



## QUALITY COUNTS CALIFORNIA SELECTS NEW RATING MATRIX

Over the past 18 months, First 5 California and the California Department of Education, on behalf of Quality Counts California (QCC), convened a Rating Matrix Workgroup. This group of more than 20 stakeholders and content experts from across California worked to revise the QCC Rating Matrix to make it more cost effective, scalable, and reliable, and to address some of the implementation challenges of the current matrix.

The QCC Rating Matrix is currently comprised of seven equally weighted elements of quality, with five indicators of quality within each element. The indicators of quality are assigned a point value for each element and summed together for a total point range, which is then converted into a quality tier. Quality tiers range from one to five, with five being the highest level of rated quality.

Given the matrix revision priorities, the state directed the

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## Camille's Corner

Camille Maben, Executive Director, First 5 California



My favorite season is here. In autumn, children begin a school year filled with hope and enthusiasm. Fall foliage is in its full glory. Quarterback Crunch ice cream is back in stock at Baskin & Robbins. And sweaters come out of the closet.

But this autumn will be a difficult one for us. Across the state, families are forced to deal with the ravages and aftermath of so many devastating fires. Homes and businesses have been lost and destroyed, families have been evacuated, and smoke-filled air has become

commonplace in many communities. Yet despite that, we hear numerous moving accounts of brave firefighters from around the state and across the country coming here and working tirelessly to stop the fires. We see communities coming together to rebuild, with strangers becoming cherished neighbors. And we see First 5s working hard to ensure young children across the state are supported. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all our First 5 county partners who have gone above and beyond to support their children and families during this challenging time. You reinforce our faith in humankind, and it continues to grow stronger every day.

Speaking of strength and endurance, it's difficult to believe that it's been seven years since we launched the Race to The Top-Early Learning Challenge. In that time, we have evolved from a few local quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) to a comprehensive Quality Counts California (QCC) statewide system.

Like everyone who has contributed to the development of this important statewide system, I'm immensely proud we have reached a significant milestone in our commitment to the creation of a new Rating Matrix. Dedication, work, and time, along with the remarkable evolution of QRIS, are reflected in the maturation of the consortium and its goals. As we look to the future and next steps, we must take a minute to reflect upon and take pride in how far we have come.

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In 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10—the California Children and Families Act—and declared the importance of investing in a better future for California's youngest children. For the past 20 years, the California Children and Families Commission (First 5 California) has established quality standards and invested in the development of programs and services emphasizing improvement in early education, child care, social services, health care, research, and community awareness. The vision of First 5 California is for all of the state's children to receive the best possible start in life and thrive.

## AB 2960 (Thurmond) Sets Stage for Early Childhood Data

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The need for a “no wrong door” online portal for parents pursuing public child care support has been a topic of discussion in Sacramento in recent years. In 2015, the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network secured seed funding for a Consumer Education Database in the state budget. In April 2016, the Right Start Commission, a group of business, civic, education, and policy leaders, released their [recommendations](#) of strategies to better serve children ages 0 to 5 in California and recommended creating a “one-stop shop” online portal to provide parents and caregivers with easy identification of, and access to, all available early childhood services. In addition, the Learning Policy Institute recently published [a report](#) recommending California invest in a comprehensive online portal ensuring all parents have access to information needed to select early learning opportunities for their children.

On September 27, 2018, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill (AB) 2960 by Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, which authorizes the visioning of such a portal. AB 2960 sanctions the visioning of a comprehensive early childhood information system, which could intersect with longitudinal data systems, as well as other child health and welfare systems, to present a more complete picture of the children we serve, as well as a more streamlined interface for parents as they access support for their families, including preschool and child care. The development of a Consumer Education Database was funded in this year’s Budget Act and is a great first step to ensuring parents have the information they need to access quality care for their children.

As we take the next step of envisioning what a comprehensive early childhood information system would look like, and the tremendous potential it has in simplifying and streamlining supports for parents and providers, we look to what we want the system to achieve. Ultimately, this portal should be a “no wrong door” resource for parents to gain access to information about child care and development services, including location of services, availability of slots, and quality indicators for individual programs; learn about eligibility for local, state, and federally supported subsidies and programs; apply for subsidies; enroll on a waiting list for programs where slots are not readily available; and connect with local child care resource and referral agencies for additional assistance in selecting and accessing care. The system also would allow providers to connect with families in the community, share enrollment and licensing information more easily with state agencies, and find and access professional development opportunities. First 5 California is currently working with the California Department of Education to kick-start this data visioning process with stakeholder meetings this fall.

The time has come to stop arguing that the child care system is broken, and to work proactively to create a connected, comprehensive system across child development programs that better supports the providers, families, and children of California. ✨

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### Camille’s Corner (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

It also is important to recognize the significance of our collaboration as a team toward a common goal. A big shout-out to the QCC state support team, particularly our partners at the California Department of Education, for all their hard work. For more information on the new matrix, see the article on page 1 of this issue.

Our *Talk.Read.Sing.*® brainy birds continue to spread the word everywhere— television, radio, digital and social media, and now on diaper boxes. Partnering

with SupplyBank.Org and several First 5 counties, First 5 California is helping to ensure diapers are available to families in need, along with critical information on early brain development. I guess we truly are covering “the whole child.” Check out the article on page 9, which describes the latest on our diaper give-away pilot.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *FOCUS*. ✨

# Proposed “Public Charge” Policy Would Have Devastating Impact on California Families

On September 22, 2018, the Trump Administration released a radical new regulatory proposal that would have a devastating effect on communities across the United States by driving up hunger, poverty, and unmet health care needs. The Trump Administration’s proposed “public charge” rule would allow immigration officials to deny a green card to an immigrant if the individual is receiving public benefits that are intended to help individuals and families meet basic living requirements. The proposed rule could force immigrant families to forgo access to a wide array of public benefits, such as health care, food supports, and housing assistance, in fear that receiving such benefits will result in deportation for the parents. The rule would mark a fundamental change from our nation’s and California’s historic commitment to ensuring immigrants can have the most basic necessities of life.

First 5s throughout California are already hearing reports of immigrant families pulling their children out of preschool and refusing health services their children are legally eligible to receive, in anticipation and fear of this rule change. Under the change, parents may think

twice about taking their child to the pediatrician when they are sick or accessing the healthy food that is so essential to young development, pregnant women may not receive the healthcare they need to ensure a healthy and full-term baby, and the housing assistance mothers and fathers need in order to ensure a safe environment for their children may be out of reach.

In California, we believe children and families attempting to access benefits from the following programs could be impacted by the proposed rule change:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Housing assistance such as Section 8 housing vouchers
- Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy
- Non-emergency benefits under Medicaid

Once the proposed changes to the “public charge” rule are published in the Federal Register, they will be subject to a 60-day public comment period. The Trump Administration will be required to review and assess the public comments before finalizing the rule. To comment on the proposed rule, visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). ✨

## First 5 California Express: A Full Schedule and a New Look



The 2018–19 First 5 California Express tour season is underway with a full schedule and a record number of visit requests throughout California.

This year, the Express is highlighting new elements, including the addition of a *Talk. Read. Sing.*® photo wall. This wall is perfect backdrop for visitors of all ages to pose with the Smarter Birds: Orson the Owl, Franco the Talking Parrot, and Melody the Songbird. In addition, there are new and refreshed materials, and a reimaged and user-friendly karaoke center.

The Express’s goal is to visit each county during the tour at least once. First 5 California enjoys collaborating with each county to provide an exciting and educational fun event for young children and their families. ✨

## COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

# First 5 Humboldt: ACEs, Resiliency, and a Determined Executive Director

In 2016, newly-hired First 5 Humboldt Executive Director Mary Ann Hansen was assigned to tackle development of their new strategic plan—a daunting task for an incoming leader and a task she accepted with aplomb. However, it was not as overwhelming as the need for attention, support, and funding necessary to address the negative outcomes associated with children who suffer childhood trauma, referred to commonly as ACEs.

ACEs is the acronym for adverse childhood experiences occurring in persons before age 18. For individuals who are screened and receive a high ACEs score (four or more), they are at a much greater risk for many negative medical and social ills affecting children and their families, such as suicide, drug use, heart disease, and cancer, to name a few.

“I became aware of ACEs from the Center for Youth Wellness report [A Hidden Crisis Findings on Adverse Childhood Experiences in California](#) (2014). Almost the entire spectrum of public health and social problems affecting Humboldt’s children and families can be traced to high ACEs scores,” said Ms. Hansen.

Some sobering findings for persons with 4 or more ACEs include:

- 5X more likely to suffer from depression
- 12X more likely to attempt suicide
- 10X more likely to use injection drugs
- 7X more likely to suffer from alcoholism
- 2.4X more likely to have a stroke
- More likely to have cancer, diabetes, ischemic heart disease, asthma, kidney disease, and more likely to be unemployed
- 75% of Humboldt and Mendocino County residents have one or more ACEs
- 30.8% have 4 or more

Ms. Hansen shares that because Humboldt County has more families affected by ACEs than many other counties, she felt compelled to rally the troops and



California State Senator Mike McGuire and Mary Ann Hansen

provide attention, and more importantly, assistance, to the community at-large. “When First 5 California offered assistance in conducting a town hall forum with our local leadership, we felt we had the right topic at the right time,” said Ms. Hansen.

Ms. Hansen wanted to use First 5 Humboldt’s power as a local convener to pursue a county-wide endeavor on ACEs. “We want a better now and a better future for our children, and as a trusted community member, we felt the need to host the conversation and do what we can to strengthen families. More importantly, we want to raise the level of awareness and focus on providing assistance where gaps may occur.”

The community support came from all corners of this geographically and socially diverse county, making First 5 Humboldt’s first town hall a true “community event.” Ms. Hansen added that First 5 Humboldt hosted law enforcement, the courts, probation, child welfare, public health, court-appointed special advocates for foster children, foster parents, and the tribal communities with a goal of strengthening community partnerships, increasing awareness of ACEs, and sharing the services provided by the multitude of public and private service providers with a focus on trying to fill the needs of the local community by sharing information.

Ms. Hansen adds, “All of our local stakeholders have investment in this community and are committed to

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# Summary of July 2018 Commission Meeting

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On July 26, 2018, the Commission met at the First 5 Alameda headquarters for its quarterly meeting.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

The Commission welcomed Commissioner Molly Munger, who was sworn in by Chair Halvorson.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

First 5 California Executive Director Camille Maben touched on several topics, including welcoming James Gillies as the new Director of the Fiscal Services Office.

## FIRST 5 ASSOCIATION (ASSOCIATION) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

First 5 Association Executive Director Moira Kenney updated the State Commission on building a network strategy for First 5, originally presented at January's Commission meeting. The strategy involves the Association, First 5 county commissions, and First 5 California as an entity for greater impact for funding and ultimately for greater outcomes for children and families. The First 5 Association views this collaborative systems-building approach as the heart of Proposition 10, allowing for a common vision and pathway. It has been received positively.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Erin Gabel, Deputy Director of External and Governmental Affairs, provided an update on First 5 California's priority bills and sponsored legislation in the 2017–18 State Legislative Session. Ms. Gabel also reported that on June 27, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed a historic \$200 billion budget for the 2018–19 year that included a combined Early Childhood Education budget package totaling \$960.3 million. The ongoing ECE budget was increased by \$401.2 million in the out-years (\$358 million for the budget year).

## FIRST 5 PUBLIC POLICY AND ADVOCACY CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN

Erin Gabel presented a plan that expands and refines First 5 California's Public Policy and Advocacy Plan. In order to continue to grow First 5 California's public policy agenda successes, the Commission approved the plan and authorized \$1.05 million over three years for three core advocacy strategies:

1. Lobbying and Policymaker Education Capacity: Secure state and federal lobbying and policy education contracts with external contractors.

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## First 5 Humboldt: ACEs, Resiliency, and a Determined Executive Director (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

the well-being of children (and families) in the county," adding, "ACEs touched a nerve locally and the response to the town hall was absolutely impressive."

Another local stakeholder who participated and stood out was California State Senator Mike McGuire. When approached about participating in the town hall with the specific topic ACEs, Senator McGuire responded unequivocally. "He was incredible—Senator McGuire and his staff are a powerhouse for this district," said Ms. Hansen. "He works very hard to understand the issues in his district and I'm amazed at his ability and commitment to his constituents."

First 5 Humboldt has since executed two town halls (December 2016 and April 2018) and has been able to rally the entire community spectrum, including a few medical providers and the courts, to help with prevention and resiliency. "The focus must be on children because this is a generational issue that will take time to shift," said Ms. Hansen.

Many positives have resulted from the first town hall. Along with awareness to the topic, there is a renewed focus on the specific effects of ACEs in Humboldt County. A new study, [Adverse Childhood Experiences – Humboldt County Summary](#) (September 2017), was developed "to understand the current and desired future landscape of work focused on ACEs in Humboldt County." Further, this community involvement and attention has led to additional dividends from the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors who voted to provide \$400,000 in funding to counter the effects of ACEs. Initially granted as a one-time effort, the fiscal effort has since been approved as a yearly, ongoing commitment.

"As horrible as it is, we cannot yet stop all bad things from happening to children. However, as a community, we are working together to muster our forces in order to align our resources, services, specialties, and limited funding to better serve children and families. It's in everyone's best interest to do so," added Ms. Hansen. ✱

# First 5 California's Camille Maben Receives Child Advocate Award

William Sperling, Chief Executive Officer, Child360

## THE ELIZABETH HAMILTON LOWE & BOB WEEKLEY CHILD ADVOCACY AWARD

This award honors an early education professional whose level of commitment to the ECE field goes above and beyond to help support children and families. Elizabeth Lowe has been a tireless advocate for this cause, and for her community, and it is in that spirit we recognize others who commit themselves in the same fashion.

Beth Lowe and Bob Weekley set up an endowment to provide annual stipends to five early education teachers. It is from that endowment, provided through Child360, that we honor a child advocate in their name.

Eleven years ago, Child360 created the Dr. Celia C. Ayala Early Educator of the Year Award to honor excellent early educators in Los Angeles County—ranging from infant/toddler teachers to preschool teachers at early learning sites and family childcare homes. Additionally, the Elizabeth Hamilton Lowe & Bob Weekley Child Advocacy Award is given to someone who serves as an example of a lifetime champion for young children, parents, and educators. Camille's lifelong career of commitment to children ages 0 to 5, made her Child360's unanimous choice for the 2018 Elizabeth Hamilton Lowe & Bob Weekley Child Advocacy Award.

Through her work at the California Department of Education, previous appointment by the Governor as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Secretary of Education, and now as Executive Director of First 5 California, Camille has been an integral leader and catalyst to envisioning and leading the charge that thousands of children have access to quality early education, and receive the foundation they deserve to succeed in school and in life.



Beth Lowe and Camille Maben

Historically, the award has been given to those whose outstanding work mirrors Mrs. Lowe's tireless advocacy for young children and their families. Camille epitomizes the legacy of the award for having devoted her life and career to children and families throughout the state of California and beyond. Camille leads with her heart, intellect, and dedication to advancing the quality movement throughout the state. She empowers organizations like Child360 to advance its mission, which envisions a future where every child has the educational opportunities they need to thrive.

For additional stories behind this year's Early Educator of the Year Award winners, click [here](#).

## Quality Counts California Selects New Rating Matrix

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workgroup to focus revisions on elements in the current Rating Matrix and not to add any additional rating elements until the existing set could be implemented consistently and cost effectively. The state also provided the group with some direction around the Rating Matrix revisions to improve cost effectiveness and reliability, and to decrease the burden of quality rating data collection on sites.

Using these parameters, the workgroup developed two rating matrices that were voted upon by the entire QCC Consortium. The voting window closed August 23, 2018, and by majority vote, the “Continuum Model” was selected as the new QCC Rating Matrix.

The Continuum Model is similar to the matrix currently in use, but revised so the elements of quality are more equally spaced as quality progresses across indicators. The new matrix also is designed to make the rating process less burdensome to early learning and care providers. The new model has six indicators of quality for each element, with quality standards delineated in a stair-step fashion that, for the most part, build off one another. In this model, as with the current matrix, each element of quality is weighted the same for rating scores.

Now that the state has selected the new Rating Matrix, the next steps will focus on implementation, including guidance and training. The State anticipates implementing the new Rating Matrix by July 2020. \*

### THE HISTORY OF QRIS

In 2011, California received the federal Race to the Top Early-Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant that initially funded Quality Counts California (QCC), California’s quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). Under the direction of Governor Brown, California elected to use RTT-ELC dollars to fund a locally driven approach to a QRIS. Although communities would use a common framework for quality rating standards (i.e., the Rating Matrix), it was customized locally; therefore, a wide range of implementation practices emerged across the state. While this approach enabled local communities to be responsive to the needs of their early childhood education community and to create implementation policies shaped by geographic resources and constraints, a quality rating in one community was not the same as a quality rating in another community.

In 2016, the RTT-ELC funding ended and leaders from across the state agreed to consolidate efforts into QCC <https://qualitycountsca.net/>; California’s statewide, locally driven QRIS. This opened a window of opportunity to consider the lessons learned from local QRIS implementation and to revise the Rating Matrix in ways that reflect best practices learned in local efforts and that foster consistency across communities. \*

### KEY OVERALL DIFFERENCES

Current QCC Rating Matrix	New QCC Rating Matrix (beginning 2020)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of seven elements of quality</li> <li>• Five indicators of quality per rated element</li> <li>• Five (5) maximum points assigned per element</li> <li>• Two total point ranges to determine tiered rating, one for family child care and one for centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of five elements of quality – “ratios and group size” element has been removed, and teacher and administrator qualifications have been restructured under a single element</li> <li>• Six indicators of quality per rated element</li> <li>• Fifteen (15) maximum points assigned per element, so as not to confuse points with rating tiers</li> <li>• A single point range to determine tiered rating for all sites</li> </ul>

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## Quality Counts California Selects New Ratings Matrix (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

KEY CHANGES BY ELEMENT	
Current QCC Rating Matrix	New QCC Rating Matrix (Beginning 2020)
<b>1. Child Observation</b> Requires assessment tool to be used at all earned point values, moving from an evidence-based tool to use of the DRDP	<b>1. Child Observation and Planning</b> Focuses on early learning standards and professional competencies, and moves into the use of an assessment tool (such as the DRDP) at higher point values
<b>2. Developmental and Health Screening</b> Requires health screening at lower point values and higher point values are contingent on obtaining lower point values; requires use of ASQ and ASQ-SE at highest point values	<b>2. Developmental Screening and Monitoring</b> Health screening is removed and focus is shifted to programs and families having knowledge about the importance of developmental screening, and implementing effective screening and monitoring practices; no specific tools are required
<b>3. Minimum Qualifications for Lead Teacher/Family Child Care</b>	N/A—Combined into one Qualifications Element
<b>4. Effective Teacher–Child Interactions</b> Minimum scores in all domains must be reached to earn a particular point value	<b>3. Adult–Child Interactions</b> Sites earn points based on each individual CLASS <sup>®</sup> domain score
<b>5. Ratios and Group Size</b>	N/A - Removed as a rated element
<b>6. Program Environment Rating Scale(s)</b> The full Environment Rating Tool (ERS) is administered by a certified assessor	<b>4. Physical Environment</b> Two subscales, <i>Space and Furnishings</i> and <i>Activities</i> , will be administered by a certified assessor during the same observation as the CLASS
<b>7. Director Qualifications</b>	<b>5. Combined into one qualifications element</b> Lead teacher and Administrator/Director are independently scored within one Qualifications element for centers; FCC providers have separate Qualifications standards; Qualifications indicators are aligned with the Career Lattice

## Summary of July 2018 State Commission Meeting (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

2. Strategic Partnerships and Coalitions: Develop and enter into agreements with coalitions and strategic partnerships on up to three priority First 5 California Children’s Policy Agenda goals.
3. Policy Development: Continuation of facilitating the creation of consensus-based and actionable policy recommendations that achieve the goals of the Children’s Policy Agenda.

### RESULTS FROM MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH ASSESSMENT (MIHA) SURVEY

The Commission heard from researchers with the University of California San Francisco about recent findings from MIHA. MIHA annually collects self-reported information about maternal and infant experiences, and maternal attitudes and behaviors before, during, and shortly after pregnancy for California mothers who recently gave birth.

The presentation by Christine Rinki, MPH; Paula Braveman, MD, MPH; and Kristen Marchi, MPH, focused on the topics of hardships among women around the time of pregnancy, the impact of childhood hardships on maternal health, and the relationship of preterm birth with racism.

### BABY HYGIENE PILOT PROGRAM

SupplyBank.Org Executive Director Benito Delgado-Olsen presented on the successful partnership with First 5 California and other stakeholders to provide diapers and baby wipes to low-income families. See page 9 for in-depth article.

Visit [http://www.ccfca.gov/about/2018\\_07\\_meeting\\_handouts.html](http://www.ccfca.gov/about/2018_07_meeting_handouts.html) for information on all July 2018 Commission meeting agenda items, handouts, and PowerPoint presentations. ✨



# First 5 California and SupplyBank.Org Launch Innovative Diaper Kit Pilot Program

by Benito Delgado-Olson, Executive Director, SupplyBank.org

SupplyBank.Org and First 5 California collaborated with Alameda County, Santa Clara County, First 5 Alameda County, Kaiser Permanente, Sunlight Giving, the Brin Wojcicki Foundation, and the Thomas J. Long Foundation to address diaper need among low-income families in a unique fashion that also promotes First 5 California's *Talk. Read. Sing.*® campaign. The six-county program pilot spans Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, Sacramento, and San Joaquin counties. Families receiving services at Women, Infants & Children (WIC) clinics and First 5 Family Resource Centers in the six counties each receive a monthly kit containing 80–100 diapers and 200 baby wipes. Each kit is designed with First 5 California's colorful Smarter Birds logos and bilingual messaging to help encourage brain-boosting interactions between parents and their babies.

Costing up to \$100 per month, diapers are often the highest unaddressed cost-burden for low-income families after child care, and can account for up to 14 percent of a household budget for families on public assistance. Infrequent changing due to an inadequate supply of diapers results in severe medical conditions, including diaper dermatitis, urinary tract infections, and candidiasis, among others. With more than 41,000 hospital visits a year resulting from these conditions in children ages 0 to 3 statewide, the numbers are staggering. In 2016, 80 percent of these hospital visits were to the emergency room at a cost of \$49 million. Diaper need also creates a barrier to families accessing childcare, as parents are often required to provide a day's or week's supply of diapers upon dropping their child off at daycare.

"Diaper need is a serious problem in California and across the nation, but this issue provides the opportunity for an innovative solution," said First 5 California Commission Chair George Halvorson. "The delivery of this valuable resource also helps raise the awareness of talking, reading, singing, and even counting to babies, which helps stimulate brain development, improve health, and close the readiness gap. This partnership is a key investment in early childhood wellness and education."



**Left to Right: Tonya Love (Office of Assemblymember Bonta), Brandon Baranco (Office of Assemblymember Thurmond), Daesha Jordan (SupplyBank.Org), Lanikque Howard (First 5 Alameda County), Carla Keener (First 5 Alameda County), Arika Sweeting (SupplyBank.Org), Kathleen Willkom (Alameda County WIC), Erica Freeman (SupplyBank.Org), Elizabeth Vado (Eastmont WIC), Josh Thurman (Office of Supervisor Wilma Chan), Benito Delgado-Olson (SupplyBank.Org), George Halvorson (First 5 California), Jose Hernandez (Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee), Rahil Maharaj (SupplyBank.Org), Mark Friedman (Thomas J. Long Foundation), Frank Furtak (First 5 California)**

The program kicked off in July with successful [press events](#) in Oakland and Sacramento with notable guests, including First 5 California's Commission Chairman George Halvorson; Commissioner Monica Fitzgerald; Chief Deputy Director and Counsel Frank Furtak; representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Barbara Lee and State Assemblymembers Rob Bonta, Kevin McCarty, Lorena Gonzalez-Fletcher, and Jim Cooper; Alameda County Board of Supervisors President Wilma Chan; and several other agency representatives.

The Diaper Kit Program is one of several programs that SupplyBank.Org administers to address the unmet material needs of low-income children and families. "We're excited to be launching this scalable model to address diaper need with so many committed partners," said Benito Delgado-Olson, Founder and Executive Director of SupplyBank.Org. "We are grateful for the partnership and leadership of First 5 California, Alameda County, and all other contributors for joining with us to solve this serious issue with careful thought and consideration. With 1 in 3 mothers in the United States experiencing diaper need, program scalability is crucial." The program provides diapers and wipes for about one-third of the in-store cost.

Anyone interested in learning more or supporting this work is encouraged to contact [SupplyBank.Org](#). ✨