



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FIRST 5 SAN FRANCISCO AWARDS MORE THAN \$200,000
TO PARENT-LED COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Commission Supports a Variety of Local Programs to Nurture the County's Youngest

(San Francisco) – Through its continued efforts to help ensure a successful start for local children ages 5 and younger, First 5 San Francisco today announced its contribution of \$216,000 toward funding 71 parent-led community programs. The funding is part of the Commission's Parents Achieving Change Together in Our Neighborhoods (ACTION) program.

Parent ACTION grants – ranging between \$1,500 and \$4,000 each – aim to develop parent leadership, build community with parent-led efforts and promote awareness of parent-child interactions and child development.

"First 5 San Francisco's goal is to improve the quality of life for children during their first five years of life," said Laurel Kloomok, executive director for First 5 San Francisco. "Investing in these programs helps meet the diverse needs of our county's youngest as each grantee offers targeted, local support to address the different issues faced by our children."

This funding cycle, parents submitted a record number of grant proposals – more than 200 – doubling the number of applicants from 2004-05. All requests were reviewed and evaluated based on criteria outlined in the application, including factors such as how the grant enhances a child's development during the first five years and how it empowers parents to be their child's first teacher. The First 5 San Francisco Commission approved the funding during its June 6 meeting, after receiving recommendations from community review panels.

Parent ACTION grantee groups range in size from six to 30 families. To be eligible, groups had to be comprised of parents or guardians of children 0 to 5 years of age. Groups could be backed by a family support agency, a co-op preschool or community based organization, or even formed independently with other parents and young children.

Grantees will receive ongoing one-on-one assistance from First 5 staff and partners. Grant recipients will attend ongoing trainings and workshops and will be required to submit progress reports to ensure maximum program effectiveness.

Examples of Parent ACTION fund recipients include groups that maintain a community garden to introduce children to healthy eating and help prevent childhood obesity to programs that conduct field trips for children with special needs to promote child-parent bonding.

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“We’re thankful for the continued generous contributions of First 5 San Francisco, which help us introduce children to the joys of the Spanish language and culture through music,” said Maureen DeBoer, parent and facilitator of Los Tamborcitos Spanish Music Class. “We’ve seen hundreds of children benefit socially, educationally and emotionally from the class.”

First 5 San Francisco is committed to working closely with the community to help every child in San Francisco County experience optimal health and development. Through the Parent ACTION grants, families are empowered and engaged in the work of the Commission.

Organizations awarded First 5 San Francisco funding are listed below as an addendum according to three separate grant categories, including: Parent ACTION Grants, which is new funding for established groups (with or without organizational support); Parent ACTION Starter Grants, which is funding for newly formed organizations to help kick-start efforts; and Parent ACTION Continuing Grants, to extend funding to parent groups continuing their great work from previous years.

Funding became effective on July 1, 2007. First 5 San Francisco has been supporting this program since 2001 and will likely continue its support in the coming years.

For more information on Parent ACTION grants and other programs and resources made possible through First 5 San Francisco funding, call (415) 934-4849 or visit www.first5sf.org.

About First 5 San Francisco

Research shows that a child’s brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child’s growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 San Francisco distributes approximately \$10 million a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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Addendum:

Parent ACTION Grants: Receiving \$3,000 each

- Mama Jana Playgroup – Bayview
- BOSS/CALIFF “Father's Conference” – Bayview
- The Hunters View Mother's Committee's “Picture a Parent” program – Bayview
- Bayview YMCA “Parent Group” – Bayview
- Asian Women Resource Center “Parent Group” – Chinatown
- Parents for Public School's “Chinese Parents Club” – Chinatown
- Vietnamese Parent Support Group – Excelsior
- Dr. Betty Shaba's Family Resource Center's “Parent Exchange Leadership Program” – Excelsior
- St Joseph's Family Center/Children's Village's “Children's Gardens Parent Group” – Excelsior
- Hand in Hand Mom's Group – Excelsior
- Glenridge Cooperative Nursery School – Glen Park
- Parents for Public School's “Latino Parents Club” – Mission
- Parque Ninos Unidos “Garden cooking classes” – Mission
- Bryant Child Development Center's “Parent Group” – Mission
- TAPP's “Young Families Creating Together” teen parents program – Mission
- Starr King Elementary's “Parents in the Field” program – Potrero Hill
- San Francisco Family Kindergarten – Potrero Hill
- Loco Tots - Nionos Activos – Potrero Hill
- Potrero Hill Toddler Play Group – Potrero Hill
- Slippery Fish Co-operative Daycare Initiative – Potrero Hill
- Eating Right From the Start/Environmental Awareness Program – Potrero Hill
- It Takes a Village: Building an Urban Family Network Workshops – Potrero Hill & Others
- Arab Cultural Center's “Parent Group” – Richmond
- Nonviolent Education and Parenting Seminar – Richmond
- Multi-Family First Parent – Richmond
- Cheryl Anderson Sorenson Childcare Center's “Preschool Multicultural Year-Long Program” – Richmond
- Nihonmachi Little Friends Preschool “Big and Little Friends” program – Richmond
- Families Bridging Cultures and Communications programs – Richmond
- CPMC's “Interactive Learning Theatre: Teaching Children about Themselves and the World Around Them” – Richmond
- Tule Elk Park CDS's “Parent/Toddler Music Together” music classes for toddlers with hearing loss – SOMA
- Sunset Recreation Center's “Community Garden and Bay Area Exploration” program – Sunset
- City College's “From Garden to Table” program – Sunset
- Healthy NEXT “Nutrition Workshops” – Sunset
- Dianne Feinstein Elementary's “Creating Community Spirit” program – Sunset
- Heritage Homes' “Mothers Gaining Momentum” – Visitacion Valley/Bayview
- La Piccola Scuola Italiana Co-op's “Families of La Piccola Scuola Italiana” – West Portal

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Parent ACTION Starter Grants: Receiving \$1,500 each

- Southeast Head Start's "Boom Boom Banda Music" program – Bayview
- Edgewood Center for Children and Families' "Y NOT Unite" workshops" – Bayview
- Malcolm X PTA's "Kindergarten Readiness Workshops" – Bayview
- The Family School CDC's "Toddler Family Project" – Mission
- St. Paul's Kindergarten Parent Club's "Kindergarten Parent Community Enrichment" – Mission
- Good Samaritan FRC's "Hope For Our Children" program – Mission
- Theresa Mahler Child Development Center's "Learning with our Children Through Visual Arts" program – Noe Valley
- OMI Family Resource Center's "Parent Leadership Group" – OMI
- Edgewood Center for Children and Families' "PoPo MaMa Project" – Potrero Hill
- The Treehouse Daycare's "The Treehouse Goes Camping" program – Richmond
- Argonne Elementary School's "Kindergarten Parents" program – Richmond
- Korean Center Inc.'s "Children's Korean Activities" program – Russian Hill
- SOMCAN's "Parent Leadership and Organization" – SOMA
- SOMA Family Resource Center's 6th Street/SRO Collaborative Family Project's "Enhancing our Community" – SOMA
- Marshall Elementary School's "Growing with Books" program – SOMA
- Wah Mei School's "Nourishing Our Kids" program – Sunset
- Asian Family Support Center's "Family Exploration in Golden Gate Park" program – Sunset
- Vietnamese Family Services Center's "Vietnamese Parent Group" – Tenderloin
- Western Addition Family Resource Center's "Parent ACTION & Advisory Council" – Western Addition
- Florence Crittenton Services' "Family Involvement Through Music and Movement" classes – Western Addition

Parent ACTION Continuing Grants: Receiving \$4,000 each

- Whitney Young Child Development Center field trips and parent workshops– Bayview
- "Growing up with Kids" program – City wide
- Support for Families' "Time Out" for families with children with disabilities program – City wide
- Homeless Prenatal's "Parents Empowering Parents" program – City wide
- Asian Perinatal Advocates' "Parents Network for Building a Harmonious Family" program – Chinatown
- Joy Lok Family Resource Center's "Couples Travel and Learn Together" program – Chinatown
- Joy Lok Family Resource Center's "Happy Families Outdoor" program – Chinatown
- Excelsior Family Resource Center's "Proyecto Familias Unidas" program – Excelsior
- Los Tamborcitos Spanish Music Class – Mission
- Homeless Prenatal's Latina "Building Strong Families Support Group" – Mission
- Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) "Our Children in Action" program – Mission
- Family-Friendly Potrero Hill – Potrero Hill
- Laurel Hill Co-Op Nursery School's "Parent Education Workshops" – Richmond
- Portola Family Connections' "Project Ollin" – Silver / Visitacion Valley
- Visitacion Valley Community Center/Chinese for Affirmative Action's Children's Enrichment program – Visitacion Valley