



# FIRST 5 KERN Handprints

Winter 2010

## First 5 Kern awards more than \$36 million for early childhood development programs in Kern County

Culminating a year-long planning and request-for-proposal process, the First 5 Kern Commission approved the allocation of more than \$36 million in Proposition 10 tobacco tax funds for programs designed to improve early childhood development in Kern County. The allocation was approved for a three-year funding cycle beginning July 1, 2010.

“This marks a significant milestone in the Commission’s work to improve early childhood development and to achieve the promise of Proposition 10 in Kern County,” said Larry J. Rhoades, First 5 Kern executive director. “During the process, we were able to identify unmet needs in Kern County and fund new programs to meet those needs, as well as continue funding programs that have proven successful results. We are confident that all the programs receiving funding will make a positive impact in helping parents better prepare their children to enter school healthy and ready to learn.”

The Commission received 76 proposals. The total funding requested vastly exceeded the amount of money




The Board room was packed when First 5 Kern Commissioners reviewed and approved \$36 million for the 2010-13 funding cycle. Forty-three programs located throughout Kern County were selected for funding

available for allocation. Following extensive review by Independent Evaluation Committees, and then the Commission’s Project Review Committee, 43 projects were recommended for approval and funding.

“Our Independent Evaluation Committees had a difficult job,” said Rhoades. “All of the proposals we received had merit, so committee members faced a significant challenge allocating the limited funds to those proposals they believed would best achieve the results required by the Commission’s Strategic Plan.”

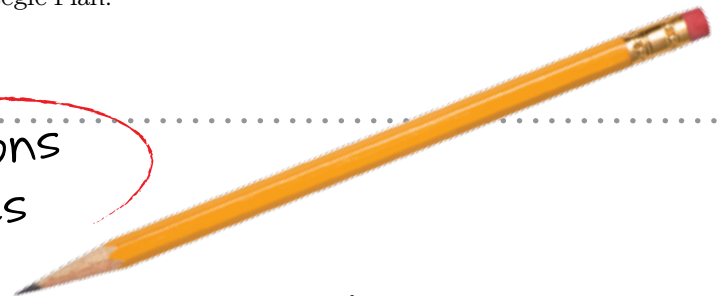
Commission staff and Technical Advisory Committee members will continue to use the Results Based Accountability framework that makes this program unique. Results Based Accountability holds agencies accountable for meeting the goals set forth in their proposal.

For a complete list of programs to be funded, please see page 3. 

United States  
**Census**  
**2010**

10 Questions  
10 Minutes

To define who we are as a nation.  
We can't move forward until you send it back.



# Staff News



**Judith Harniman** was promoted to assistant director.



**Patti Taylor** was promoted to senior finance officer.



**Paula De La Riva** was hired as program officer.

## 2-1-1 – A one-stop shop for social services

Call 211 for information and referrals you need from basic human needs such as food, clothing and rent assistance to finding health insurance, employment support, transportation assistance, childcare, adult daycare, volunteer opportunities and more.

Kern County is part of the nationwide 211 information and referral program. Operated by the Community Action Partnership of Kern and funded by First 5 Kern, United Way of Kern County, County of Kern and the Department of Public Health, 211 makes it easy for callers to connect with services they need to improve their lives. A unique feature of 211 is when persons need information or referral services, but are not sure what to ask for, they can just dial 211 to make that connection.

You can also become a 211 volunteer. For more information, dial 211. 🍀



# Be Counted In 2010

The US Census Bureau is issuing a call to action for every resident of our nation.

### The Census: A Snapshot

**What:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.

**Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted-people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.

**When:** Census Day is April 1, 2010. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day.

**Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census will show state population counts and determines representation in the U.S. House of Representatives

**How:** Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census workers also will visit households that do not return questionnaires.

### A Complete Count: The Importance of Census Data

• Every year, the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.

- Census data guide local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, childcare and senior citizen centers, schools and more.
- Businesses use census data to locate supermarkets, new housing and other facilities.
- Census data determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

### 2010 Census Questionnaire: Quick, Easy and Confidential

- With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete.
- By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. 🍀



# Free tax preparation

Income tax season has arrived, and Community Action Partnership of Kern's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is again helping to ease the burden of working parents and the elderly by providing FREE tax preparation for local citizens with low to moderate incomes.

VITA uses trained volunteers to prepare income tax returns at no cost. In the current economic downturn, VITA offers a much-needed service for those who cannot afford to pay professional tax preparation fees.

VITA also offers other services including:

- A resource center
- Food Stamp application assistance
- A mobile crew that travels from Frazier Park to Delano on weekdays to prepare tax returns.

For more information about any of these services or to schedule an appointment, please call the VITA office at (661) 834-1724. Appointments may also be made by emailing [VITA@capk.org](mailto:VITA@capk.org) with your requested appointment time; a representative will respond by email to confirm your appointment.

## The VITA office

1002 Wible Road, Suite J

Bakersfield

(661) 834-1724

Open through April 15

Monday through Friday: 10am-8pm

Saturday: 10am-6pm



## Kids grow and learn through valuable programs

### First 5 Kern Funded Programs 2010-13

#### FOCUS AREA 1 – HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Kern County Department of Public Health – Black Infant Health Program: Social Support and Empowerment
- Kern County Department of Human Services – Children's Health Initiative Healthy Kids Enrolling Agency
- Friends of Mercy Foundation – Children's Health Initiative of Kern County
- Henrietta Weill Child Guidance Clinic – Early Intervention Program
- Health Net of California, Inc. – Healthy Kids Kern County
- West Kern Community College District – KC Children's Dental Health Network
- Clinica Sierra Vista – Medically Vulnerable Infant Program
- San Joaquin Community Hospital – Children's Mobile Immunization Program
- Kern County Department of Public Health – Successful Application Stipend
- Community Action Partnership of Kern – 2-1-1 Kern County

#### FOCUS AREA 2 – PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- Arvin Union School District – Arvin Family Resource Center
- Kern High School District – Bakersfield Adult School Health Literacy Program
- Bakersfield City School District – BCSD Supporting Parents and Children for School Readiness
- Buttonwillow Union School District – Buttonwillow Community Resource Center
- Kern County Network for Children – Differential Response Services
- Clinica Sierra Vista – East Kern Family Resource Center
- Greenfield Union School District – Greenfield School Readiness
- Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc. – Guardianship Caregiver Project
- Clinica Sierra Vista – Indian Wells Valley Family Resource Center
- Kernville Union School District – Kern River Valley Family Resource Center/Great Beginnings Program

- Lamont School District – Lamont Vineland School Readiness Program
- Kern County Dept of Public Health – Nurse Family Partnership Program
- Kern County Superintendent of Schools – Richardson Special Needs Collaborative
- Richland School District – Shafter Healthy Start
- Clinica Sierra Vista – Southeast Neighborhood Partnership Family Resource Center
- Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Inc. – Domestic Violence Reduction
- Taft City School District – West Side Community Resource Center
- El Tejon Union School District – Mountain Communities Family Resource Center

#### FOCUS AREA 3 – EARLY CHILDCARE AND EDUCATION

- Kern County Supt of Schools – Blanton Child Development Center
- Delano Union School District – Delano Union School District School Readiness
- Bakersfield Homeless Center d/b/a Bethany Services – Discovery Depot Licensed Child Care Center
- Lost Hills Union School District – Lost Hills Family Resource Center
- Recreation and Parks, City of Bakersfield – Make a Splash
- McFarland Unified School District – McFarland Family Resource Center
- North of the River Recreation and Park District – Neighborhood Place Parent Community Learning Center
- Ready to Start Foundation – Ready to Start Rush 2 Learning Child Care Preschool
- Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault – Small Steps Child Development Center
- South Fork Union School District – South Fork Preschool
- Darlyn's Darlings/Caring Corner – Special Start for Exceptional Children
- The Wind in the Willows Education Organization – The Wind in the Willows Preschool
- Turning Point of Central California, Inc. – Turning Point Kern County Mother/Infant Program
- Women's Center High Desert, Inc. – Women's Shelter Network

## Play Everyday

Through play, children grow, learn and develop skills that include:

- Oral language
- Skills in logic
- Problem solving
- Listening to others
- Empathy
- Cooperation



## Notes & Niblets

- Feb 18** School Readiness Coordinators Meeting, 1-3 p.m.  
First 5 Kern Office, 2724 L Street, Bakersfield
- Mar 3** First 5 Kern Commission - Strategic Plan Review  
Time and location to be determined
- Mar 18** School Readiness Coordinators Meeting, 1-3 p.m.  
First 5 Kern Office, 2724 L Street, Bakersfield
- Apr 1** **Census Day**
- Apr 7** First 5 Kern Commission Meeting, 2 p.m.  
Kern County Supt of Schools, 1300 17th Street, Bakersfield
- Apr 15** School Readiness Coordinators Meeting, 1-3 p.m.  
First 5 Kern Office, 2724 L Street, Bakersfield
- Apr 19** Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, 10 a.m.  
First 5 Kern Office, 2724 L Street, Bakersfield

For more information on these and other Commission activities and events, please log onto [www.First5Kern.org](http://www.First5Kern.org).

**Free children's immunizations are offered at various locations throughout Kern County. For more information, please call (661) 869-6740.**

Handprints  
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[www.First5Kern.org](http://www.First5Kern.org)

Fax: 661.328.8880

661.328.8888

Bakersfield, CA 93301

2724 L Street



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