



**American Rescue Plan Act
County Funding Proposal – Expanded Context for \$625,000 Request
9-3-2021**

Establish a Lake County Diaper Bank – The opportunity exists to begin receiving free and/or steeply discounted shipments of diapers in Lake County if a diaper bank is established. Without a diaper bank, these opportunities are passing us by or are logistically challenging to take advantage of. First 5 Lake has been collaborating for over 18 months with local agencies and nonprofits to assess diaper need and come up with a streamlined system for storing and distribution in times of individual and community need. We’ve piloted this effectively during COVID-19 when large shipments of diapers and wipes were made available through First 5 California. We’ve gathered our local partners to participate in Zoom meetings with nonprofits in the region who are operating diaper banks in different ways, and we’ve learned from their efforts and our own pilot project.

- Eligible Use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund – *“To respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its negative economic impacts, including **assistance to households**, small businesses, and **nonprofits**, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality...”*
- Expected Budget Categories – Storage space, purchase of diapers and wipes
- COVID-19 Recovery Context of Request - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/03/01/diaper-banks-pandemic-poverty/>

Help Me Grow Developmental Supports & Safety Net Navigation – First 5 Lake has been working with local pediatricians and family practitioners, Easterseals Northern California, and Redwood Coast Regional Center for many years to improve efforts to increase access and awareness of regular developmental screenings and streamlined referral services for children ages 0-to-5 to catch developmental delays, social emotional disorders and disabilities early and provide support in boosting skills prior to kindergarten entry. What lacks in this effort is the investment into a county-wide data management system for care coordination to ensure no child falls through the cracks. COVID-19 resulted in families putting off well-child visits wherein developmental delays are most frequently caught early.ⁱ

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- Expected Budget Categories – data management system, system set-up, training of staff

Home Visiting & Child Development Services for New Parents - The home visiting program is intended to be a short-term investment specifically related to mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on families with new babies and would be distributed to agencies/nonprofits who have existing home visitation programs to temporarily expand their capacity to take on greater caseloads with fewer eligibility restrictions during the pandemic and its aftermath, rather than starting a new home visitation program specifically for this purpose. A year-long investment in this work would be approximately \$75,000, with two years at roughly \$150K.

The request for funds for child development services in Clearlake is for the remaining \$400K-\$475K included in the proposal and is intended as an investment in the start-up costs involved in expanding birth-to-three wrap-around care services (similar to Early Head Start programming) in Clearlake. Local nonprofit partners are repeatedly turned down by the Federal Government for expansion of the Early Head Start program, but the need is undeniable and has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The actual cost of sustaining the program once it launched would depend on a variety of factors and funding would need to come from other sources. The ARP funding could provide nearly half of the start-up costs.

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- Expected Budget Categories – home visitor staff time, home visitation curriculum and materials, facilities investment for birth-to-three care and wrap-around services

We have examined the sources of funding availableⁱⁱ and determined that these requests do not overlap with other State or Federal sources of relief that are available.

If these or any other items in the proposal do not align with what the Board is prioritizing, the First 5 Lake Commission would welcome the opportunity to continue further dialogue about how it can be adapted to further coalesce with Vision 2028. To First 5 Lake, the act of designating 5% of County ARPA funds to early childhood recovery is more important than any one specific component of the proposal - that act would be a value statement to the Commission that indicates that we are making progress toward our own vision, “*One day the success of Lake County will be measured by the wellbeing of its youngest children,*” and wisely investing in primary prevention for greatest return on investment.

ⁱ Ateev Mehrotra et al., *The Impact of COVID-19 on Outpatient Visits in 2020: Visits Remained Stable, Despite a Late Surge in Cases* (Commonwealth Fund, February. 2021). <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/2021/feb/impact-covid-19-outpatient-visits-2020-visits-stable-despite-late-surge>

ⁱⁱ *The Cradle-To-Career Guide to Federal Relief Funding for Kids During and Beyond COVID-19*, Children’s Funding Project, March, 2021, <https://www.childrensfundingproject.org/>



COVID-19 IMPACT

**SURVEY OF LAKE COUNTY PARENTS OF
CHILDREN 0-TO-5 (JUNE 2021)**

Full survey results will be available in October, 2021.



QUOTES FROM LAKE COUNTY PARENTS:

"We drove two hours away to find diapers."

"I had to sell our belongings and work double shifts."

"We had to find more expensive private childcare."

"We're scraping by. We had to pay rent and can't pay our utilities."

"I struggled to find childcare for my children so I could see a doctor. COVID rules do not allow any additional children to attend appts. so I had to keep rescheduling. I ended up having a mental breakdown."

"My children's dental and doctor appointments kept getting rescheduled and my toddler's dental surgery was cancelled because of COVID. Now we are struggling to get them back to where they were because they are so behind on everything."

