

Focus Areas

Improved Family Functioning Strong Families

School Readiness Program
Parents as Teachers Program
Home Visiting Programs

Improved Child Development

Children Learning and
Ready for School

Comprehensive Approaches to Raising
Educational Standards (CARES)
Community Projects Mini-Grant Program
Raising a Reader Program

Improved Child Health

Healthy Children
Kit for New Parents
Healthy Smiles - Oral Health Program

Improved Service Systems

Results/Accountability Evaluation
Home Visitors Coalition
ECE-Teacher Workgroup

For more information contact:

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Commissioners

Commissioners are responsible for
governance and
policy-level decision making.

Carol Burney

Chairperson
Special Education Teacher

Jaye Bruce

Vice Chairperson
Early Childhood Educator

Elliott Smart

Treasurer
Director of Social Services

Corla Bertrand

Community Based Organization
Roundhouse Council

Lori Simpson

Plumas County Supervisor

Merle Rusky

Early Childhood Educator
Head Start

Mimi Hall

Director of Public Health



First 5 Plumas – Plumas County Children and Families Commission

Vision: Plumas County children will thrive in supportive, safe, nurturing, and loving environments; enter school healthy and ready to learn; and become productive, well-adjusted members of society.

Mission: First 5 Plumas will provide a comprehensive system of early childhood development services on a countywide basis to all children prenatal to age 5. Through the integration of health care, quality child care, and parent education, children will be provided with the support necessary to ensure that they are healthy, resilient, well adjusted, and ready to learn.

Plumas County School Readiness Program

This countywide program supports early childhood educators and schools in promoting children's overall health, growth and social development. It also provides parents with education and services so young children in Plumas County are ready for school and life. It is part of a First 5 California statewide initiative. The Commission will have invested \$800,000 in this program from 2003 through 2011. The program has priority zones in Portola and Indian Valley.

Guiding Principles:

- Focus on policy-level decisions
- Be fair and open in decision making
- Be accountable to the public for achieving planned outcomes
- Rely on research based and proven models
- Develop programs that are culturally competent and linguistically appropriate
- Promote integration of services through local points of access that are convenient for families
- Focus on sustainability
- Leverage funds to maximize community resources and programs support
- Making funding decisions based on clear proposal and rating criteria, each proposal's relationship to the First 5 Plumas purpose, goals and outcomes, compelling community needs, and programs and services that document meaningful outcomes
- Be guided by Community input

Funded Programs:

New Born House Calls: Public Health Agency home-visitation program that distributes the Kit for New Parents with parent and health education, and infant care materials. NBHC also provides families with 1 and 2 year olds with Early Learning Kits in Indian Valley and Portola.

Raising a Reader (RaR): Through this program, parents share and read books with their children to instill a love of reading and storytelling. RaR is a research based program that is coordinated by the Plumas County Literacy Program.

Early Intervention: A PUSD home visitor works with infants to 3 year olds, who are at risk of having disabilities or developmental delays.

Touch Communication: Through classes and home-visitation parents learn infant cues and the importance of the parent-child bond through touch, as well as breastfeeding support for new mothers.

Early Learning: Roundhouse Council offers weekly child-parent activities, health education activities and health access, early learning group for children ages 3-5, school readiness activities, family nights, and cultural events.

CARES: In Plumas County, Comprehensive Approaches to Educational Standards (CARES) increases quality standards in early childhood education and retention of family and center-based providers.