



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FIRST 5 GLENN COUNTY APPROVES NEARLY \$300,000 FOR LOCAL PROGRAMS

Children Ages 0 to 5 and Their Families to Benefit from Funding

(Willows) - Continuing to make a difference in the lives of young children, First 5 Glenn County recently approved nearly \$300,000 to renew five countywide programs currently serving kids ages 0 to 5 and their families.

"Given the current fiscal climate, we are pleased to continue our role as a community resource by providing funding," said Laura VanDervoort, Chair of First 5 Glenn County. "By ensuring the community receives effective programs, we can help parents prepare children to reach their greatest potential in school and in life."

Organizations receiving funding for the 2005-2006 program year focus on helping children enter school healthy and learning, improving the quality of child care in Glenn County and increasing local literacy and education levels. Programs include:

- ? **First 5 Glenn County's School Readiness program:** Partners with Family Resource Centers, community-based organizations and Hamilton City Elementary and High Schools to offer parents easy access to resources and programs on important topics such as early care and education, parenting and family support and health care.
- ? **Parent Education Network's KIDS program:** Focuses on early intervention and parent education.
- ? **Local Child Care Planning Council CARES program:** Awards stipends to providers dedicated to improving the quality of child care in Glenn County.

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- ? **Glenn County Office of Education's Glenn Adult Program:** Offers parents free child care in Orland and Willows while learning English as a second language and basic literacy skills, working toward a GED or obtaining a high school diploma.

? **Glenn County Human Resource Agency's In-Home Visit program:** Provides families with fun, educational, interactive activities, while answering the myriad of questions parents with young children often face - all in the comfort of their homes.

"These programs make it easier for parents to give their children the best start in life," said Joy Amaro, Executive Director of First 5 Glenn County. "This funding is an investment in our children, our families and our community."

Glenn County is committed to providing quality services to all children and families to ensure all children have the opportunity to grow up healthy, educated and safe. For more information about recently funded programs and other First 5 Glenn County programs and services call 934-6885.

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 Glenn County distributes approximately \$750,000 a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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