

Children's Leadership Council June 21, 2023 Convening Collaborative Project Descriptions (longer version)

FIRST 5 CONTRA COSTA

Guaranteed Income for Child Care Teachers

Research shows that consistent, qualified early learning educators are a critical ingredient to children engaging in high quality early learning experiences that benefit them in the short and long-term. Yet in Contra Costa county we have an early learning educator crisis due to low compensation, lack of benefits, and challenging working conditions. Programs and classrooms are closing due to educators leaving the field. This crisis not only impacts early learning educators, who are predominantly women of color and immigrants, but also families who struggle to find affordable and high quality programs. First 5 Contra Costa invites you to participate in their exploration of addressing this community-wide challenge through a **Guaranteed Income for child care teachers**. Learn more about early learning educators in our county, best practices in the emerging Guaranteed Income field, and how you can help ensure families have access to the affordable, quality child care options they deserve. More info: Sandra Naughton, snaughton@first5coco.org

Trauma-informed Practices & Approaches

The [Contra Costa Network of Care](#) is a community of trauma-informed practitioners dedicated to preventing and healing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma. ACEs, toxic stress, and trauma are associated with some of the most common, serious and costly health conditions across the lifespan. But toxic stress is treatable. Research shows that screening for ACEs and responding with evidence-based trauma-informed approaches can significantly improve the health and well-being of children and families.

The Network is composed of professionals in the medical, mental health, social services, education, and other fields that work with young children and families. The Network uses an online hub to connect members and foster sharing information, best practices, trainings, and other resources related to preventing, identifying and healing trauma and adverse childhood experiences. Check out the Network and learn more about others in our community working to prevent and heal trauma and toxic stress. For more info, visit:

contracostanetworkofcare.org

Family Economic Security Partnership

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 in Contra Costa County. While acknowledging the significance of direct service provision, FESP also increases awareness of the importance of policy and advocacy needed to end poverty. First 5 Contra Costa provides staff support to FESP. Come join FESP's mailing list and quarterly informational meetings. Meetings typically feature a guest speaker on a topic related to poverty or asset building, as well as time to learn about local efforts and events.

For more info, contact: Sandra Naughton, snaughton@first5coco.org or visit: bit.ly/family-economic-security-partnership

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Quality Early Learning Programs

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Child Care known as Stage 1 is a supportive service for adults who are receiving CalWORKs benefits. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provides funding for child care supportive services for those parents who are approved for CalWORKs, required to participate in Welfare-to-Work and have at least one child under 13 years of age.

Child Care services are also available to eligible families who have transitioned off the CalWORKs program. Visit [Child Care | EHSD](#) or call the following programs to see if you are eligible for continued child care services:

West County - (510) 412-3080

Central/East County - (925) 608-5730

Stage 2/CAPP - (925) 681- 6360

Head Start Programs

West County - (510) 374-7144

Central/East County - (925) 427-8852

CalWORKs Child Care Stage 2 is a service for parents who are transitioning off CalWORKs benefits or have transitioned off within 24 months. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provides funding for child care supportive services for those parents who meet eligibility, have a documented need for child care services and have at least one child under 13 years of age.

Our program provides full or partial payments for child care of eligible parents. These programs are designed to maximize parental choice in selecting child care. Participants may select child care services from licensed centers and preschools, licensed family child care homes, or license-exempt providers.

For more info, visit: <https://ehsd.org/headstart/childcare-preschool/> & <https://www.csbconnect.org/subsidized-childcare>

Resource Parents for Foster Youth

Resource Family Approval (RFA) is a family-friendly and child-centered caregiver approval process that replaced the previous foster parent-licensing program, and includes approvals for foster parent, adoption and legal guardianship.

Resource Family Approval:

- Includes a comprehensive family assessment, criminal background clearance, home environment check, and training for all families, including relatives.
- Prepares families to better meet the needs of vulnerable children in the foster care system.
- Allows seamless transition to permanency.

For more info, visit <https://ehsd.org/children-family-services/become-a-foster/>

Workforce Services for Youth

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program delivers comprehensive youth services that focus on assisting eligible out-of-school youth and in-school youth, with one or more barriers to employment, to prepare for employment and postsecondary education opportunities; attain educational and/or skills training credentials; and secure employment with career/promotional opportunities. Youth services include career guidance, educational support, skills training, mentoring, job finding, and leadership opportunities.

The Contra Costa County Workforce Development Board is hosting two free all-day Youth Summits - June 27 at Centre Concord in Concord, and June 28 at Marina Community Center in Pittsburg - featuring motivational speaker Arel Moodie, raffles, prizes, food, and fun. For more info, visit: <https://www.wdbccc.com/measure-x-youth-centers/>

CONTRA COSTA HEALTH

Community Oral Health Program

The Community Oral Health Program (COHP) works in collaboration with schools and community partners to increase access to oral health services by linking children, youth and families to no or low-cost dental resources. The Children's Oral Health Program works with local schools to provide preventive oral health services. The

Children's Oral Health Program began its efforts to improve the health of Contra Costa County children and youth in 1977. Below are the main activities provided by our oral health program staff:

- *Education:* Children learn the proper way to brush their teeth, how to prevent cavities, and how good nutrition helps keep their teeth healthy. All children receive free toothbrushes.
- *Screenings:* Licensed dental professionals perform visual screenings to check the health of children's mouths.
- *Sealants:* Children in grades 2-6 are screened to determine if they need dental sealants on their permanent molars. Sealants are a thin, plastic coating. They help reduce the risk of developing cavities, in the chewing surface of molars.
- *Varnish:* All students who return a consent form will get a fluoride varnish application.
- *Public School Assistance:* The Program offers assistance to schools to help fulfill State law, AB1433, which requires that children entering public schools for the first time, in kindergarten, must have a dental check-up.

Community Collaboratives & Events

We provide preventive oral health services to youth at juvenile detention facilities and at the Calli House Youth Shelter. Our Program participates in a variety of community outreach events in collaboration with our partners such as First 5 Resource Centers, Head Start, Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Collaborative, Loma Vista Dental Assisting Program, Diablo Valley College Dental Hygiene Program and the Contra Costa Dental Society.

Local Oral Health Program

Contra Costa has developed a community health improvement plan, as well as oral health systems map of the county that identifies oral health resources and gaps. Contra Costa Health (CCH) leaders and community stakeholders have identified seven oral health priorities for Contra Costa that center the vision of this collaborative, which is: *“Children and youth, including those with special healthcare needs, and pregnant women in Contra Costa County will have optimal oral health.”* The seven priorities are:

1. Oral Health Access
2. Oral Health Data
3. Oral Health Policy
4. Oral Health Communications
5. Early Oral Health Prevention and Treatment
6. Care Coordination
7. Oral Health in Schools

For more details, visit <https://cchealth.org/dental>

Black Infant Health Program

Anti-Black Racism, as well as social and economic stressors, play a major role in poor birth outcomes—babies born too early and too small—for Black women. Within a culturally supportive environment, and honoring the unique history of Black women, California Black Infant Health (BIH) aims to help women have healthy babies.

BIH implements an evidence-informed intervention that uses a group-based approach, where participants get to meet, interact and build a sisterhood with other Black women. Group sessions are complemented with client-centered life planning, goal setting and referrals to services for participants and their families. This powerful combination serves to help women enhance life skills, learn proven strategies to reduce stress and build social support. Ultimately, this two-pronged approach impacts not only participants themselves, but future generations of Black women, infants and families. BIH participants attend weekly group sessions, 10 prenatal and 10 postpartum.

Who is Eligible for BIH?

- Pregnant & postpartum Black women with infants up to 6 months old
- Age 16 or older

- Contra Costa County residents
All services are free, regardless of income.

What Services Does BIH Provide?

Program services are provided by Family Health Advocates, a Medical Social Worker, Community Liaisons and a Public Health Nurse.

- Interactive social support & empowering group sessions for pregnancy and postpartum
- Nutrition, breastfeeding and infant care information.
- Prenatal yoga and meditation exercises
- Housing assistance
- Transportation assistance to medical appointments
- Baby essentials
- Linkages to disability information and maternal leave
- Stress and emotional support
- Referrals to:
 - o [Community-Based Doula Program](#)
 - o [Fatherhood Program](#)

How to Access BIH Services

Call 925-313-6254 or ask your health care provider for a referral. For more info, visit <https://cchealth.org/fmch/bih.php>

Perinatal Equity Initiative & Deliver Birth Justice Campaign

In 2018, recognizing an alarming statewide gap in Black infant mortality, the state Legislature passed the Budget Act of 2018 which included the establishment of the California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) within the Department of Public Health.

While declines in infant mortality have been achieved, the statewide mortality rate for Black infants continues to be two to four times higher than rates for other groups. The PEI aims to address the causes of persistent inequality and identify best practices to eliminate disparities in infant mortality.

The PEI complements programs and services offered through the Black Infant Health (BIH) Group Model. BIH is a group-based approach that provides services, information and social support to Black mothers to buffer the negative effects of racism and its consequences on women's environments and social experiences. PEI takes California's efforts to address racial disparities in infant mortality even further, promoting specific interventions designed to improve outcomes for Black mothers and their families. Contra Costa's PEI direct service interventions are community-based doula and fatherhood support programs. Our collaborative and systems interventions are a community advisory board and a public awareness campaign.

Our local public awareness campaign funded by PEI is Deliver Birth Justice:

#DeliverBirthJustice is part of the [Perinatal Equity Initiative](#) (PEI) – a statewide effort to address the causes of persistent inequity and health disparities that threaten Black maternal and infant health.

About #DeliverBirthJustice:

We are a Bay Area-wide movement that mobilizes all corners of the Bay Area -- from health professionals to policy makers to community members -- to end racism and birth justice for Black families.

That's why five Bay Area counties - Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, and Solano - have joined forces to launch #DeliverBirthJustice, a campaign that puts birth justice front and center in the fight for racial justice in the Bay Area. This is the first Bay Area-wide campaign featuring the stories and experiences of Black families in their perinatal journey.

#DeliverBirthJustice seeks to accomplish the following three goals to address the inequities in Black maternal and infant health:

- Share information and raise awareness about how systemic racism and bias drive persistent inequity and health disparities for Black mothers and babies.
- Build public will for systems change and interventions — such as the Momnibus package, Medi-cal pilot for doula care, housing justice, abundant birth pilot etc. — at the local, regional and statewide level to ensure the well-being of Black birthing people and their families.
- Increase the number of health care professionals and public health departments accessing anti-racism training and curriculum in all five counties.

For more information on the Perinatal Equity Initiative, visit: <https://cchealth.org/fmch/pei.php>

For more information about the #DeliverBirthJustice campaign, visit <https://deliverbirthjustice.org/campaign>

