

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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OVER \$60,000 AWARDED TO 0-TO-5 PROJECTS

First 5 Shasta Increases Investment in Young Children

REDDING-----Shasta County youngsters and families of 0-to-5 year olds will soon benefit from funding awards made by First 5 Shasta (the Shasta Children and Families First Commission). A new round of Special Opportunity Funding resulted in over \$60,000 in awards, bringing First 5 Shasta's local early childhood investment to well over \$12 million.

Projects receiving Special Opportunity funding are as follows:

City of Redding Aquatic Center.....	\$ 7,085
<u>Project:</u> Learn to Swim Support early swimming education and water safety for young children with purchase of equipment (pool platforms and barbell floats) for swim lessons.	
Happy Valley Union Elementary School District.....	\$ 5,000
<u>Project:</u> Kindergarten Transition Program Purchase educational materials to prepare young children for kindergarten.	
Learning in Motion Preschool.....	\$ 5,000
<u>Project:</u> Sensory Integration Preschool Equipment Purchase indoor preschool play equipment that encourages climbing, jumping, and balance.	
Manzanita Elementary School Parent Boosters (Redding School District).....	\$ 5,000
<u>Project:</u> Show Me How Purchase educational materials for use in teaching pre-kindergarten children to use the school library.	

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Special Opportunity Funding

Mary’s In Home Child Care.....	\$ 1,700
<u>Project:</u> Trikes and Helmets Purchase tricycles and helmets appropriate for use by toddlers and preschool-age children.	
New Directions to Hope.....	\$ 6,000
<u>Project:</u> Pre-Therapy Waiting Areas Convert waiting rooms to child friendly pre-therapy environments with purchase of furnishings, small play equipment, and books.	
Shasta County Public Health, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health.....	\$18,000
<u>Project:</u> “No Safe Amount of Alcohol During Pregnancy” community education campaign.	
Sycamore Preschool (Redding School District).....	\$ 6,800
<u>Project:</u> Sensory Integration Preschool Playground Purchase of preschool-age sensory integration playground equipment.	
Visions of the Cross.....	\$ 7,415
<u>Project:</u> Kidz Vision Too! Child Care Purchase furnishings, books, supplies, and playground equipment to support establishment of on site child care center at transitional housing for women with their children.	

First 5 Shasta offers an annual round of Special Opportunity Funding. Groups and organizations may seek funding from \$5,000 up to \$20,000 to support projects and community-based activities that serve young children, ages 0-to-5, and their families. This one-time funding is available through a competitive proposal process. More information is available at www.first5shasta.org.

First 5 Shasta, the Shasta Children and Families First Commission, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50 cent-per-pack tax on cigarettes to fund education, health, child care and other programs promoting early childhood development for expectant parents and children up to age five. To date, First 5 Shasta has invested over \$12 million in local projects and programs that benefit young children and families.