



Spotlight: COVID RELIEF GRANTS FROM FIRST 5 MARIN

First 5 Marin Children and Families Commission is pleased to announce the immediate availability of COVID-related grants for our community partners serving young children and families in Marin County. As approved by the Commission on January 20, 2021, this grant process is intended to be easy and flexible, and to provide quick relief for unfunded COVID-related costs.

WHAT: Cash grants of **\$500 to \$10,000** are available to people or organizations serving children prenatal to age five and their families in Marin County. The total available is \$75,000 for all grants.

WHEN: **Apply by Monday, February 8, 2021.** The commission will review and approve grants by their next meeting on Wednesday, February 17th. Recipients will be contacted soon afterwards to make arrangements for immediate payment.

HOW: Complete a simple one-page application explaining the unfunded COVID-related costs you have incurred or unfunded COVID-related expenses you are facing in your office/work/services/program serving young children and families in Marin. **Visit the link on our website for the application.** Email your completed application to: Michelle@First5Marin.org.

**First 5 Marin's February Commission Meeting:
Wednesday, February 17th at 5:30 pm. Please email
Michelle@First5Marin.org for the Zoom link.**

February Forum:
Program Launch:
Help Me Grow Marin

Thursday, Feb. 25th



Help Me
Grow
MARIN COUNTY

The **Marin Communications Forum**, sponsored by First 5 Marin, invites you to join us for the long-awaited launch of "**Help Me Grow Marin**"-- a new program providing support for parents, healthcare providers and community service providers.

Help Me Grow Marin offers free and confidential professional support with information on child development, behavior, social-emotional and physical health PLUS referrals to services, treatment or helpful resources.

JOIN US on February 25th to learn how Help Me Grow Marin can help you, your co-workers and your community partners!

Visit the event page on Facebook [HERE](#) and email Michelle@First5Marin.org to register.

DESKTOP: What We're Reading

Take a look at some of the articles about important issues related to children and families:

[TIME: Biden's New Immigration Executive Orders Include Creating a Task Force To Reunify Families. Here's What to Know](#)

President Joe Biden signed three executive orders related to immigration on Tuesday afternoon ahead of a swearing-in ceremony for the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. (Aguilera, 2/2/21)

[San Francisco Chronicle: What's Harder Than Teaching Pre-K? Teaching Pre-K Virtually.](#)

The difficulties of teaching Pre-K virtually, as illustrated by a teacher in Louisiana. (Guidry, 1/24/21)

WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

How to Raise a Reader

- 1 Start a reading habit early.
- 2 Read every day.
- 3 Keep books all around your home.
- 4 Visit the library or bookstore on a regular basis.
- 5 Let your children choose their own books.
- 6 Be a reading role model.

LitWorld #WorldReadAloudDay #WRADChallenge SCHOLASTIC

EdSource: What happens to children who missed kindergarten during Covid-19 crisis?

Many California parents dreaded returning to remote learning last fall, but they did it anyway, holding onto hopes of going back to campus at some point during the school year. (D'Souza, 1/27/21)

POLITICO: Food stamp spending jumped nearly 50 percent in 2020

Millions more Americans received food stamps last year as a result of the pandemic. (Evich, 1/27/21)

Brookings Institute: What is the Child Tax Credit? And how much of it is refundable?

The Child Tax Credit, which has been expanded significantly by Congress since it was first written into law nearly 25 years ago, is a significant element of the federal government's effort to aid families with children. (Wessel, 1/22/21)

Medium: Black History Month: A Reflection on Head Start History

This Black History Month, we will take a deeper look and reflect on just how deeply intertwined Head Start's history is with that of the Civil Rights Movement. (2/2/21)

The New York Times: Pregnant Women Get Conflicting Advice on Covid-19 Vaccines

The W.H.O. and the C.D.C. provide differing views, and experts partly blame a lack of data because expectant mothers have been excluded from clinical trials. (1/28/21)

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ORAL HEALTH!



Make an Appointment! February is Children's Dental Health Month

During the month of February, we are reminded to focus on children's dental health. Let's make sure our kids are brushing and flossing twice a day, avoiding sugary beverages and eating healthy foods. Also, we all need to see the dentist! If you don't have an appointment, make one. If you have one, keep it! #SMILEcalifornia and #SMILEmarin!