

Executive Director Report

small hands,
BIG RESULTS



KAREN E. SCOTT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A Message from the ED



As we end the fiscal year this month, I want to reflect on why the investments we make for young children today are so significant for our future through the perspective of an article I came across from Applied Research. Penelope Huang, PhD, Director of Research at Applied Research, writes about the

declining birth rate we are facing across the country, discusses which generation it will impact the most, and demonstrates how investing in early childhood development now can support the critical needs we will have in the future as a result of our changing demography. *"The Demographic Case for Investing in our Children, or Why We Should Have Listened to Whitney Houston"* by Penelope Huang, PhD is reprinted with permission from Applied Research. A graph included in the article is omitted due to space limitations:

I am a child of the 1970s, and was twelve years old when Whitney Houston's Greatest Love of All was released in 1985, when perhaps more adults did believe that children were our future. Yet, many of us adults today may be unaware of how much truer

are now than they were when I was a child, as we currently face a demographically-borne crisis that can only be addressed if we heed Whitney Houston's words.

Many of us are aware of the aging Baby Boom generation: my own parents are on the leading edge of that cohort, in their early 70s today. While they are in relatively good health, they will likely need assistance in the coming years. And as advancements in science and public health have extended our life expectancy from 71 years when I was born, to nearly age 79 today, I can expect to be caring for my parents while also caring for my school-aged child (World Bank, 2015). Many of us are in this same situation, and we are becoming increasingly aware of the impact that this massive Baby Boom generation is exerting on the working-age population as they (and we) age.

Meanwhile, on the other end of the lifespan spectrum, fewer of us may be aware of the state's and this country's continuously declining birth rate. Fewer of us still, are aware of the growing impact that this declining birth rate will have on us, the current working-age population, and on generations coming of age in the



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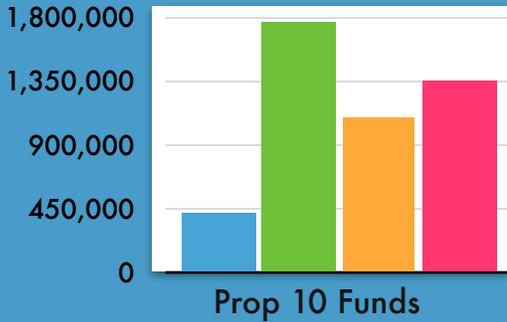
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Updates

Fiscal Update

F5SB received Prop 10 funds in the amount of \$1,357,389 in the month of March. This revenue funds First 5 San Bernardino programs and services.



- December - \$417,189
- January - \$1,763,407
- February - \$1,100,503
- March - \$1,357,389

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Upcoming Events



Baby Shower & Kids Expo

June 9, 2018

Victorville, CA

Operation Splash: Annual Water Safety Event



Another year of fun, sun, and water safety education was held at the annual Operation Splash event at San Bernardino's Perris Hill Park on Friday, June 1st. Families with children came out to swim in the city's renovated swim properties, including a refinished water slide, newly installed canopies, updated pool filtration and maintenance systems, and fresh landscaping around the park. Old School 104.7FM's Jimmy Reyes and Lazer Radio 105.5FM entertained swimmers with music while kids and families visited the community resource fair featuring more than 30 exhibitors. Kids enjoyed free ice snow cones from the Kona Ice truck, played on the inflatable water slide and mountain climber and enjoyed two free swim sessions sponsored by City of San Bernardino and Kaiser Permanente. During the acknowledgment ceremony, elected officials and representatives from the City of San Bernardino celebrated their success with the park renovations and thanked Kaiser Permanente for their annual donation to support the swim center. Supervisor of Evaluations and Community Engagement at First 5 San Bernardino, Scott McGrath reminded attendees of the importance of water safety along with remarks followed by Michelle Parker of Safe Kids Inland Empire (Loma Linda Children's Hospital). For photos and live video of the event, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/first5sb.

Career Online High School's First Graduation Ceremony



First 5 San Bernardino invested with San Bernardino County Library and County Preschool Services Department to make high school education access a reality for adults who needed a second chance. Some students had a decades-long journey to receiving their high school diploma, enduring the hardships and challenges of making a living without one while taking care of their families. On May 22, 2018, those students were finally able to receive their high school diploma in addition to a certificate for a vocation of their choice, including childcare and education, homeland security, and office management. Karen E. Scott of First 5 San Bernardino and Executive Director of County of San Bernardino Preschool Services, Diana Alexander, greeted over 20 students on stage during the Career Online High School graduation ceremony. For more information on the Career Online High School (COHS) Program, visit <http://www.sbclib.org/onlinehighschool.aspx>.

First 5 San Bernardino joins the County of San Bernardino's ReThink Your Drink Campaign



San Bernardino County Preschool Services Department, County of San Bernardino Public Health, Children and Family Services-High Desert and PERC came together to provide a ReThink Your Drink experience for families and children on Wednesday, May 16, 2018. The event was held in Victorville and San Bernardino locations to encourage families to drink more water and choose healthy beverage choices over sodas and other sugary drinks. First 5 San Bernardino joined the event providing *Potter the Otter* Books, puppets, and information. Photos from Preschool Services Department Facebook

ED Message (continued)

near and distant future to come. As such, smaller and smaller cohorts of children will be coming of age into the foreseeable future, meaning fewer and fewer people will be available to support aging cohorts, who are living longer and longer.

I'm not talking here about the individual level, where aging individuals will be able to depend less on their fewer (or nonexistent) children, although that is indeed true. I'm referring to the decreasing reserve of children who will come of age and enter the workforce, shrinking our future pool of physicians, nurses, sanitation workers, teachers, scientists, builders, and welders that will sustain our future infrastructure. We are also witnessing a dwindling of the numbers of people who will be contributing to consumer demand, tax revenue, social security, and indeed to our Gross Domestic Product. As the Baby Boomers enter into retirement and fewer younger people are available to replace them in the labor market, we will see a reduction in our labor supply and an associated decrease in our economic growth.

Demographer Dowell Myers, Professor of Public Policy at the University of Southern California calculates an index that compares the economic and social responsibility a cohort is expected to carry when that cohort reaches age 25. Based on his calculations, at prime working age, those born in 2015 will bear twice the economic and social weight carried by those born in 1985 or earlier (Myers, 2013).

The wise bet is on cultivating the future skills of the children we do have [...] Investing in our most vulnerable, most under-resourced children will be where the greatest gains and returns on investments can be made

So what's to be done about this state of affairs? Should we just have a ton more babies? Immediately? Well, we could, but by the time these mythical myriad babies were to be born and come of age, we will already be far past the point of critical need to address these imminent issues. Solutions need to come much sooner than that. As Dr. Myers' work suggests,

the wise bet is on cultivating the future skills of the children we do have; investing more and earlier in the fewer resources we have (i.e., our children), so that we can ultimately do more with less, because we will have to (Myers, 2017). Moreover, investing in our most vulnerable, most under-resourced children will be where the greatest gains and returns on investments can be made.

Indeed, children are our future. If Californians hope to prosper in the years to come, it is clear that every child must have the supports necessary to optimize opportunities for maximal contribution to a society that will increasingly require more from them.

Every child must have the supports necessary to optimize opportunities

Teach them well and let them lead the way. It's the only way that we as a society – indeed, as a state – and as a country – can hope to thrive. Future post in this series will highlight some efforts in the areas of early care and education, housing, and health/well-being that ASR and our partners are engaged in, as well as some ways you might take action to help improve the life outcomes of our youngest Californians.

Stay tuned! Upcoming posts in this series will explore how this topic pertains to education, health, and housing.

References

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Source: *The Demographic Case for Investing in our Children, or Why We Should Have Listened to Whitney Houston*
<https://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org/news/2018/5/24/why-we-should-have-listened-to-whitney-houston>

