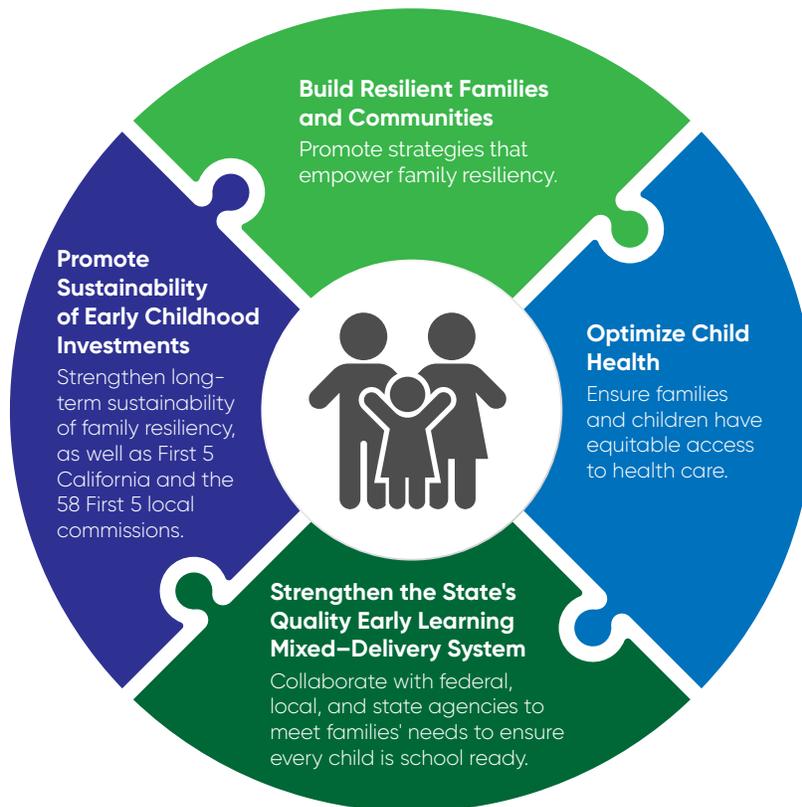


## YOUNG CHILDREN'S FEDERAL POLICY AGENDA

First 5 California annually adopts a Policy Agenda to guide and prioritize all Commission state and federal public policy and regulatory advocacy, aligned to our Strategic Plan. The four pillars ensure that we endorse and engage in public policy actions that ensure First 5 California can meet its Audacious Goal that in a generation, all children 0–5 will have the **safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments** necessary to achieve healthy development.



First 5 California's North Star articulates our commitment to trauma-informed, healing-centered, and culturally responsive systems that promote the safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments necessary to eliminate inequities and ensure healthy development for all children.

### PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENTS

- Promote funding opportunities through the Congressional appropriations process that support targeted universal access to whole child, whole family, whole community efforts, programs, and services.
- Support the permanency of the federal Child Tax Credit and expansion of federal paid family leave to complement state efforts that ensure access to bonding and caregiving opportunities.

### BUILD RESILIENT FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Support efforts to ensure economic security and financial stability for families and children through:
  - Strengthening infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) systems in child-serving settings, workforce development, and integration of IECMH in primary care services.



- Expanding access and eligibility of Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) through public awareness and coordination efforts between local, state, and federal agencies to address historical and ongoing inequities.
- Promoting universal basic income and recognizing California’s higher cost of living in federal programs’ eligibility thresholds for family support services.
- Establishing safe and fair banking and lending practices.
- Investing in stable food security and affordable housing efforts.

## **OPTIMIZE CHILD HEALTH**

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- Ensure that families and children have access to equitable and just health care coverage and services, that also include:
  - Adverse childhood experience screening
  - Behavioral and mental health
  - Developmental screening
  - Doula services for prenatal and postpartum care
  - Drug-related regulations and cessation programs
  - Early intervention and inclusion
  - Home visiting and community health workers
  - Intervention and preventative care
  - Nutritional programs and services
  - Population health and community health status
- Improve accessibility and eligibility policies for family and children support services through local, state, and federal agencies coordination and streamline protocols that reduce participation barriers.

## **STRENGTHEN QUALITY EARLY LEARNING MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM**

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- Support the implementation and expansion of high-quality early learning mixed-delivery system through additional investments in: Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), Head Start/Early Head Start Programs, Preschool Development Grant Program, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, and nutrition and education programs to meet families’ needs and ensure every child is school ready.
- Support increased coordination between local, state, and federal levels to promote health and safety policies, quality improvement systems, and address both workforce and facility infrastructure capacity needs.

\*First 5 California will use targeted universalism approach to achieve its policy goals.