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FIRST 5 ALAMEDA COUNTY AWARDED \$325,470 ACEs AWARE GRANT

First 5 Alameda County has received \$325,470 in grant funds from the Office of the California Surgeon General (CA-OSG) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to participate in the state's ACEs Aware initiative. The grant will fund First 5's work in partnership with UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, Dr. Renee Wachtel, the Medical Home Project at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, and First 5 Contra Costa County to conduct training events for the Medi-Cal provider community in Alameda and Contra Costa counties and to develop new trainings and forums to support the implementation of screening for ACEs and social determinants of health, as well as support the integration of those screenings with developmental and parental mental health screenings. Together, these local efforts will help support the statewide ACEs Aware initiative and ACEs screening in pediatric settings.

A total of \$14.3 million was awarded to 100 organizations throughout the state to extend the reach and impact of ACEs Aware, which seeks to change and save lives by helping Medi-Cal providers understand the importance of screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and training them to respond with trauma-informed care.

The ACEs Aware grants will provide funding to organizations to design and implement training, provider engagement, and education activities for providers and organizations that serve Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

"We are looking forward to working in partnership with this amazing group of community leaders to further our efforts to help health care providers become ACEs



Aware," said California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris. "This work is critical, now more than ever, given the stress so many Californians are experiencing as a result of COVID-19 and the role of racial injustice as a risk factor for toxic stress. A trauma-informed health care workforce is vital for helping our state heal."

The grant funding will provide critical support to community organizations serving Medi-Cal providers and beneficiaries, which have been experiencing increased stress during the COVID-19 emergency. Grant activities will augment California's efforts, underway since the summer of 2019, to develop provider training and engage providers, including the promotion of payments to Medi-Cal providers for screening their patients for ACEs.

Added Dr. Karen Mark, DHCS Medical Director: "DHCS is committed to preserving and improving the overall health and well-being of all Californians. The ACEs Aware initiative is a vital part of the Medi-Cal program's response to the COVID-19 emergency. These grants will help us reach Medi-Cal providers who serve diverse and often at-risk populations throughout the state and will help to ensure that Medi-Cal members receive the high-quality, integrated care that every Californian deserves."

Funding for the ACEs Aware grants was previously authorized in the 2019-20 budget using Proposition 56 funds for provider training on how to conduct ACE screening in the Medi-Cal population. In light of the COVID-19 emergency, the grant funding will provide critical support to the community organizations serving Medi-Cal providers and beneficiaries.

"This grant provides needed resources to expand trauma-informed care in the East Bay Area region," said Kristin Spanos, First 5's Chief Executive Officer. "With children and families facing serious challenges, it's critical that our health care delivery systems are equipped to effectively address and respond to trauma in context."



The work will be integrated into First 5 Alameda County's Help Me Grow program, building on existing partnerships with 60 pediatric providers in Alameda County and Help Me Grow's central access point, which connects families with resources and services to support children's health, development, and well-being.

The full list of ACEs Aware grantees is available on the [ACEs Aware Website](#).

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About First 5 Alameda County

First 5 Alameda County builds the local childhood systems and supports needed to ensure our county's youngest children are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and life. Our Mission: In partnership with the community, we support a county-wide continuous prevention and early intervention system that promotes optimal health and development, narrows disparities, and improves the lives of children from birth to age five and their families. Our Vision: Every child in Alameda County will have optimal health, development, and well-being to reach his or her greatest potential. Learn more at www.first5alameda.org.

About ACEs Aware

Led by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, California Surgeon General, and Dr. Karen Mark, Medical Director for DHCS, the ACEs Aware initiative offers Medi-Cal providers core training, screening tools, clinical protocols, and payment for screening children and adults for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which are stressful or traumatic experiences people have by age 18 that were identified in the [landmark ACE Study](#). ACEs describe 10 categories of adversities in three domains – abuse, neglect, and/or household dysfunction. ACEs are strongly associated with at least nine out of 10 of the leading causes of death in the United States. Part of Governor Gavin Newsom's *California for All* initiative, the goal of ACEs Aware is to reduce ACEs and toxic stress by half in one generation. Follow ACEs Aware on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).



Office of the California Surgeon General

The role of California Surgeon General was created in 2019 by Governor Gavin Newsom to advise the Governor, serve as a leading spokesperson on public health matters, and drive solutions to the state's most pressing public health challenges. As California's first Surgeon General, Dr. Nadine Burke Harris has established early childhood, health equity, and ACEs and toxic stress as key priorities.

California Department of Health Care Services

DHCS is the backbone of California's health care safety net, helping millions of low-income and disabled Californians each and every day. The mission of DHCS is to provide Californians with access to affordable, integrated, high-quality health care, including medical, dental, mental health, substance use treatment services, and long-term care. DHCS' vision is to preserve and improve the overall health and well-being of all Californians. DHCS funds health care services for about 13 million Medi-Cal beneficiaries