



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 3, 2011

**CONTACT:** Toni Moore, Executive Director  
First 5 Sacramento Commission  
[MooreT@saccounty.net](mailto:MooreT@saccounty.net)  
(916) 876-5867

**COMMISSIONERS**

Phillip Serna, Chair  
Douglas Ose  
Marilyn Ratkay  
Jason Sample  
Vice Chair  
Glennah Trochet, M.D.  
Megan Vincent  
Bruce Wagstaff

**ALTERNATES**

Roberta MacGlashan  
Cynthia Weideman, DDS  
Robert Bonar, M.D.  
Sharon Gillum  
Kathy Kossick  
Scott Moak  
Penelope Clarke

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Toni J. Moore

## **First 5 Sacramento Commission Budget Cuts Impact Providers; Children's Programs**

On May 2, 2011, the First 5 Sacramento Commission approved budget reductions totaling \$43.7 million dollars. The reduction plan was developed in response to the State's redirection of \$1 billion in First 5 reserves to the General Fund to pay for Medi-Cal services for young children. The impact at the local level is dramatic, leaving community providers with fewer resources to support the health and well-being of children ages zero to five and their families.

The budget reduction strategy proposed by Commission staff included reductions to multiple community-based programs. High priority programs, such as those that help provide a safety net to the County's most vulnerable children, will face a 25% reduction in future years. Most programs categorized as medium priority are facing an immediate 50% reduction, while several lower priority programs will be terminated all together.

Commission staff will be reduced in half over a three-year period, starting with the elimination of six positions effective July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Commission staff is looking to reduce operational costs wherever possible, including relocation of their office in an effort to save money on rent.

The Commission's share of the \$1 billion being redirected is estimated to be \$48.5 million. The \$43.7 million in reductions approved by Commissioners yesterday will be spread over the upcoming four years. Another \$4.8 million will be absorbed in future years. The Commission's annual budget includes an annual allocation of \$14 million; however, expenditures are also dependent on reserves and other revenue streams.

The overall intent of First 5 is to facilitate an integrated, comprehensive and collaborative system of information and services to enhance optimal early childhood development and to ensure that children are ready to enter school. Services are supported through a tax on tobacco products, which was passed by voters in 1998.

###

2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 330 ♦ Sacramento, CA 95833

Phone: (916) 876-5865

E-Mail: [first5ac@saccounty.net](mailto:first5ac@saccounty.net)

Fax: (916) 876-5877

Website: [www.sackids.saccounty.net](http://www.sackids.saccounty.net)