

Frequently Asked Questions about First 5 Centers

July 11, 2017

How will First 5 Contra Costa invest in First 5 Centers over the next 3 years?

First 5 Contra Costa is committed to funding First 5 Center services and supporting families most in need.

First 5 Contra Costa is changing the configuration of First 5 Centers in East Contra Costa County in order to serve more families. Instead of funding three small First 5 Centers, none of which First 5 Contra Costa owns, we plan to fund two large regional First 5 Centers in East County and own these sites. The regional sites will be located in Pittsburg and Antioch to address the significant increase in poverty in East County. The Monument and West County First 5 Center locations will not change.

First 5 Contra Costa will also allocate funds to pilot services for African American families, a population First 5 Centers have historically underserved.

How much will First 5 allocate for First 5 Center services?

Funding for First 5 Center services will increase. Starting in fiscal year 2018-2019, the total allocation for First 5 Center activities will increase to \$2,213,613 from the current allocation of \$2,102,048. First 5 Contra Costa will allocate a total of \$5.5 million for First 5 Center services through June 2020, including the pilot services for African American families.

Why is First 5 making these changes?

New, larger facilities will allow First 5 to provide more activities in East County and reach families most in need. Locations for the current five First 5 Center sites were determined in 2001 based on factors such as poverty and distance from services. Since then, there has been significant growth in population and poverty rates in East County, particularly Antioch and Pittsburg.

Finally, the Centers have underserved African American families, who currently make up only 6% of families who visit the centers.

Why does First 5 want to own First 5 Center sites?

Through years of experience, we have determined that large centers or those with flexibly configured spaces serve families best. Owning centers also provides First 5 with long-term assets in the community and more control if nonprofits running the centers change. In the last five years, First 5 Contra Costa has paid over \$800,000 in rent and facilities costs for the three East County sites.

What is the plan for site purchases in East County?

First 5 is currently looking at a large regional site in Pittsburg. Inspections, renovation estimates, and a final offer are pending. If purchased, this site would be called the East County First 5 Center.

First 5 will pursue site options in Antioch in the coming months. The final determination of First 5 Center locations will depend on availability of appropriate facilities, proximity to high-needs communities, and available funding. This site will be called the Delta First 5 Center and should be large enough to serve families from Antioch and communities farther east. Nearly half of visitors to the current Brentwood site travel outside of their home zip code to attend that center.

How will First 5 serve families during the transition?

Families in East County will continue to receive services during the transition.

- **Services for Bay Point and Pittsburg:** The current Bay Point First 5 Center will remain open until the East County First 5 Center is established in Pittsburg.
- **Services for Antioch and far-east communities:** The current Brentwood location will remain open until the new regional Delta First 5 Center opens. Services will be provided at a temporary site in Antioch until Delta opens.

Why is First 5 conducting a procurement process for organizations to operate First 5 Centers?

First 5 Contra Costa routinely engages in competitive bidding processes to award contracts. The last process for the First 5 Centers was five years ago. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be released on or around August 1, 2017. There will be four contracts awarded to operate the following First 5 Centers through June 2020:

- Delta First 5 Center (serves Antioch and far east county)
- East County First 5 Center (serves Bay Point and Pittsburg)
- Monument First 5 Center (serves Concord)
- West County First 5 Center (serves Richmond and San Pablo)

For more information, [visit first5coco.org](http://www.first5coco.org).