



# County of San Diego

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**PATTY KAY DANON**  
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February 14, 2025

First 5 Commission of San Diego  
9655 Granite Ridge Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Fellow First 5 San Diego Commissioners:

I apologize that I am not able to attend the February 18, 2025 meeting. The conversation and decision around the spending plan for First 5 is an important one and I wanted to offer my perspective related to this discussion.

I am supportive of the proposal that Executive Director Alethea Arguilez has put forward to all of us. It is always difficult when we are faced with reduced resources and have to make difficult decisions about how to prioritize funding for programs that make a significant difference in our community. Given the current funding landscape for First 5 San Diego, I believe the proposed plan gives us an equitable approach to ensuring we maintain the most critical services to families with young children.

First 5 San Diego has had the luxury of being able to fund programs without limiting eligibility or the scope of who is served, but that is no longer a luxury afforded to us. We must consider revising our investments so that the most needy and vulnerable in our communities are still able to access the resources they need and that these programs continue to serve as a safety net.

It is also essential that programs and services begin to leverage other available funding. The changes underway with CalAIM (Medi-Cal Transformation) afford many new opportunities that should continue to be explored as a new sustainable funding source for critical programs. Additionally, we anticipate new funding starting in October 2026 from the Family First Prevention Services Act, which also brings new revenue opportunities for some programs. The State of California also continues to invest in key areas, such as early learning and education, prioritizing serving young children. First 5 San Diego should prioritize investing in programs that do not have other sustainable funding options.

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Reducing funding for these programs is never easy but as Commissioners, we must make the best possible decisions about how to use First 5 San Diego investments to make the biggest impact. I want to sincerely thank the many partners who have worked with First 5 San Diego for all these years and have developed critical services, programs, and resources for our youngest children in San Diego. I am grateful for the collaboration, partnership and leadership of these providers.

Sincerely,



KIMBERLY GIARDINA, DSW, MSW  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Health and Human Services Agency  
First 5 San Diego Commissioner