

## 2022 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

### First 5 San Benito

The Community Center Coalition of San Benito County

#### Title:

Establish the Community Center of San Benito County in Hollister

#### Problem Statement:

Achieving equitable experiences and outcomes for children and families in San Benito County is essential to build a just and thriving community. The first step in achieving equity is the identification of disparities, which can be revealed with program and community indicator data. A presentation delivered to the Resiliency Network on January 20, 2022, illustrated the disparities in San Benito County between Hispanic/Latino and non-Hispanic/Latino\* children and families on health, education, safety, and socioeconomic outcomes, early childhood behavior and mental health, third grade reading proficiency, well child visits, healthcare access, kindergarten oral health/dental care access, child maltreatment, family violence / domestic concerns, youth/adult mental health and substance use, absenteeism, gang involvement, and housing/homelessness.

The San Benito community's children and families may face additional risks. A consensus of scientific research demonstrates that cumulative adversity, especially when experienced during critical and sensitive periods of development, is a root cause to some of the most harmful, persistent, and expensive health challenges facing the state of California and the nation. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) include abuse, neglect, and/or household dysfunction that occurs by age 18. The abuse can be physical, emotional, or sexual; and neglect can be physical or emotional. ACEs and toxic stress represent a public health crisis that has been, until recently, largely unrecognized by our health care system and our society.

#### Proposed Solution:

First 5 San Benito and network partners propose a request for \$22 million in State funding to establish the Community Resiliency Center (Center) to be in the 95023-zip code area in Hollister. The model for the Center expands on the state funded East Bay First 5 Centers in the cities of Vallejo and Fairfield, Solano County, as well as the First 5 Centers in the cities of Pittsburg and Antioch, Contra Costa County.

The goal to establish the Center is the network's system change strategy is to advance equity by shifting the conditions that hold a problem in place **and to promote resiliency and ensure healthy outcomes for all families in San Benito County**. By expanding whole child, whole family evidence-based practices that are trauma-informed and culturally sensitive in partnership with a network that has demonstrated outcomes, we can significantly improve the health and well-being of individuals and families in San Benito County.