



October 13, 2017

Dear First 5 Partners:

In response to the recent and unprecedented wildfires in California counties, First 5s across California and their early childhood partners are stepping up to aid impacted families with babies and young children. These devastating fires have left families, schools, and child care providers without the basic necessities they need to care for our youngest children.

As you know, First 5 works in every county to improving the lives of children ages 0 to 5. Some of the services we support include family resource centers, parent education classes, home visits for newborns, and family child care homes and preschools. Deeply connected to their communities, the commissions are well positioned to address the needs associated with rebuilding support for young children and families.

The First 5 Association and First 5 California are already working together with the First 5s in each of the affected counties to address the immediate needs of families and providers. However, recognizing the fires have had an immense impact on the programs and services upon which families rely, we know rebuilding these services will require additional resources.

Thus, we have established a relief fund to support First 5 counties in these efforts. In the coming weeks and months, these funds will be directed (100%) to affected counties for recovery services such as mental health supports for evacuated families, supplies for damaged family child care homes and preschools, additional family programs to support children affected by the fires, and temporary child care supports. If you would like to make a donation, please visit our Generosity site at <https://igg.me/at/K3lyCTcSw4o>. Again, all donations to this specific fund will be used by First 5s in their communities for recovery efforts focusing on the needs of children 0 to 5 and their families. If you would like to make a donation and prefer another method, please contact Moira at the Association.

If you have any questions about this effort, please don't hesitate to reach out to either one of us. We appreciate all your support for the children and families of California.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Moira Kenney".

Moira Kenney, PhD  
Executive Director, First 5 Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Camille Maben".

Camille Maben  
Executive Director, First 5 California