First 5 Marin: Supporting Early Learning, Optimal Health and Resilient Communities

Helping Children & Families Thrive in Times of Need

First 5 Marin **Annual Report 2021**

FIRST 5 MARIN
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

A Message from the Executive Director

As the new executive director for First 5 Marin, it is my pleasure to introduce myself. I have been on the job since August of 2020, and I am delighted to "be here," literally and virtually!

I have a background in public health and early childhood development, working at the intersection of systems change and justice-focused efforts. Most recently, I served as the executive director of the Our Children, Our Families Council in San Francisco. I also worked at First 5 LA for five years, and I'm looking forward to bringing this experience to Marin County to help tackle the most urgent needs for our young children.

I want to thank everyone in the early childhood community who have stepped up to provide safe and reliable care, services and educational programs for young children during COVID. I especially want to call out the child care providers who immediately offered care for the children of essential workers in March 2020, when most of us started sheltering in place. *They are heroes indeed!*

To help support families in need, our commission contributed $50,000 to the COVID relief fund for child care. We also supported legal aid efforts on eviction protection and provided financial assistance to families for nearly $95,000.

The other big news in 2020 was the Census, and First 5 Marin was proud to join our community partners who worked so hard to get a complete count. Despite the challenges of COVID, the Census count improved across most of the county – and that will bring important programs and much needed funding.

With 2021 underway, I look forward to meeting more of you, and working with you throughout the year. In the coming months, you will see new things from First 5 Marin: a new logo and website, and new initiatives to promote racial equity and economic justice. We also have some exciting new forums planned and the launch of "Help Me Grow Marin" (see pages 9-10). We are excited to work with you to help each child learn and grow to their full potential.

Pegah

Pegah Faed, DrPH
Executive Director

Executive Director Pegah Faed and her daughter

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Snapshot of Marin Children

There are 11,844 children ages 0 to 5 in Marin, and 71% of all households have children ages 0 to 17.

28.6% Public school students who qualify for **free meals due to low-income status** (9,394 kids)

33% Low-income students **proficient in reading** (vs. **79%** non-disadvantaged kids)

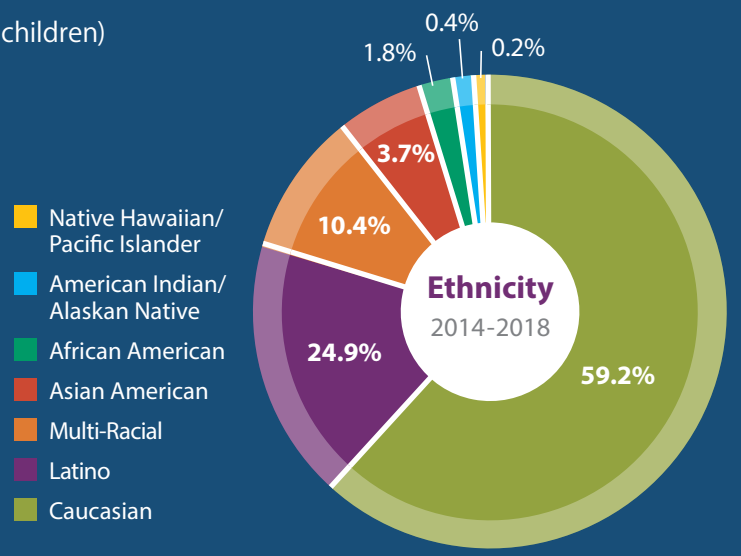
24.6% Children ages 3-5 **not enrolled in preschool** or kindergarten

8.5% Children with **2** or more **Adverse Childhood Experiences** (ACEs)

5.7% Kindergarteners without all required **immunizations**

12.1% **Special education** students in public school (4,059 children)

15.2% **English learners** in public school (5,086 kids)



Source: KidsData.org

Making Ends Meet in Marin

Despite the reputation of wealth and prosperity in Marin County, nearly one-third of families don't earn enough to make ends meet without some form of public or private assistance – that may be SNAP or WIC benefits, or it may be grandparents providing child care to save $20,000 per year.

10.2% Percentage of population at/below official **Federal Poverty Level**

13.6% Children living with **food insecurity**

31.7% Marin families who do not earn enough to get by without **public or private assistance**

33.7% Marin families earning **400% of the Federal Poverty Level** ($96,032) or less

Fair Market Rent in Marin & Earnings Needed to Afford* Rent

1 Bedroom: $2720 ($52.31/hour or $108,000 annually)

2 Bedroom: $3339 ($64.21/hour or $133,560 annually)

3 Bedroom: $4365 ($83.94/hour or $174,600 annually)

*spending 30% of wages

$110,544

What a family of four needs to make ends meet in Marin. (2016)

Sources: Children NOW, Kidsdata.org, National Low-Income Housing Coalition

Child Care for Working Families

Child care is so expensive in Marin County that some people wonder whether they can afford to go to work. The cost of infant care is especially exorbitant, making child care unaffordable for many working families, and extremely challenging for low-income families and single parents.

$18.75
The average hourly cost of licensed child care for a preschooler and an infant.

$16,040
The average annual cost of child care for a preschooler at a licensed facility.

$21,586
The average annual cost of child care for an infant at a licensed child care center.

350
The current number of children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.

60.7%
The percentage of children with parents in the work-force for whom licensed child care is not available.

The Cost of COVID on Child Care for working families in Marin County

Sources: KidsData.org, Children NOW, Marin Child Care Council

First 5 Marin's Projects

Kindergarten Student Entry Profile

For several years, First 5 Marin has funded the Kindergarten Student Entrance Profile (KSEP) and partnered with the Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) in assessing school readiness of students as they enter kindergarten.

A screening tool is used to observe and rate both social-emotional skills and cognitive and language abilities. The results can help teachers, schools and districts determine the best and most promising practices for each child's development and kindergarten education.

In 2019-20, use of the KSEP included 44% of the kinder population in Marin and program managers reported the collection of valuable information. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to administer the screening tool in virtual classrooms during COVID restrictions. But we are looking forward to program expansion in the coming years. **First 5 Marin funding: $86,909.08 in 2018-19**.

Marin Communications Forum

First 5 Marin has convened dozens of government agencies and community organizations as well as thousands of individuals to learn and explore public policy issues of interest to families and providers. During COVID, forums have been held online and recordings* are available:

Social-Emotional Learning & Resilience: With Dr. Bruce Perry, Dr. Judy Radiloff, and Susanne Kreuzer from Help Me Grow Marin.

Family Guide for Digital Well-Being: Presented by Common Sense Media.

Surviving Stress: A discussion with Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith and Rona Renner RN.

Learning/Teaching at Home with The Learning Bus: A bilingual event with the Marin County Free Library.

Guaranteed Income Proposals: Co-hosted by First 5 Marin, the Marin Community Foundation and the County of Marin.

Prior to COVID restrictions, First 5 Marin welcomed community partners to public events to explore a wide range of topics (videos are available*):

- **Making Ends Meet in Marin**
- **Census 2020**
- **Legal Rights for Parents**
- **Autism**
- **Education Equity**
- **Vaping**

**For more info, email Michelle@First5Marin.org or visit www.Facebook.com/MarinCommunicationsForum.*

First 5 Marin's Funded Programs and Partners

The Learning Bus

(formerly the FLAGship)

The Learning Bus is the mobile preschool operated by the Marin County Free Library. It makes rounds, visiting ten locations each month and serving children living in remote locations or otherwise without access to preschool or early childhood learning opportunities. Learning Bus staff teach ABCs and 123s, read stories and play games, teach arts and crafts and share songs and music in a fully bilingual environment. (During COVID, staff began online learning programs and also distributed "Little Learner Kits" for fun and learning at home.) **Funding for 2018-19 was $59,959**.

Developmental Playgroups

With the structure of a curriculum focused on early childhood development, a professional leader, and parent involvement, developmental playgroups provide critical socialization and early learning opportunities for children without other access to preschool or child care experience. These playgroups improve school readiness skills and help prepare young children for the kindergarten environment. First 5 Marin supports the "Aprendiendo Juntos" program operated by Parent Services Project in **San Rafael; funding for 2018-19 was $153,838**. Support for additional playgroups included: **Marin City ($9,346); Novato ($29,719) and San Geronimo ($26,382)**.

Summer Bridge

First 5 Marin continues to support the "Summer Bridge" program offered by Head Start in San Rafael. This five-week program offers a concentrated preparation for the kindergarten learning environment. **Funding in 2018-19 was $43,294**.

Pickleweed Preschool

First 5 Marin continues to support Pickleweed Preschool in the Canal neighborhood of San Rafael. **Funding in 2018-19 was $91,458.37.**

Early Childhood Mental Health

First 5 Marin continues to support Jewish Family and Children's Services in providing social-emotional and behavioral health screenings in child care settings, short-term counseling and support to providers. **Funding in 2018-19 was $83,232**.

Learn About the "Help Me Grow" Model

Help Me Grow Marin County **is a new coalition of community organizations with a robust system of resources to help children and families thrive. As part of the state and national networks, Help Me Grow connects parents, caregivers and providers with information, services and resources about childhood development, behavior, and health. We want to help each child grow and live up to their full potential. To do that, we offer support for families, healthcare providers and community partners – and we can serve as an important liaison between all three.**

For more information, call our professional staff for a free and confidential discussion as well as information, referrals and support: 415-720-1283.

Who We Serve

Families: Help Me Grow Marin can assist parents concerned about their child's development, social-emotional or physical health – or in need of resources or referrals. Our professional staff can provide information about developmental milestones and what to expect for your child by age; access to developmental and behavioral health screenings; parenting resources; community events and classes; and developmental activities.

Healthcare Providers: Help Me Grow Marin can help physician's offices or clinics with family follow up and referrals, enrollment assistance, parenting resources, and child wellness information. We can also connect with and support families between medical appointments and well-baby checks.

Community Providers: Help Me Grow acts as a liaison between all the professionals and programs in a child's life – including early care and education providers, social workers, home visitors, physicians and other healthcare providers. We bring people together, encouraging collaboration and information sharing. We also support consistent strategies to support a child at home, in school and in community settings.

Help Me Grow
MARIN COUNTY

VISIT the Help Me Grow Marin website:
www.HelpMeGrowMarin.org

How Is Your Child Doing?

If you are worried about your child's growth and development, social-emotional or physical health, or you need resources for your family, it is important to listen to your instincts and act. Help Me Grow Marin is here to support you. Call our professional staff for a free and confidential discussion. We listen and we will support you in getting the information or help you need for your child.

Is Your Child On Track?

Kids grow and change in so many ways. The early years present incredible opportunity to build a strong foundation, as the brain rapidly develops during the first five years of life. Visit the Help Me Grow Marin website to learn more about early childhood development and "ages and stages" – the stages of growth, activities and skills parents can expect at each age in a child's early life.

How We Can Help

Learn About Developmental Milestones: Milestones can help you understand what to expect for your child and when to be concerned. Starting at birth, your child will begin to reach milestones in how they play, learn, act and speak – taking a first step, smiling, waving "bye-bye" or reaching for a toy. Every child is different and will develop at his/her own pace, but if your child is not developing as expected, it may be time to consult a doctor; there are often programs, treatments, therapies or other interventions that can help.

Complete a Developmental and Behavioral Health Screening: Developmental screenings are recommended for all children, especially in the first five years. Results let you know how your child is developing and if more help is needed. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children receive three screenings in the first three years.

Find Local Resources: We have information on child development, parenting, community events and classes, plus developmental activities you can do with your children.

Visit our website for all the information:
www.HelpMeGrowMarin.org

Revenues and Expenditures
Fiscal Year 2019-20

REVENUES

Tobacco tax (Prop. 10)	$ 1,149,602
Tobacco tax (Prop. 56)	346,059
Foundation grant	79,500
Investment income	171,852
Total Revenues	**$ 1,747,013**

EXPENDITURES

Partnership for Change	$ 814,628
Grassroots Capacity Building	118,252
Public Education	18,295
Public Policy & Advocacy	157,231
Evaluation	120,179
Help Me Grow	208,310
General Administration	116,234
Total Expenditures	**$ 1,553,129**

(net change in fund balance +193,884)

FUND BALANCE – beginning	$ 5,368,553
FUND BALANCE – ending	$ 5,562,437

Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets:	
Cash and investments	$ 5,569,858
Accounts receivable	208,547
Interest receivable	16,080
Prepaid Expense	5,634
Total current assets	5,800,119
Noncurrent Assets:	
Deposit	5,634
Total Assets	**$ 5,803,983**

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred outflows related to pensions	215,366

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	222,565
Accrued wages and benefits	15,117
Compensated absences	18,535
Total current liabilities	**256,217**
Noncurrent Liabilities:	
Compensated absences	27,802
Net pension liability	14,086
Total noncurrent liabilities	**41,888**
Total Liabilities	**$ 298,105**

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred inflows related to pensions	176,274

NET POSITION

Restricted for pensions	25,006
Unrestricted	5,519,964
Total Net Position	**$ 5,544,970**

First 5 Marin: Looking Forward

As we leave 2020 behind and launch into 2021 and look forward, First 5 Marin is concerned, but optimistic.

We have new leadership, new commissioners and a renewed dedication to the young children of Marin County. We will be re-examining our purpose and our priorities, and making an even stronger commitment to addressing the root causes of the disparities we see across our communities – and real opportunity for every child.

Economic Justice: Our January forum brings state and national leaders together to discuss the concept of a *"guaranteed income"* in our Marin Communications Forum. First 5 Marin is proud to partner with the County of Marin and the Marin Community Foundation on this ongoing endeavor.

Immigrant Rights: First 5 Marin has been working with a large and dedicated group of community leaders on the "public charge" issue for the past several years. That group is exploring the opportunities to expand into broader issues of immigrant rights and justice. Stay tuned for advocacy and action.

Racial Justice: The Advancement Project named Marin as number one for racial disparities among all California counties. There is nothing to do but improve in this regard – for children, youth, young adults, families as well seniors. We have invited the Advancement Project back to provide a data update – and to help us work on concrete strategies for change. (Their "Race Counts" report looks at economic opportunity, healthcare access, education, housing, democracy, crime and justice, and a healthy built environment. See www.RaceCounts.org)

Education Equity: California has a new "Master Plan for Early Learning and Care" – calling for universal preschool for 4 year olds, school readiness for low-income 3 year olds, increased access to paid family leave, and better quality child care and preschool. We are ready to challenge Marin to make these plans a reality for the children in our county. In a county of wealth, opportunity and privilege, there is no excuse for leaving even one child behind.

As we said, we are concerned but optimistic. We hope you will join us in making change that makes a difference.

First 5 Marin: Commissioners and Staff

Commissioners 2021

Gabrielle Auguste – Homeward Bound of Marin
Kari Beuerman – Marin County Health and Human Services
David Bonfilio – Marin County Grand Jury; American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network Volunteer
Dr. Itoco Garcia – Marin City-Sausalito School District
Dr. Lisa Leavitt – Marin Community Clinics
Lucia Martel-Dow – Canal Alliance
Marin Niggle – Marin Promise Partnership
Supervisor Dennis Rodoni – Marin County Board of Supervisors
Kristen Seatavakin – Marin County Health and Human Services

Staff 2021

Dr. Pegah Faed – Executive Director
Michelle Fadelli – Public Policy and Communications Manager
Susanne Kreuzer – Help Me Grow Marin, Manager/Child Development Specialist
Maritza Barahona – Help Me Grow Marin, Bilingual Family Case Coordinator

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