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14 Chosen for Community Grants

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This month the First 5 LA Board of Commissioners approved funding for 14 L.A. County organizations to implement the first cycle of one of First 5 LA's latest initiatives, the Community Opportunities Fund (COF). COF represents a new approach for First 5 LA that dedicates funding for assisting organizations with capacity building and policy and advocacy projects. The intent is that programs will be strengthened to provide long-term support for children and families.



Each new grantee was selected for their impressive and thoughtful project idea. The range of projects funded include an evaluation project that will use data to improve the agency's parenting services, to a policy and advocacy project that will increase access to nutritional food in underserved communities. The intent of the projects is to achieve one of the three long-term goals - the improvement of parents' and caregivers' ability to support their children; the improvement of children's health conditions related to nutrition, physical activity, and oral health; or the prevention of unintentional injuries.

Evelyn V. Martinez, First 5 LA executive director, commended the selected applicants, stating, "I congratulate the 14 grantees for their tremendous work in the community, and look forward to partnering with each of them on our shared goal of improving the lives of young children and families throughout L.A. County." Below is a list of the approved applicants.

The application process for COF's second funding cycle will begin this summer, and information sessions will be held to introduce new applicants to the fund. To learn more about the Community Opportunities Fund, please visit www.first5la.org/cof, or contact Aleece Kelly at cof@first5la.org.

First 5 LA congratulates the following first cycle COF grantees:

Organizational Capacity Building

- Bienvenidos Children's Center
- Catholic Healthcare West
- Community Health Alliance of Pasadena
- Connections for Children
- Foothill Family Services
- Friends of the Family
- INMED Partnerships for Children
- Long Beach Day Nursery
- Mothers Club Community Center
- Para Los Niños
- Westside Children's Center, Inc.

Policy and Advocacy

- [California Center for Public Health Advocacy](#)
- [LA Best Babies Network](#)
- [Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center](#)

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