FIRST 5 CONTRA COSTA THEORY OF CHANGE

EXTERNAL CONTEXT

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

In order to thrive, young children and families need:

A strong early childhood system

Holistic supports

Self-determination and power

INTERNAL CONTEXT

OUR ROLES

Intermediary

Convener +Backbone

Advocate

PROBLEM

Not all young children and families are thriving.

The early childhood system operates in siloes, and services come at great expense to families. This problem has its roots in a lack of public funding and family-centered policies, unfair systems and policies that have excluded families of color from opportunity, and an early childhood system reliant on exploitative care labor.

OUR CORE VALUES

Diversity & Inclusion

Cultural humility

Equity

Community partnership

FAMILY OUTCOMES

When the system operates this way, we expect that **families** will:

Inform policy change that impact their well-being Increase access and connection to services

Strengthen protective factors

CAPACITY BUILDING

We resource our county's capacity for systems change.

RESEARCH

We facilitate collective learning about the problems we face and the solutions to address them.

STRATEGIES

Within the scope of our role and values, these are the **actions** we take to address the problem.

RESOURCE CONNECTION

We strengthen competencies and community for parents and caregivers.

ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We build power for local, state, and national policies that nurture young children and families.

SYSTEM OUTCOMES

As a result of our actions, we expect the early childhood system to be set up for all children to thrive. **Providers and Organizations** within it are:

Supported by family-

centered local, state,

Well resourced by local, state, federal, and private funding

and federal policies

Anti-racist and equity-centered

Connected, integrated, and collaborative

Sharing power with and is responsive to families

Healing-centered and trauma-informed

ready to learn, and supported in safe, nurturing communities.

ULTIMATE IMPACT

These outcomes **contribute** to

All children are healthy,

