

# First 5 Yolo announces funding for special projects

First 5 Yolo will provide some much-needed funding to the Yolo Crisis Nursery to build on its capacity for overnight crisis care to protect young children.

Other organizations will be funded to offer early literacy development, host trainings for parents, increase the capacity for developmental screenings for low-income and foster children and provide follow-up care, and to provide preschool interventions and programs.

It's all part of the First 5 Yolo Children and Families Commission 2015-16 special projects allocations supporting initiatives in the areas of improved child health, child development and family functioning.

Special-projects money is one of First 5 Yolo's more flexible funding streams, a news release said. This year's awards are both to programs that are planned for three years of funding and one-time projects.

More than \$150,000 will go to programs such as the Yolo Crisis Nursery, Northern California Children's Therapy Center, city of Winters, Ark Preschool and the Yolo County Library. Each special project responds to a community need that supports priority areas outlined in the commission's strategic plan and has measurable outcomes.

According to First 5 Yolo Interim Executive Director Gina Daleiden, "Utilizing smaller grants to help organizations achieve shorter-term objectives is exciting because so many of these programs just need a little helping hand to be able to provide effective early interventions to give very young children a better start."

Organizations and programs awarded 2015-16 special-project funding include:

- \* CommuniCare Health Centers for the Help Me Grow program to increase developmental screenings for very young low-income children in a primary medical care setting;
- \* Lead4Tomorrow to update the Family Hui curriculum used in parent support groups — helping families address the impacts of early childhood trauma and other adverse childhood experiences;
- \* The Northern California Children's Therapy Center to train five physicians at the MIND Institute, thereby increasing the capacity of local providers to serve children who screen atypical through the Help Me Grow program;
- \* The Children's Home Society to convene a one-day Yolo County Child Development Conference in the spring of 2016 for child-care providers and parents to increase their knowledge of child development;

- \* The city of Winters for its BOOST program to improve the ability of preschool providers to work with special-needs children and to empower and educate parents;
- \* The Ark Preschool in Woodland to provide music education that enhances academic and social/emotional skills to high-risk/high-need preschool children;
- \* The Yolo Crisis Nursery to employ permanent, on-call crisis overnight child-care worker(s), building its capacity to provide overnight care for children whose parents are in crisis;
- \* The Yolo Crisis Nursery for a one-time grant to develop and implement a client database and reporting system for results-based accountability; and
- \* The Yolo County Library for its extensive early literacy programming to serve multilingual children and caregivers throughout Yolo County through parent coaching about early literacy practices and storytime activities for the children.

“By funding special programs designed to improve the development of our children in Yolo County, we are strengthening our communities and creating a pathway to a better future for our children,” said Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza, First 5 Yolo chair.

To learn more about First 5 Yolo and its funded programs, go to [www.first5yolo.org](http://www.first5yolo.org) or call 530-669-2475.