



## American Rescue Plan Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding and Post-Pandemic Recovery for Sonoma County’s Children & Families:

### First \$5 Million for the First 5 Years

Early Childhood Mental Health	\$1,000,000
Family Safety-net Navigation	\$500,000
Home Visiting for High-Need Families	\$1,000,000
Direct Supports to Essential Workers: Child Care Providers	\$1,000,000
Stabilize and Sustain 0-5 Systems	\$1,500,000

**Sonoma County Families are in Crisis.** The COVID-19 pandemic has put a huge strain on families with young children due to health concerns, stress, isolation and income loss. In the past year, many families have been pushed into poverty, particularly Latinx families who have suffered disproportionately greater economic and health impacts<sup>1</sup>. Most concerning are the proven long-term impacts of childhood poverty and adversity on physical and mental health, brain development, and school readiness and the risk that shorter-term pandemic impacts will deepen racial disparities in access to affordable housing, healthcare, and education.<sup>2</sup>

As parents return to work and children to child care and school, experts predict trauma and toxic stress to surface. Data from the *Family, Youth and Children Division* of the Sonoma County Human Services Department reflects that in 2020, a significantly greater percentage of child abuse reports required *immediate intervention* due to the *high acuity and severity* of the cases, as well as related spikes in parental substance misuse, opioid overdose, suicidality, and incidents of domestic violence where were children present.<sup>3</sup>

The pandemic comes atop the trauma and economic impacts that families have endured from recurring disasters since 2017. The compounding impact of ongoing and recurring traumas on

<sup>1</sup> Parent Support and COVID-19: Summary of Survey Results, October 2020, First 5 Sonoma County: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/15r\\_EPRj7kKHijHe67BqSU-a87mXwGNl0/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15r_EPRj7kKHijHe67BqSU-a87mXwGNl0/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>2</sup> Children’s Defense Fund, *Child Poverty data*: <https://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/child-poverty/>

<sup>3</sup> Unpublished data presented by Nick Honey, FYC Director, to the Prevent Child Abuse Sonoma County Steering Committee, 3/17/21

children's social-emotional development has resulted in chronic stress and anxiety for many children and a corresponding decline in countywide school readiness scores, as well as an ever-widening, extreme disparity between the school readiness of white and Latinx children<sup>4</sup>. Young children with special needs, dual language learners and those lacking adequate access to virtual learning have experienced serious disruption in learning, as well as the critical nutrition, counseling and other supports that many children normally receive at child care or school.

The pre-existing crisis in our community's child care sector has been significantly worsened by the pandemic. With permanent closure of dozens of child care providers, our communities have lost thousands of child care slots which will cripple parents' ability to return to work and slow down our local economic recovery.<sup>5</sup>

Across the state, pediatric well-child visits were down an estimated 24% from pre-pandemic baselines in December 2020 and the number of childhood vaccination doses administered to California children dropped by more than 40% at the start of the pandemic.<sup>6 7</sup> This has especially impacted children covered by MediCal and is a huge blow to critical preventive care and early identification of developmental and social-emotional issues for young children.

**The good news is that the County of Sonoma and our City/Town Councils of Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Windsor, Healdsburg, Sonoma, Sebastopol and Cotati have an opportunity to buffer these impacts on young children and families by strategically investing the *American Rescue Plan Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding*, a highly flexible funding stream intended to address COVID-19 impacts at a local level<sup>8</sup>.**

To ensure that the needs of children and families are prioritized, we request \$5 million in combined funding across County and municipalities (3% of the ARP Local Fiscal Recovery Funding to our county) to ensure that children have supports to be healthy, safe, and ready to learn, as we emerge out of COVID-19. First 5 Sonoma and community-based partners have actively supported families and children during the COVID-19 crisis and we remain committed to ongoing recovery efforts. However, First 5 funds (Proposition 10, 1998) alone cannot meet the needs of our youngest children and their families. Additional local and flexible funds are critical to ensure meet young

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<sup>4</sup> READY Report 2016-2019: Sonoma County Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, <https://first5sonomacounty.org/2020/12/21/local-study-shows-persistent-kindergarten-readiness-gap-between-latinx-and-white-children/>

<sup>5</sup> Sonoma County Economic Perspective, 2021: Panel on Child Care, Sonoma County Development Board, 1/28/21

<sup>6</sup> Ateev Mehrotra et al., *The Impact of COVID-19 on Outpatient Visits in 2020: Visits Remained Stable, Despite a Late Surge in Cases* (Commonwealth Fund, February, 2021). <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/2021/feb/impact-covid-19-outpatient-visits-2020-visits-stable-despite-late-surge>

<sup>7</sup> California Department of Public Health, *Staying Safe & Getting Vaccinated During the Pandemic*, Press Release:NR20-090 (May 18, 2020). <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR20-090.aspx#YourActionsSavesLives>

<sup>8</sup> *The Cradle-To-Career Guide to Federal Relief Funding for Kids During and Beyond COVID-19*, Children's Funding Project, March, 2021, <https://www.childrensfundingproject.org/>

children's needs today, as well as stabilize systems of care for future crises and ongoing support. A proactive approach will address current needs, stabilize the 0-5 serving sector, mitigate exposure to toxic stress, and intervene as early as possible to support families who are struggling.

**Together, we can meet the current crisis moment, while also building resilience among families and communities for years to come.**

In partnership,



Angie Dillon-Shore, Executive Director  
First 5 Sonoma County  
Chair, Cradle to Career Sonoma  
County Advocacy Committee



Daniel Schurman (Apr 2, 2021 15:24 PDT)

Daniel Schurman, Manager  
Community Health Investment,  
Providence



Melanie Dodson, Executive Director  
Community Child Care Council of  
Sonoma County



kimberly bender (Apr 5, 2021 08:57 PDT)

Kimberly Bender, Executive Director  
Healthcare Foundation of Northern  
Sonoma County



Jenni Klose (Apr 4, 2021 08:50 PDT)

Jenni Klose, Executive Director  
Generation Housing



Glaydon de Freitas Filho, CEO  
Corazón Healdsburg



Erin Hawkins (Apr 5, 2021 09:43 PDT)

Erin Hawkins, Co-Director  
Hanna Institute



Peter Rumble (Apr 2, 2021 13:35 PDT)

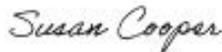
Peter Rumble, CEO  
Santa Rosa Metro Chamber



Tony Crabb, Founder & Board  
Member  
CTE Foundation



Elece Hempel, Executive Director  
Petaluma People Services Center



Susan Cooper, Executive Director  
Community Action Partnership of  
Sonoma County



Robin Bowen (Apr 4, 2021 14:38 PDT)

Robin Bowen, Executive Director  
Child Parent Institute



Sarah Rock (Apr 5, 2021 08:34 PDT)

Sarah Rock, Consulting Director  
Sonoma Connect



Herman J. Hernandez (Apr 4, 2021 09:41 PDT)

Herman J. Hernandez, Founder  
& Board Member  
Los Cien



Diann Kitamura (Apr 2, 2021 15:13 PDT)

Dr. Diann Kitamura,  
Superintendent  
Santa Rosa City Schools



Michele Rogers, Executive Director  
Early Learning Institute



Susan Gilmore (Apr 5, 2021 09:10 PDT)

Susan Gilmore, CEO  
North Bay Children's Center



Veronica Vences (Apr 5, 2021 11:55 PDT)

Veronica Vences, Director of  
Development  
La Luz



Nick Dalton (Apr 5, 2021 09:59 PDT)

Nick Dalton, Co-Director  
Hanna Institute



Susy Marron, Coordinator  
Child Care Planning Council



Oscar Chavez, Chair  
First 5 Sonoma County  
Commission

## Post-Pandemic Recovery for Sonoma County's Children & Families: First \$5 Million for the First 5 Years: Expenditure Plan

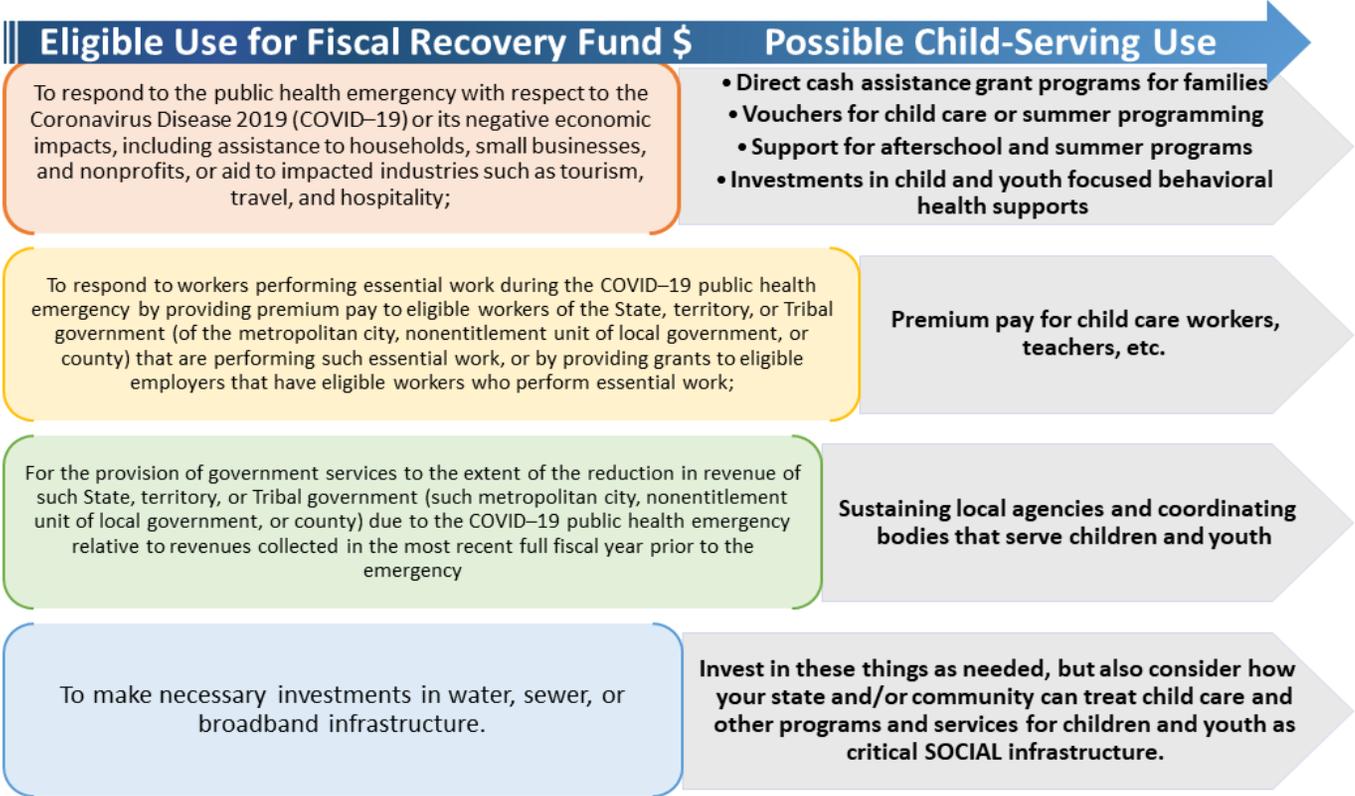
Strategy	Description	Funding Amount	Funding Mechanism
<b>Early Childhood Mental Health</b>	<b>Funding will ensure robust community-based resources for early childhood and perinatal mental health</b> to strengthen parenting and resilience in families to improve social, emotional and behavioral health. A state funding stream (MHSA-PEI) for 0-5 administered by County Behavioral Health has been recently reduced by 35% since 2018, undermining our community's capacity to provide critical supports to families and children during this challenging time.	\$1,000,000	Municipalities and County transfer to First 5 Sonoma. First 5 will provide direct funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELI</li> <li>• PPSC</li> <li>• CPI</li> </ul>
<b>Safety-net Navigation</b>	<b>COVID has dealt a huge blow to child development.</b> Monitoring children's developmental milestones and ensuring access to the early intervention has been greatly undermined by the pandemic. Community-based organizations are essential for identifying children with developmental delays and ensuring families are connected to developmental supports and other critical safety-net services, including housing assistance, mental health services, health insurance, food assistance and parenting education.	\$500,000	Municipalities and County transfer to First 5 Sonoma. First 5 will provide direct funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELI</li> <li>• CAP Sonoma</li> <li>• La Luz</li> <li>• Corazón Healdsburg</li> </ul>
<b>Home Visiting Services</b>	<b>Home visiting eases family isolation, strengthens families, and improves health and other outcomes.</b> Home visitors connect families to a broad range of supportive resources, reduce parental stress, and improve child health and development. Nurse Family Partnership serves the highest risk moms and babies. Funding for this critical program is unstable.	\$1,000,000	County of Sonoma direct funding to Department of Health Services to ensure full funding for <i>Nurse Family Partnership</i> program for FY 21/22
<b>Direct Supports to Child Care Providers</b>	Safe and stable child care is critical to keeping kids learning, parents earning, and our economy thriving. Additional economic support is needed for our essential child care workforce, which underpins our economic recovery. Stipends of \$1,250-1,500 for approximately 715 frontline child care workers, actively caring for children during pandemic in public and private settings	\$1,000,000	Municipalities and County transfer directly to <i>Community Child Care Council of Sonoma County*</i> to distribute to essential workers
<b>Stabilize and Sustain 0-5 Systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stabilize and support sustainability for 0-5 programs by reimbursing expenditures specifically allocated to pandemic response from First 5 Sonoma County Prop. 10 reserves</li> <li>• Stabilize and sustain programs by ensuring community-based partners earn full administrative cost on program contracts.</li> <li>• Support a countywide public will building campaign around needs of children and youth to build momentum for a citizen-driven initiative to ensure long term sustainability of critical programs for children and youth.</li> </ul>	\$1,500,000	Municipalities and County transfer to First 5 Sonoma. First 5 will distribute funding to ensure all FY 20/21 contracted administrative costs capture by currently funded partners
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,000,000</b>	

**Post-Pandemic Recovery for Sonoma County's Children & Families: First \$5 Million for the First 5 Years**  
*Requested Contributions by County and Cities/Towns*

Jurisdiction	ARP \$ in Millions	Requested %age of \$5m	Total Request
County of Sonoma	\$95.87	68%	\$3,400,000
City of Santa Rosa	\$36.4	18%	\$880,000
City of Petaluma	\$8.75	5%	\$240,000
City of Rohnert Park	\$8.15	4%	\$200,000
Town of Windsor	\$5.1	2%	\$120,000
City of Sebastopol	\$1.4	1%	\$40,000
City of Sonoma	\$2	1%	\$40,000
City of Healdsburg	\$2.2	1%	\$40,000
City of Cotati	\$1.39	1%	\$40,000

	Early Childhood Mental Health	Safety-net Navigation	Home Visiting Services	Direct Supports to Child Care Providers	Stabilize and Sustain 0-5 Systems	Total Request
County of Sonoma	\$600,000	\$300,000	\$1,000,000	\$600,000	\$900,000	\$3,400,000
Santa Rosa	\$230,000	\$110,000	\$0	\$220,000	\$330,000	\$880,000
Petaluma	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$60,000	\$100,000	\$240,000
Rohnert Park	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$200,000
Windsor	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$120,000
Sebastopol, Sonoma, Healdsburg & Cotati	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$40,000 each
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$5,000,000

**Eligible Uses of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds<sup>9</sup>**



<sup>9</sup> The Cradle-To-Career Guide to Federal Relief Funding for Kids During and Beyond COVID-19, Children's Funding Project, March, 2021, <https://www.childrensfundingproject.org/>