Annual Report AR-3

Riverside County Evaluation Summary and Highlights

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

County Evaluation Summary

Evaluation Activities Completed, Findings, and Policy Impact

Improved Family Functioning: Reach Out and Read prioritized serving traditionally hard-to-reach populations in low-income and high-need community settings and benefited 41,973 children. At 27 sites, a 3-part model was implemented to support and promote early literacy, school readiness, and parental engagement during regular pediatric visits providing doctors and nurses with books to assess a child's developmental progress. United Way of the Desert provided the Raising A Reader (RAR) program serving 2,371 children through coordinated book-bag deliveries at Coachella Valley, Desert Sands, and Palm Springs School Districts. Improved Child Development: The Riverside Hybrid Alternate Payment (RHAP) Program, administered by Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE), supported 301 children through RHAP scholarships, connecting families with immediate needs or special populations for enrollment. RCOE Early Care and Education Expansion for Child Care Access and Workforce Stabilization thru American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 enrolled 72 new Alternative Payment (AP) Early Care and Education providers allowing approximately 93 subsidized children access to AP sites. Improved Child Health: Through evidence-based home visiting models by six grantees, 6,925 visits were completed with 550 children and 609 caregivers. HealthySteps provided integrated behavioral health services to 10,000 children and 3,047 caregivers across two grantees. RUHS – Maternal Fetal Medicine served 356 patients with ultrasounds for high-risk pregnancies and provided intervention services. Family Resource Centers served as a centralized and accessible location supporting 5,794 families with resources and referrals. Drowning Prevention programs provided water safety and swim lessons for young children and prevention strategies for parents. Through five grantees, 2,895 children have been provided life-saving lessons. Improved Systems of Care: Help Me Grow Inland Empire (HMGIE) has developed a platform to expand the Electronic Data System that will allow screening partners to log in through the HMG-IE website, issue developmental screenings to families of young children, view results, and make referrals to HMG-IE's Central Access Point. HMG-IE began partnering with QSRC sites to support developmental screenings for children ages 0-5, which has resulted in 3,294 children receiving screenings. Funding for expanding the reach of the Family Resource Centers occurred through 8 existing organizations embedding Network Specialists to support continuity to families from broader population groups by increasing and expanding resources, providing linkages to prevention services, and providing direct support to families with young children ages 0 through 5.

County Highlights

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First 5 Riverside County's investments promote an integrated system of prevention and early intervention services and coordinated care in diverse settings to meet individual families' needs. First 5's HealthySteps sites integrate HealthySteps Specialists in pediatric primary care teams to ensure universal screening of all families, provide referrals, and additional intensive services as needed. Coordinated care provided by HealthySteps Specialists improve engagement in preventive services and connection to community resources such as Home Visiting and other First 5 investments. HealthySteps (HS) sites partner with Help Me Grow IE to ensure families are connected to needed resources. Participating sites reached 10,000 children with 40% of children requiring referrals for early intervention (19%), mental health (21%), and other family services. First 5's engagement with Health Management Associates supports the integration of HS in managed care plans and supports participating agencies' plan for sustainability leveraging new Medi-Cal benefits such as dyadic care and the community health worker benefit.