

From: First 5 San Diego <notifications@first5sandiego.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 2:15 PM
To: HHSA, First5SDInfo <First5SDInfo.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Contact Us Form Submission

Name

Maria Mendoza

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

SDQPI

Message

Hi I was going to submit a comment for the meeting today. I missed the deadline but would still like to share my experience with SDQPI.

We are a center that serves low income families in San Diego. We offer services to children from 3 mos. to 5 years. SDQPI offers our staff coaching and free professional trainings as well as grants for materials. Apart from the invaluable coaching experience , the thing I liked the most was the grants and incentives going directly into the classrooms as opposed to administrative cost. This allows us to make needed improvements to the children's environment.

Maria Mendoza
Director
Ocean Beach Child Care Project Inc.

From: First 5 San Diego <notifications@first5sandiego.org>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 10:24 AM
To: HHSA, First5SDInfo <First5SDInfo.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Contact Us Form Submission

Name

Christine Weber

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

SDQPI Grant

Message

This grant has changed my preschool in so many ways! The first year we participated in this grant, we received so many things to update each of our classrooms. It really was a Godsend to our preschool. We have received so much support to provide early learning to the children in our care and also to our staff who have engaged in professional learning opportunities to enhance and help us as early childhood educators. The educational materials we have been blessed with has enhanced our program and has helped in the development of the children in each and every one of my classrooms. This grant has given our preschool so many things...Materials, furniture, stipends for my staff, Professional Learning opportunities and trainings, conferences and so much more! Thank you SDQPI!!!

From: First 5 San Diego <notifications@first5sandiego.org>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 1:29 PM
To: HHSa, First5SDInfo <First5SDInfo.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Contact Us Form Submission

Name

Shane Schmeichel

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Preschool

Message

Dear First 5, San Diego,
The SDQPI program has been instrumental in Coronado Unified leading our early education classrooms (preschool) using best practices. This time of learning, especially for our students with disabilities (we are a full inclusion program), is key to helping students be ready for the academic setting of public school. As a busy administrator with many other programs I support, being a part of SDQPI allows the teaching team and me to focus on best practices as guided by our participation in SDQPI. Our program would not be the quality it is without all the resources SDQPI affords us. Our students, Coronado Unified's youngest learners, are receiving a top-notch experience on a slim budget, thanks to SDQPI coaching, professional learning, CLASS rating, and other resources.
Thanks, Shane Schmeichel

From: First 5 San Diego <notifications@first5sandiego.org>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 4:00 PM
To: HHSa, First5SDInfo <First5SDInfo.HHSa@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Contact Us Form Submission

Name

Kathleen Cordero

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

E-Comment for San Diego First 5 Commission

Message

Dear First 5 Commission Members,

As a California State Preschool Program Administrator, I urge the First 5 Commission to continue funding the San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative (SDQPI) through the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE). SDQPI plays a critical role in strengthening early learning programs, directly benefiting educators, children, and families in our most vulnerable communities.

The professional learning opportunities provided by SDCOE are thoughtfully designed to meet the specific needs of our local early childhood programs. This targeted approach ensures that educators receive high-quality, research-based training that directly impacts the learning experiences of young children.

Additionally, the coaching support for the program is invaluable. This guidance helps direct the professional development provided to teachers and instructional assistants, ensuring that training is both relevant and immediately applicable in the classroom. By aligning professional learning with the needs of students and educators, SDQPI enhances the overall quality of early childhood education in our community.

Furthermore, the funding SDQPI provides for professional learning and stipends makes it possible for staff to access critical training opportunities that would otherwise be financially out of reach. Because many of our early childhood educators live in the communities they serve, these trainings have a lasting impact—not only strengthening individual educators but also building capacity within the broader community. Investing in our educators means investing in our children and families.

I strongly encourage the First 5 Commission to continue funding SDQPI through SDCOE. This investment ensures that our youngest learners receive the high-quality early education

experiences they deserve, setting them on a path toward future success.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Cordero

Coordinator Cajon Valley Union School District, CSPP Program

From: First 5 San Diego <notifications@first5sandiego.org>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 7:29:27 PM
To: HHSa, First5SDInfo <First5SDInfo.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Contact Us Form Submission

Name

Michelle Syverson

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

First 5 Commission Meeting Public Comment on SDQPI

Message

Good afternoon, esteemed members of the First 5 Commission,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment today. My name is Michelle Syverson, and I am here to share my experience and the many benefits I've witnessed firsthand from participating in the San Diego Quality Preschool Initiative (SDQPI).

As an early education provider, I've found that SDQPI has been instrumental in helping us enhance the quality of the services we provide to young children and their families. One of the standout features of SDQPI is the professional development opportunities it offers. Through coaching, training, and ongoing support, SDQPI has helped me and my team elevate our teaching practices, improve classroom management, and develop strong, responsive relationships with the children we serve.

What I appreciate most about SDQPI is how it supports not only teachers and instructional aides, but also leadership. From the leadership perspective, the program has provided valuable tools to help us align our educational practices with best standards in the field of early childhood education. As a result, we've been able to maintain high standards of quality early learning, which, as we all know, is so critical to setting children up for success in their academic and social lives.

SDQPI also emphasizes data-driven decision-making through its program evaluations, which has been valuable for us. The data gathered during evaluations allows us to make targeted improvements, ensuring that our programs are consistently evolving to meet the needs of the

children and families we serve. This continuous process of reflection and growth has empowered us to maintain the highest quality of care and education.

In my experience, SDQPI is much more than just a quality improvement initiative—it's a community that empowers early education providers, supports families, and ultimately creates better outcomes for children in the critical early years of their development. I truly believe that programs like SDQPI are an essential part of building a brighter future for our children.

Thank you for your time and for your continued support of initiatives like SDQPI. I look forward to seeing how these programs continue to grow and improve with your guidance.

From: First 5 San Diego <notifications@first5sandiego.org>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 5:25 PM
To: HHSa, First5SDInfo <First5SDInfo.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Contact Us Form Submission

Name

Ana Castanos

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Experience & Benefits of Participating in SDQPI

Message

The benefits of participating in SDQPI are excellent. Due to this program, we were reaching different goals in our preschool, which allowed us to have quality education, and our students are developing in all areas.

The teachers get involved in the same goal of the education we have chosen every year, refresh their knowledge, and learn new things through webinars and workshops the program is offers.

At the same time, the school benefits from the materials and resources we get and use with the students—materials that are aligned with our goal.

Having a coach (Karen Matsuda) is a blessing because we follow the guidelines we must accomplish to reach our goal during the school year. She is hands-on and looking for growth in all areas. Her experience made the work easy. With SDQPI program was the first time I felt supported by a third party in my Director's job.

Thank you very much for all the support we have been receiving.

From: First 5 San Diego <notifications@first5sandiego.org>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 5:09 PM
To: HHSA, First5SDInfo <First5SDInfo.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov>
Subject: [External] Contact Us Form Submission

Name

Amy Cisneros-Leon

Email

[REDACTED]

Subject

Healthy Development Services

Message

These services have been of great help and value to me. Thanks to these services I was able to get the much needed help that I need as a mother with anxiety and depression. When these services came into my life I was in a very dark place and they helped me get through it and for that I am forever grateful.