FIRST 5 STANISLAUS

2026 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

EMPOWERING FAMILIES. INSPIRING FUTURES.

Letter from Leadership

At First 5 Stanislaus, we believe that strong families build strong communities and that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. Our 2026 Report to the Community reflects the meaningful impact we continue to make through strategic investments, strong partnerships, and a shared commitment to children ages 0–5 and their families.

This year, First 5 Stanislaus and our contractors reached 25,240 children, parents, caregivers, and providers throughout Stanislaus County. From supporting more than 10,000 children through family support services to distributing over 19,000 books, our efforts are helping families access resources, strengthen parenting skills, and build a foundation for lifelong learning.

But our impact goes beyond the numbers. It is reflected in the stories of parents who feel more confident, families who discover new opportunities, and children who benefit from stronger connections and support systems.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to meeting families where they are, addressing emerging needs, and strengthening the partnerships that make this work possible. We extend our sincere appreciation to our commissioners, staff, contractors, and community members for their continued dedication.

Together, we are empowering families today and inspiring brighter futures for tomorrow.

Dr. Shammy Karim

Executive Director

Dave Cooper

Commission Chair

Building Connections in Waterford

For Maria, Waterford Healthy Start's first year as a First 5 Stanislaus-funded program has been about building connections, creating access, and helping families discover resources available right in their own community.

One of the most meaningful parts of the first year has been seeing families become comfortable reaching out for support. Maria and her team have worked to make Healthy Start a welcoming and accessible place where families can ask questions, learn about available resources, and connect with people who can help. Through this work, families have discovered services and opportunities they may not have known were available in Stanislaus County.

Serving a rural community also means meeting families where they are. Many parents are balancing work, family responsibilities, and other commitments, which can make traditional program hours difficult. Healthy Start has responded by offering morning activities, evening and weekend outreach, and resources families can use at home. The program has also worked to make families who speak Spanish and Dari feel welcomed and supported, helping reduce language barriers and create stronger connections with the community.

Literacy has been another important area of impact. Through the Imagination Library, families learned they could receive free books each month for their young children. Healthy Start also partnered with the local library to help families get library cards and discover additional resources that encourage reading at home. Maria shared that many families were surprised to learn that these opportunities were available and appreciated knowing that their community was supporting their children's learning beyond the classroom.

Healthy Start has also served as a bridge between families and the broader community, connecting parents with schools, libraries, childcare, medical services, Family Resource Centers, and other local organizations. When families need services outside of Waterford, staff help connect them with additional resources and transportation options. Partnerships with organizations such as the Hughson Family Resource Center have also helped create a stronger network of support for families.







Looking back on the first year, Maria is most proud of the relationships that have been built with families and community partners. Moving forward, she hopes to expand parenting education, create more opportunities for families to come together, and provide additional ways for organizations to share information and resources with parents.

> **"I want families to know that there is a place for them to feel welcomed, that they can reach out to us, and that they can lean on us to help them through any obstacles they are facing."**

For Maria, that is what Healthy Start is all about: being there for families, building connections, and helping them find the resources and support they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

A Community of Support for Erika and Her Family

For Erika, discovering the Waterford Healthy Start Family Resource Center began with a recommendation from her daughter's preschool. Because it was close by and offered programs she enjoyed, she began participating whenever she could, even while caring for a young baby.

Erika attended workshops on finances, child development, parenting, and managing tantrums. She appreciated that the programs were accessible in both English and Spanish and that each workshop provided information she could use in her everyday life.

> **"I would walk out feeling very informed and knowing what to do."**

Through the Healthy Start Family Resource Center, Erika gained new parenting skills, learned healthy habits, and even received guidance on starting a savings fund for her child's future education. She has been able to put the parenting techniques she learned into practice with her child.

For Erika, feeling welcomed and supported has been just as important as what she learned. She describes the Family Resource Center as a place where she feels safe and comfortable, and she remembers how staff would help watch her infant during workshops so she could participate and focus.

When asked what she would tell another parent considering the Healthy Start Family Resource Center, Erika's advice is simple:

> **"Go. There is information for whatever you may want or need."**

For Erika and her family, the Waterford Healthy Start Family Resource Center has been a place to gain knowledge, build confidence, and find support along the way.







25,240

Children, parents, caregivers, and providers reached through First 5 Stanislaus and its contractors.

$4,891,052

Total Budget for 2025-2026

Result Areas



Improved Family Functioning



Improved Child Development



Improved Child Health



Improved Systems of Care

Result Areas

Improved Family Functioning

Families are receiving support.
The caregivers of 10,027 children received family support services through First 5 Stanislaus funded programs.

Parents are gaining knowledge and improving parenting skills.
The caregivers of 387 children increased their skills and knowledge after attending parenting classes.

Parents are gaining knowledge and increasing their confidence in their parenting ability.
The caregivers of 389 children increased their confidence in their parenting ability after attending parenting classes.

Improved Child Development

Parents are reading with their children.
1,155 families of children 0-5 increased the time spent reading with their children at home after receiving literacy services.

Children are continuing their skill development.
2,019 children 0-5 who received literacy services were given a book to take home and build upon the skills they and their families learned.

Children are being screened and identified for developmental delays.
351 children 0-5 were screened for educational developmental issues.

Improved Systems of Care

Strengthening families with knowledge.
Families of 10,027 children have increased knowledge and use of community resources.

Improved Child Health

Keeping Children Safe
250 caregivers received education on Child Passenger Safety, helping families learn how to keep their children safe while traveling. As a result, 250 children received a new car seat.

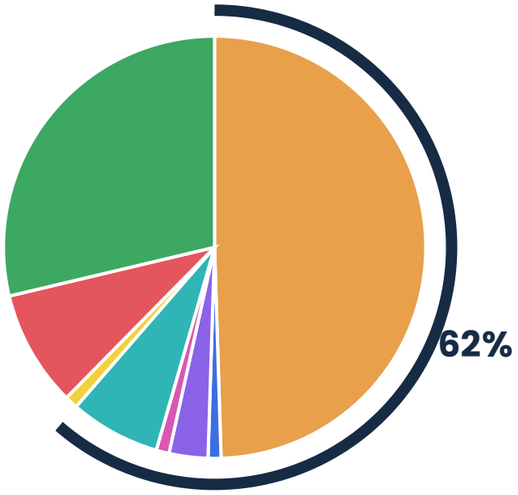
Strengthening Families Through Health
102 parents and caregivers of children ages 0–5 participated in a nutrition workshop, gaining knowledge and resources to support healthy development and well-being.

Participants Served

Committed to Diversity and Equity

* Data reported by Proposition 10 funded programs in Stanislaus County

62% of participants served through First 5 Stanislaus are from Hispanic, Asian, African American, or multi-racial population groups.



Ethnicity of Participants Served in First 5 Programs*

- Asian (1%)
- Black/African American (3%)
- Hispanic/Latino (50%)
- Pacific Islander (1%)
- White (9%)
- Multiracial (1%)
- American Indian or Alaska Native (0%)
- Other (7%)
- Unknown (29%)

Supplies Distributed

Basic needs continue to be difficult for families to afford. In an effort to support areas of need for families with children 0-5, First 5 Stanislaus distributed supplies to Family Resource Centers and community partners for them to make available to their participants. In Fiscal Year 2025-2026, supplies included:

920
Imagination Library Applications

19,290
Books

43,781+
Diapers

Program Highlights



Empowering Families. Inspiring Futures.

At First 5 Stanislaus, we believe that when families have the knowledge, resources, support, and confidence they need, they are better equipped to help their children thrive. Empowering Families. Inspiring Futures. reflects our commitment to creating opportunities for parents and caregivers to learn, connect, and access the resources that support their families. Through Family Resource Centers, Healthy Start programs, parent education, literacy initiatives, community partnerships, and outreach, we help families build skills and confidence today while creating a strong foundation for their children's future. Every workshop, resource, book, connection, and moment of support has the potential to make a lasting difference in the lives of children and families across Stanislaus County.

Jacket Drive

First 5 Stanislaus partnered with Board of Supervisors Terry Withrow and Supervisor Mani Grewal to provide 1,600 jackets to children ages 5 and under through Robertson Road Healthy Start, Orville Healthy Start, and Franklin Healthy Start.

This generous effort helped ensure that local children have warm jackets to wear during the colder months while also creating an opportunity for families to connect with their local Healthy Start programs and other available resources. Community partnerships like this help meet the everyday needs of young children and families and strengthen the support available throughout Stanislaus County.

We are grateful to Supervisors Terry Withrow and Mani Grewal for helping make this effort possible and supporting the well-being of our youngest community members.





Sharing a Meal, Supporting Our Community

During the holiday season, First 5 Stanislaus partnered with Supervisor Terry Withrow and Supervisor Mani Grewal to help local families celebrate Thanksgiving with a little extra support.

Together, we provided 100 Thanksgiving meals to more than 600 people in our community, bringing families together around a shared meal during the holiday season.

This collaboration is a reminder of the impact we can make when community partners come together to support families and ensure that more children and caregivers have the opportunity to celebrate, connect, and feel supported.

Program Highlights



Bringing Resources to Families Where They Are

First 5 Stanislaus brought the Thrive in the First Five initiative sponsoring Luau Night at the Modesto Nuts game, creating a fun and welcoming opportunity for families to connect with local resources.

Community organizations that serve children ages 0–5 and their families joined us at the game to share information, resources, and support directly with families. Approximately 65 children ages 0–5 and their families connected with participating organizations throughout the evening.

By bringing community partners together in a family-friendly setting, the event made it easier for families to discover the resources available to help their children learn, grow, and thrive.

Growing Young Readers Through Community Partnerships

First 5 Stanislaus continues to collaborate with local libraries to bring the joy of reading directly to families across the community. Through engaging Story Time sessions and educational workshops, library partners have connected with families at Family Resource Centers and local schools, including Hughson Elementary and Lucas Elementary Dual Language Academy.

On September 10, 2025, library partners brought Story Time to the Ceres Family Resource Center, engaging children ages 0–5 while sharing practical strategies and resources to help parents build reading into their everyday routines.

These ongoing collaborations help families discover valuable library resources and reinforce an important message: building strong readers starts early.





Bringing Families Together Before Baby Arrives

The Hughson Community Baby Shower brought expecting families together for a day of learning, connection, and celebration. Hosted by Hughson Elementary and Hughson Healthy Start, the event welcomed 82 expecting moms and more than 100 attendees.

Families had the opportunity to connect with local organizations, explore valuable resources, participate in educational classes, and learn about services available to support them throughout pregnancy and early parenthood.

With support from First 5 Stanislaus, Health Plan of San Joaquin, and Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, along with 12 community partners, the event created a welcoming space where families could build connections and leave with information and resources to help them prepare for their growing families.

Key Statistics & Outcomes

920

parents/caregivers of children 0-5 reported expanded social connections after attending community events

177

pregnant and parenting women reported less stress as a result of attending support group sessions.

134

pregnant and parenting women reported improved protective factors in their lives as a result of attending support group sessions.

19,290

books were distributed to children to nurture a desire to read and to support literacy skills at home.

389

caregivers reported an increase in their confidence in parenting ability after attending parenting education and support groups.



387

caregivers reported an increase in their skills and knowledge after attending parenting classes.

2,019

children and their families participated in literacy services.

12,382

parents and caregivers of children 0-5 were provided with education and support.

493

library cards were issued to children/families who participated in literacy services

Investing in Confidence and Connection

For Rosa, attending parent education classes is an investment in being prepared for the different stages of raising children.

“Kids change and are different and need different strategies,” Rosa shared. “I like to have different tools in my pocket just in case.”

A lesson on routines especially stood out. Through a hands-on activity using a visual schedule with Velcro, Rosa learned a simple strategy she could bring home to help her younger children build routines similar to those they experience at school. The classes also helped her see how everyday strategies can be adapted to meet the individual needs of each child.

Rosa appreciated learning alongside other parents and hearing different perspectives. The practical examples and suggestions gave her new ideas to try at home while strengthening the connection between home and school.

Most importantly, Rosa gained confidence in her parenting. She describes leaving the classes feeling prepared, organized, and confident, knowing she can continue to learn and adjust as her children grow.

> **“Don’t take it as a class. Take it as an investment for your family.”**

One of Rosa’s favorite memories came during an activity when she drew a picture and shared it with her son. His playful comment about her artistic abilities became a sweet reminder that parents are learning too.

For Rosa, parent education is more than learning new strategies. It is about building confidence, gaining practical tools, and remembering that parenting is a journey where both children and parents continue to learn and grow.







Meet David, Waterford Healthy Start Community Event Attendee

For David, attending the Reading Expo, hosted by Waterford Unified School District Healthy Start, was an opportunity to learn more about the resources available to help his children grow, learn, and succeed. With both of his children participating in an early childhood program, David already understood the importance of building strong foundations during the early years.

One of the things that stood out to David was learning where families could find free books and local libraries. He appreciated being connected to resources that could encourage reading at home and support his children as they prepare for school and beyond. The event also helped David connect with additional community resources, including food banks.

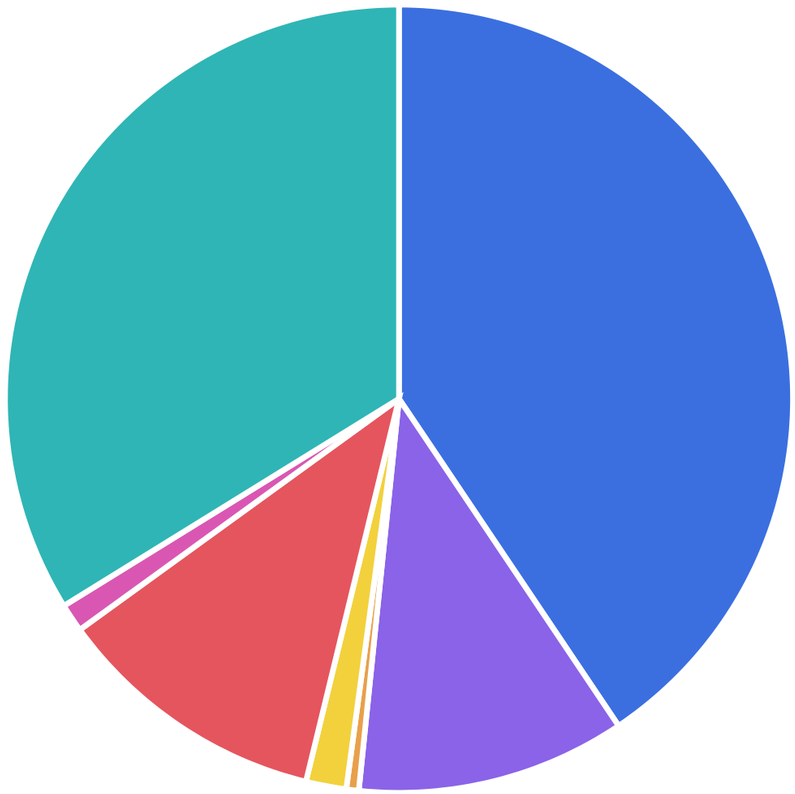
When asked what he would tell another family about participating in community events, David emphasized the value of learning what is available for children and families:

> **"They could learn more about what's out there for kids. It's great for educating on what is available. The more we can give to our kids and provide for them, the more successful they can be throughout life."**

For David, the Reading Expo was more than an event. It was a connection to resources, information, and opportunities that families can use to support their children's future.



2025-2026 Financials



Total Budget: $4,891,052

Improved Family Functioning (Family Support, Education, and Services)	$1,985,176	(40.6%)
Improved Child Development (Child Development Services)	$540,000	(11.0%)
Improved Child Health	$25,000	(0.5%)
Improved Systems of Care	$81,020	(1.7%)
Administration	$549,362	(11.2%)
Evaluation	$56,936	(1.2%)
Other Programs (Includes Contingency Fund)	$1,653,558	(33.8%)

2025-2026 Financials

Financials

	2025	2026
Revenues		
Program revenues	$3,826,972	$3,977,679
General revenues	$793,406	$686,668
Total revenues	$4,620,378	$4,664,347
Total Expenses	$2,650,978	$2,844,959
Change in Net Position	$1,969,400	$1,819,388
Beginning net position	$15,012,484	$16,981,884
Assets		
Current assets	$18,045,563	$19,966,336
Right-to-use assets, net of Accumulated depreciation	$27,451	$29,003
Total assets	$18,073,014	$19,995,339
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	$208,705	$222,127
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	$530,286	$648,813
Long-term liabilities	$751,448	$723,394
Total liabilities	$1,281,734	$1,372,207
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	$18,101	$43,987
Net Position		
Net investment in capital assets	$3,569	$3,053
Restricted net position	$16,978,315	$18,798,219
Total net position	$16,981,884	$18,801,272

Our Funded Contractors

Aspiranet
HOPE FORWARD

Center for Human Services
changing lives building futures helping families

Waterford Unified School District

Parent Resource Center

Sierra Vista
Child & Family Services

CERES
Committed to Excellence
Responsive to Every Student

Modesto City Schools

United Way

Hughson Unified School District

Every connection can open a door. Every opportunity can shape a future.

2025-2026 Commissioners



Christine Huber, MSW
Director of the Stanislaus County Community Services Agency (CSA)



Daniel Diep, MD
Medical Director for Golden Valley Health Centers



Dave Cooper | Chair
Retired administrator from Modesto City Schools



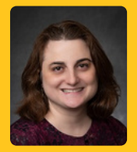
Heather Duvall
Managing Director of the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency (HSA)



Keri Magee | Vice Chair
Associate Director of the Stanislaus County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services



Nelly Paredes-Walsborn, PhD
Former Telemundo Network television producer, noted author, and speaker



Thea Papasozomenos, MD
Public Health Officer for Stanislaus County



Tony Jordan, M.Ed.
Executive Director of the Child & Family Services Division of the Stanislaus County Office of Education



Vito Chiesa
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors District 2

2025-2026 Staff



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Executive Director



Jasmine Gutierrez, MBA
Staff Services & Marketing Coordinator



Teala Diaz
Confidential Assistant IV

Our Thanks!

First 5 Stanislaus extends its thanks to all of our partner organizations and especially to each of our friends at the Waterford Healthy Start Family Resource Center for all their help in providing family stories for the 2025-2026 Local Annual Report.