“Acting in Unison to Strengthen Networks that Support Children”

First 5 LA Presentation

November 6, 2018
OUR AGENDA

• Review Objectives
• Interactive Activity
• First 5 LA’s Engagement Approach
• Best Start overview
• Challenges and Opportunities
• How to get involved
• Q & A
Presentation Objectives

• Provide an overview of First 5 LA’s approach to recognizing that the leadership and involvement of parents and caregivers working with community organizations and local systems to influence decision makers is critical to neighborhood and community change.

• Demonstrate the *tangible, practical and equitable* ways for community organizations and local systems (i.e., municipalities, public agencies, schools, etc.) to co-lead community, policy and system change efforts in collaboration and partnership with parents and caregivers.
Interactive Activity

Table Discussions – Group of 8-10. Introduce yourself and answer the following question?

Question #1: What is a network? (write on post-it)

Question #2: What do you consider as your network either as a parent, community member or organization? How does it support you?
First 5 LA’s North Start

By 2028, all children in Los Angeles County will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.
First 5 LA’s Support for Parent and Community Engagement

Some examples of First 5 LA investment

• **2002 – present**: First 5 LA funds Neighborhood Action Councils (1,300 parents and residents involved)

• **2010 – 2018**: First 5 LA launches Best Start, creates and manages 14 community partnerships (2,465 parents, residents and organizational representatives involved)

• **2015-2018**: First 5 LA supports projects developed by the 14 Best Start community partnerships (780 parent/resident leaders trained, and over 21,000 parents/residents engaged by these leaders)

• **2018 and beyond**: First 5 LA, community members and organizations begin reimagining what is possible through Best Start. Move to expand the community partnerships into strong local and regional networks of parents and other stakeholders.
The purpose of the Best Start investment is to cultivate strong collaborative efforts among parents, residents and organizations so that, together, they are a powerful catalyst for change to achieve and sustain positive outcomes for children and families in their communities.
Best Start Regions

Region 1 – Central-East
East Los Angeles, South El Monte/El Monte, Southeast LA, Metro LA

Region 2 – South Los Angeles
Compton, Broadway-Manchester, Watts-Willowbrook, West Athens

Region 3 – San Fernando Valley
Northeast Valley, Panorama City & Neighbors

Region 4 – Port Cities
Central Long Beach, Wilmington

Region 5 – Antelope Valley
Lancaster, Palmdale
Today, First 5 LA’s investment in Best Start focuses on:

- Evolution of community partnerships into local and regional networks to elevate parent voice and leadership
- Catalyze public investments
- Invest in CBO effectiveness
- Champion and model parent and community engagement
Parents and communities are critical voices in policy and systems change.

This is a transformational moment in L.A. County to catalyze public policy and investments in the built environment for the benefit of young children and their families.

The complex issues that affect families and communities require collective, community-developed and community-owned solutions.

As community leadership and collaboration evolves, there should be opportunities for parents and communities to be meaningfully involved in decision-making on issues related to young children and their families.
• A child’s success in life comes with strong and inclusive networks that increase collective action efforts that promote early childhood well-being.
• The complex issues that affect children, families and communities require collective, community-developed and community-owned solutions.

First 5 LA and its partners are working to bridge the gap between decision-makers and those with lived experience.
What Are Some Challenges Moving Forward?

1. Hierarchal Relationship
2. Power Dynamics
3. Decision Making Rights
4. Recognizing and Integrating Community Voice
5. Role of First 5 LA
6. Prioritizing Issues
7. Missed Emerging Opportunities
What Are Our Opportunities?

1. Influence as a Public Agency
2. Leveraging Community Voice with Legislators
3. Alignment between grassroots and strategic plan
4. Valuing Community and their Priorities
5. Feedback
6. Learn from our Successes and Failures
7. Power in Partnerships
Get Involved!

- Attend Best Start partnership meetings in your region
- Invite members from the Best Start Partnerships to your meetings and events
- Meet with leaders from the partnership to discuss ways to galvanize parent and resident engagement in decision making opportunities for your community, organization and/or region
- Join a Best Start Community Facebook page to stay up to date and connected
- Share this information if you know someone that lives and/or work in a region to encourage them to get involved.
Questions & Answers

Looking for the ingredients that make for authentic partnerships with parents and/or caregivers...
THANK YOU!

For more information please contact:

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