



24-29

STRATEGIC PLAN



Acknowledgements

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First 5 Inyo is a program of Public Health and Prevention, a division of Inyo County Health & Human Services (HHS). Inyo County HHS strives to “Strengthen Resilience and Well-Being in our Community”

**This plan was adopted by the First 5 Inyo Commission on:
June 22, 2026**

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About the Commission

In November 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10, the "Children and Families Act of 1998" which added a 50 cent-per-pack tax on tobacco products. Revenue from the tax intended to facilitate the creation and implementation of an integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early child development, and to ensure that children are ready to enter school and reach their full potential.

Proposition 10 created a trust fund for revenues collected. Eighty percent (80%) of these revenues are distributed to the 58 individual California Counties annually to benefit children ages zero to five years old. Each local Commission has control over their own funds and by law is empowered to make local decisions about how funds should be spent. The remaining twenty percent (20%) of the revenues support statewide programs and research.

The Inyo County Children and Families Commission was created in 1999 by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors to carry out the work of Proposition 10 in the county. The seven-member Commission is charged with administering and allocating the County's portion of the Proposition 10 funds. The Commission is comprised of one member and one alternate of the Board of Supervisors. Two members are the Health and Human Services Director and his/her designees. Four members who represent any of the following categories and one alternate member from these categories: recipients of project services included in the county strategic plan, educators specializing in early childhood development; representatives of a local childcare resource or referral agency, or a local child care coordination group; representative of a local organization for prevention or early intervention for families at risk; representatives of community-based organizations that have a goal of promoting, nurturing and early childhood development; representatives of local school districts; and representatives of local medical, pediatric or obstetric association of societies.

First 5 Inyo Commissioners

Stephanie Tanksley, Chair – HHS Designee
HHS Deputy Director of Public Health & Prevention

Lindsey Ricci – Early Child Health
Northern Inyo Health Care District, Bishop Pediatrics Clinic

Raquel Anakalea – Parent Representative

Jessica Bedell – Parent Representative, Alteranate

Darcia Blackdeer-Lent – HHS Designee
HHS Deputy Director of Aging and Placement Services

Heather Carr – Early Childhood Educator
Inyo County Office of Education Director of Special Education

Scott Marcellin – County Supervisor,
District 3 Supervisor

Josie Rogers – Early Childhood Educator
Owens Valley Career Development Early Head Start Family Advocate

Trina Orrill – County Supervisor, Alternate
District 1 Supervisor

First 5 Inyo Administration

First 5 Inyo County is administered through the Inyo County Health and Human Services Department, Public Health & Prevention Division. The First 5 Program Manager is responsible for day-to-day operations, fiscal management, strategic implementation, and coordination of Commission priorities.

Introduction

Inyo County is a small, diverse region with a significant proportion of its population consisting of young children and their parents. The county faces economic challenges, as evidenced by the poverty rate of 15.2% and an unemployment rate of 4.5%. Education levels among adults are varied, with a notable proportion having attained at least some college education.

The racial and ethnic diversity includes a majority of White residents, with substantial Hispanic or Latino and Native American communities. The presence of single-parent households is relatively high, at 25.4%, which may indicate a need for targeted support services for these families.

This strategic plan was developed over several months with a commitment to a comprehensive process designed to gather information and feedback from Commissioners, Inyo County HHS Staff, Childcare Providers, Parents, Caregivers, and other non-county agencies. First 5 Inyo County also included results and findings from the 2022 Maternal Mental Health Survey Report along with relevant data sources to influence this strategic plan. For a full summary of findings and feedback, please see the Community First 5 Survey Appendix

Inyo County Families

TOTAL POPULATION



18,527

CHILD POPULATION



1,074

children ages 0-5 in Inyo County

Data based on the 2021 estimates for total population in Inyo County. (source: U.S. Census Bureau)

There were 215 births in Inyo County in 2023



12.6% of children are living in food insecure households



34.4% of students meeting or exceeding grade-level standards in Reading



(Source: Kidsdata.org)

First 5 Inyo County Strategic Plan Framework

First 5 Inyo County has a commitment and mandate to improve outcomes for Inyo County’s children prenatally to five years old. To respond to that mandate and remain accountable to the community, First 5 Inyo County has developed a strategic framework that includes a theory of change outlining causal linkages between activities, outcomes, and goals to achieve the vision that all Inyo County children will thrive, specifically, the strategic framework contains **four focus areas**, guided by **five guiding principles** to achieve **four long term goals**.



VISION

All Children in Inyo County will thrive.



MISSION

First 5 Inyo builds the early childhood system and supports needed to ensure Inyo County’s young children are healthy, safe and ready to succeed.



PRINCIPLES

Innovation Advocacy Equity Collaboration Family-centered Approach



GOALS

Child Health & Wellness

Ensure a comprehensive approach to child health that supports the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of all children.

Early Childhood Education and Care

Children 0-5 will receive the high-quality education and support they need to be ready for school and lifelong learning.

Parent Education and Support Services

Empower parents and caregivers with the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to foster the healthy development and well-being of their children, while also supporting their own mental and emotional health.

Service Integration and Coordination

Create a cohesive, efficient, and family-centered system that effectively meets the diverse needs of children and families.



First 5 Inyo County Guiding Principles

First 5 Inyo County has identified five guiding principles to direct our work towards fulfillment of the defined vision and mission as follows:

Equity is a critical consideration in selecting early childhood interventions. The first 5 years of child's life are the most critical for development, and the most vulnerable to adversity, discrimination, and exclusion. First 5 Inyo prioritizes equity to help all children achieve their full potential, despite historical patterns of racial and economic exclusion. Increasing equity closes the gap and ensures all children are on the path to success. First 5 Inyo will utilize data to identify and address inequities, ensuring that our strategies and funding decisions are focused on eliminating disparities and promoting equitable access and inclusivity for all children and families.

Advocacy to ensure early childhood is a priority in all levels of local and state decision making. First 5 Inyo will facilitate and participate in collaborations across agencies and disciplines to improve outcomes and support systems for children prenatal through age five and their families. These activities include increasing resources, strengthening policies, and promotion for early childhood development.

Collaboration through the First 5 Network aligns county First 5 Commissions, First 5 Association, and First 5 California as a united voice for California's youngest children. The network strategy focuses on a common language and resources needed in systems change for local and statewide early childhood initiatives. First 5 Inyo will actively participate in the Network by building strong partnerships with stakeholders, including families, communities, and other organizations. We will leverage funding sources and strengthen systems of care.

By embracing **Innovation** to focus on the early development of children, implementing new and creative strategies to improve the effectiveness and reach of early childhood initiatives. First 5 Inyo will foster creativity and innovation to address challenges and enhance services for children from prenatal through age five and their families.

A **Family-centered Approach** recognizes the critical role of families in the development and well-being of children. This approach involves considering the needs, preferences and strengths of the entire family unit. First 5 Inyo will prioritize the needs, strengths, and voices of families in all our actions and decisions, ensuring that services and supports are responsive, respectful, and empowering to families as partners in the care and development of their children.

First 5 Inyo County Theory of Change

The First 5 Inyo County Theory of Change explains the process or change by outlining casual linkages between activities, outcomes and goals to achieve the vision that all Inyo County children will thrive.

**IF WE INVEST
IN THESE ACTIVITIES.**



**WE ANTICIPATE
THESE OUTCOMES.**



**THAT WILL LEAD TO ACHIEVING
THESE GOALS.**

**Focus Area 1:
Child Health
and
Wellness**

- Developmental Screenings
- Breastfeeding Support
- New Parent Kits

- Increase the number of children referred to early intervention services
- Increase the number of moms receiving Breastfeeding education and support.
- Increase access and knowledge of community resources

Ensure a comprehensive approach to child health that supports the physical, mental and emotional well-being of all children.

**Focus Area 2:
Early
Childhood
Education
and Care**

- IMPACT
- Childcare Provider Recruitment
- Literacy Activities

- Increase the number of children participating in quality improvement early learning sites
- Increase the number of quality improvement early learning sites
- Increase number of parents who read to their children each day.

Children 0-5 will receive the high-quality education and support they need to be ready for school and lifelong learning.

**Focus Area 3:
Parent
Education
and
Support
Services**

- Parenting Education
- Family Strengthening Team
- Inyo County Home Visiting

- Parents increase awareness and knowledge in positive parenting
- Increase family protective factors
- Family demonstrate increase in abilities and knowledge learned

Empower parents and caregivers with the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to foster the healthy development and well-being of their children, while also supporting their own mental and emotional health.

**Focus Area 4:
Service
Integration
and
Coordination**

- Child Abuse Prevention Council
- Perinatal Task Force
- First 5 Network

- Increase the community's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect
- Increase collaborative agencies professional competency to improve health outcomes of mothers and infants
- Leverage Statewide resources to support the early childhood system

Create a cohesive, efficient, and family-centered system that effectively meets the diverse needs of children and families.

Focus Area 1: Child Health and Wellness

Ensure a comprehensive approach to child health that supports the physical, mental and emotional well-being of children.

Activities

Developmental Screenings

Breastfeeding Support

New Parent Kits

Outcomes

Increase the number of children referred to early intervention services

Increase the number of moms receiving breastfeeding education and support

Increase access and knowledge of community resources

Outputs

Number of children receiving a developmental screening

Number of birth education classes

Number of parents attending classes/groups

Number of parents receiving New Parent Kits

Focus Area 2: Early Childhood Education and Care

Children 0-5 will receive the high-quality education and support they need to be ready for school and lifelong learning.

Activities

IMPACT

Childcare Provider Recruitment

Literacy Activities

Outcomes

Increase the number of children participating in quality early learning improvement sites

Increase the number of quality early learning sites.

Increase the number of parents who read to their child every day.

Outputs

Number of childcare sites participating in IMPACT

Number of Family, Friend and Neighbor sites

Number of books distributed/mailed

Number of Storytimes

Number of Children registered in Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Focus Area 3: Parent Education and Support Services

Empower parents and caregivers with the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to foster the healthy development and well-being of their children, while also supporting their own mental and emotional health.

Activities

Parenting Education

Family Strengthening Team

Inyo County Home Visiting Program

Outcomes

Increase parent knowledge of positive parenting

Increase family protective factors

Families demonstrate an increase in abilities and knowledge learned

Outputs

Number of parents receiving services

Number of children receiving services

Number of classes

Number of referrals

Number of visits

Focus Area 4: Service Integration and Coordination

Create a cohesive, efficient and family-centered system that effectively meets the diverse needs of children and families.

Activities

Child Abuse Prevention Council

Perinatal Taskforce

First 5 Network

Outcomes

Increase the community's effort to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect

Increase collaborative agencies professional competency to improve health outcome of mothers and infants

Leverage statewide resources to support the Inyo County early childhood system

Outputs

Number of providers participating

Number of meetings held

Number of community members reached

Appendix

First 5 Parent and Caregiver Survey

Inyo County First 5 facilitated a survey to obtain input on the awareness, use, and needs of children and families in Inyo County. The survey was available on the Inyo County First 5 Website, Team Inyo for Health Kids Facebook, Inyo County Health and Human Services Facebook page and passed out to 14 preschools serving 129 children under 5 years old. We received a total of 28 online responses with a seventy-seven percent completion rate.

Ninety-five percent of respondents stated that they had knowledge or experience with First 5 or a First 5 supported program such as Triple P parenting program, Ages and Stages questionnaires, Diaper Depot, or Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Only 1 of the 28 respondents were not familiar with First 5 at all.

Summary of key findings:

1. Demographics:

- The majority of respondents (84.62%) completed the survey in English, with a smaller proportion (15.38%) completing it in Spanish.
- Most respondents identified as parents (73.68%), with others being grandparents (15.79%), foster parents, relative caregivers, and non-relative caregivers making up the remainder .

2. Children's Health and Childcare:

- All respondents had children aged 0 to 5 years.
- The overall health and well-being of children were rated highly, with 42.11% rating it as 4 and 47.37% rating it as 5 on a scale of 1 to 5 .
- Common childcare arrangements included family members or friends (45%), followed by licensed private childcare centers (30%), and licensed in-home childcare (15%) .

3. Parenting Resources and Educational Programs:

- 50% of respondents had screened their children using the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ), with 75% expressing interest in accessing these for free .
- Accessed resources included the Triple P Class (20%), Home Visiting (15%), and Parenting Classes in the Jail (10%). A notable 45% reported not accessing any of the listed resources .

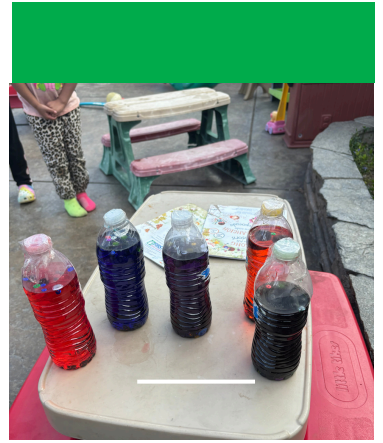
4. Community Resources and Barriers:

- Respondents indicated varying levels of awareness about local community resources for parents and young children, with a need for more support and information in specific parenting areas .
- Barriers to accessing community resources included logistical challenges and a lack of awareness or information about available services .

5. **Preferred Information Channels:**

- The preferred methods for receiving information about parenting and child development were online resources (52.63%), workshops (31.58%), social media (15.79%), and printed materials (0%).

Overall, the survey highlights a strong interest in parenting resources and educational programs, with a significant need for better awareness and access to community resources. The insights can help tailor future programs and communication strategies to better support parents and caregivers in the community.



First 5 Inyo County
Inyo County Health and Human Services
760-873-6453
first5@inyocounty.us
1360 N. Main St. Bishop, CA 93514

