



**Contra Costa County**  
**Family Economic Security Partnership**  
c/o 1485 Civic Court    Concord CA    (925)771 7331

June 2016

**MISSION**

The Family Economic Security Partnership (FESP) is a public, private and nonprofit collaboration dedicated to increasing the income and building the assets of low-income families and individuals living in Contra Costa County.

**LONG-TERM GOALS**

- ★ Create a countywide vision and strategies to better leverage community resources and enhance community collaboration in order to increase the economic security of low-income families and individuals.
- ★ Implement initiatives to help low-income families and individuals increase their financial knowledge, well-being and assets.
- ★ Identify and implement strategies for reducing poverty in Contra Costa County.

**FESP ACTIVITIES**

- ★ Organize and oversee FESP Coordinating Council and committee meetings to share information and best practices and encourage networking and skill building in order to help direct service organizations assist clients/constituents to gain economic stability.
- ★ Increase awareness about the importance of policy/advocacy and engaging staff and clients/constituents.
- ★ Increase awareness of root causes of poverty and build political will and social capital within communities to focus on needed structural and systemic changes.
- ★ Led the development of and participate on the Leadership Team of the Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa County, a diverse, cross-sector collaborative effort to address poverty.
- ★ Work to maintain, strengthen and expand the Earn It, Keep It, Save It (EKS) Contra Costa free tax assistance campaign operated by United Way.
- ★ Sponsor financial stability/anti-poverty trainings, convenings, and special events to promote financial stability/anti-poverty efforts such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Affordable Care Act, community organizing, and constituency engagement.
- ★ Inform members of relevant policy and legislation impacting income and asset building.
- ★ Collected resources for and promote the use of an online income and asset building resource directory : [www.assetbuilding-bayarea.org](http://www.assetbuilding-bayarea.org)

**FESP HISTORY AND STRUCTURE**

- ★ Began in 2004 with six member agencies and expanded membership to over 25 agencies in 2008.
- ★ Initial focus was to help low-income families claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other federal tax credits. In 2013 FESP expanded its focus to more broadly address poverty.
- ★ Formed FESP Policy/Revisioning Community committee to increase FESP member staff and constituents' knowledge of the structural barriers that create poverty/make it hard to exit poverty as well as to increase practitioner/social service organizations capacity to engage staff and constituents in policy work.
- ★ Coordinating Council meetings are held quarterly (January, April, July and October).
- ★ Executive Committee meets with the authority and responsibility to identify specific direction and action.
- ★ FESP is staffed and chaired by First 5 Contra Costa as an in-kind contribution.

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of low-income families and individuals living in Contra Costa County.*