

A Year of Great Challenge and Promise

During our Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022, our entire community saw first-hand the great challenges faced by our youngest children and their families. Fragmented early care and education resources, competing priorities for social supports, and tenuous public health conditions caused great stress. We also saw growing inequities in our systems of care that are critical to family well-being and child development.

Despite these challenges, we are inspired by our families' resiliency and our community partners' resolve in adjusting to these challenges. It took tremendous commitments, coordination and hard work among service providers, caregivers, extended family, and parents to support our youngest children in these conditions. We also re-commit ourselves to sustaining the emerging results that advance a whole child / whole family framework.

Moving Forward: Key Elements for Success

Now we move forward with more resolve than ever, focused on the promise of making our systems of care stronger and truly grounded in equity. The Strategic Plan continues to be our guide for funding early care and education initiatives and forming and strengthening the partnerships that can create lasting changes to the systems of care and support our youngest children and their families.

Key elements for success in these efforts include the following:

- **Bringing everyone to the table**, honoring all voices, especially our families
- **Co-creating our shared vision** for an equitable, coordinated system of care
- **Finding gaps in the system** and defining solutions
- **Integrating leadership** and planning efforts, and aligning resources
- **Joining with key partners** in policy advocacy, grounded in a whole child / whole family framework

We would also like to acknowledge that leading systems change takes time and requires everyone's continued engagement in a sustained effort over time. First 5 San Diego is committed to this journey in the years ahead through deep collaboration with the community as outlined in our Roadmap for Systems Change.

Key Accomplishments

- Invested over \$27.8 million in direct services for young children and their families
- Served more than 37,000 children, parents, caregivers and providers
- Adjusted supportive resources and services to ensure safety and well-being of children birth to five years of age and their families during the pandemic

