Child 0-3 Together (PACT) and Family Support Services for FY 2019-26. In addition, F5VC will maintain an annual investment of approximately \$1 million in preschool in FY 2019-21. The remainder of revenues will be invested in systems change, evaluation, program management, and administration.
 - The F5VC Commission will select a program service model in June or July of 2018. Staff will work with community partners on the implementation details over the next year. No changes will take effect until July 1, 2019.

F5VC relies on our **Guiding Principles** for decision making.

- Focus on prevention and early intervention
 - Prioritize prenatal – first three years
 - Invest in services no one else funds
 - Invest with sufficient intensity to achieve outcomes
 - Focus on those most likely to benefit
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- Based on our Guiding Principles, the Commission has renewed our commitment to offering programming for children ages 0 – 3, particularly through Parent and Child Together classes. In addition, we will invest \$1 million annually in preschool spaces for Fiscal Years 2019 – 21.
 - Science tells us that 90% of a child’s brain is developed by age 5, and that children are affected by experiences from early on, even before birth. We believe ages prenatal - 3 are critical for a child’s development and we will continue to dedicate resources to this effort. We will continue to provide Parent and Child Together programs for children ages 0 – 3 and support families in the neighborhoods where they live.
 - Even with upcoming planned funding reductions, we will continue to positively impact forever the lives of Ventura County children and our local economy.
 - F5VC is developing informational materials including FAQ’s and information for parents and partners regarding any changes. Providing the best programs possible with the funding available will continue to be our top priority.
 - F5VC is committed to supporting our partners, parents and the community during these program changes. We will schedule presentations in the fall and post information on Facebook. Please like our page www.facebook.com/first5ventura to stay informed.
 - For additional information and to view the latest updates, please visit www.first5ventura.org/updates

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