

Investment for Impact: Community Resilience Fund

COVID-19, Racism, and Economic Crisis Threaten Health and Well-Being of Families



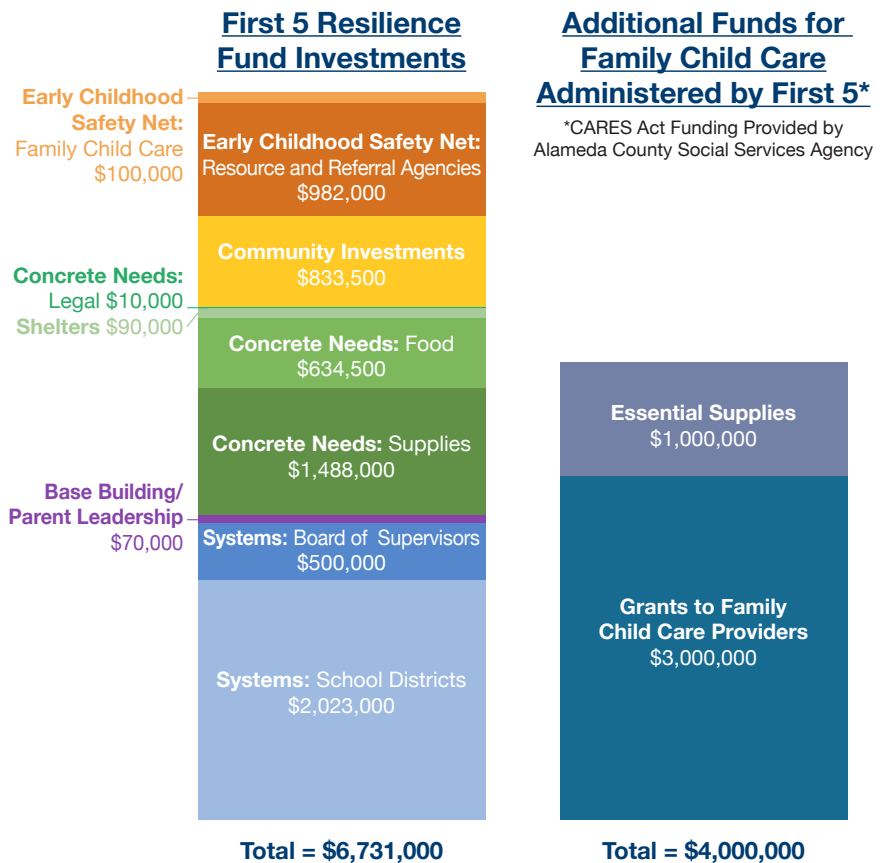
Community organizations in Alameda County and across the Bay Area region are struggling to keep pace with the needs of children and families amid

the simultaneous health and economic crises created by COVID-19. Our society also continues to grapple with the harmful effects of institutional, structural racism that have resulted in disparities and inequitable access to assets and resources for African American/Black families and other communities of color over many generations.

With families navigating historic levels of job loss, child care and school closures, health care challenges, and food and housing insecurity, the pandemic has only exacerbated persistent health and economic inequities.

Together, these societal, economic, and health conditions pose a particular threat to the health and well-being of children, especially children of color, with long-term implications for health, development, and well-being of children, families, and communities.

“The need for investment in our collective future has never been greater.”
Kristin Spanos, Chief Executive Officer



Commitment to Social Justice

Equity Framework

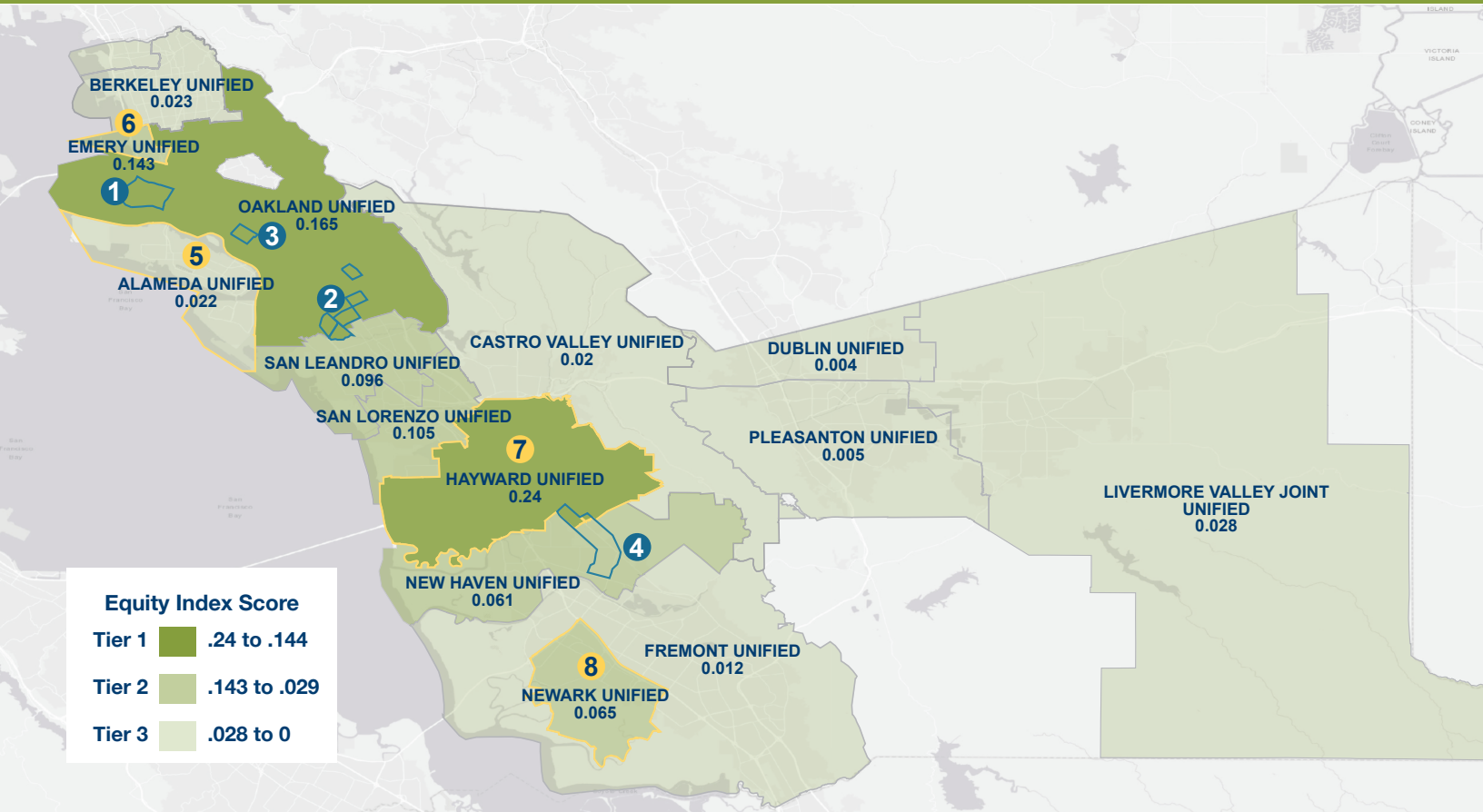
The Resilience Fund grants priority to African American/Black, South East Asian/Asian Pacific Islander, Latinx, Native American, immigrants, and undocumented families and those experiencing poverty. Due to structural race and class bigotries, these populations are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and allocated resources must be used to mitigate the resulting inequities.

Goals of the Community Resilience Fund

First 5 Alameda County launched a [Community Resilience Fund](#) in April 2020 and to date has administered more than \$10 million to help children, families, and child care providers cope with the heightened challenges of the pandemic. The agency re-purposed current contracts, engaged in targeted partnerships with philanthropy and public agencies, identified savings, and the First 5 Commission appropriated funding from reserves to support the pandemic response. The county has looked to partner with First 5 to administer CARES Act funding because of our nimble responsiveness and their recognition of the importance of investing in the early childhood field at this critical time. The goals of the fund are to:

1. Address the needs of young children, their families, and the early childhood system that supports them
2. Prioritize investment in communities positioned most vulnerably as a result of racist and classist private and public policies and practices
3. Leverage First 5 evaluation data and existing investments by supporting key kindergarten readiness recommendations, as well as augmentations to our existing Neighborhoods Ready for School grantees, now also operating as supply and distribution hubs

Equity-Informed Investments: COVID-19 Community Resilience Fund + Current Place-Based Investments



Support for Kindergarten Readiness

In 2019, our flagship research study, the Alameda County Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), found that only **44% of students are fully ready**. Building off of this work and other place-based investments through our Neighborhoods Ready for School program and Early Learning Communities Network, the Community Resilience Fund is supporting children’s transition to kindergarten with grants to school districts, based on an equity index we developed.

The equity index is a weighted composite of the following factors:

- Percent of student body using free and reduced lunch
- Diversity of student body
- COVID-19 community transmission rates
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment participation and 3rd grade academic achievement
- Number of kindergarten students and classrooms

*A higher score (indicated by a darker color on the map) represents a district with a greater level of need.

Resilience Fund Kindergarten Transition School District Grants (FY20-21)

Tier 1 Total = \$800,000

Hayward Unified
Oakland Unified*

Tier 2 Total = \$750,000

Emery Unified
San Lorenzo Unified
San Leandro Unified
Newark Unified
New Haven Unified

Tier 3 Total = \$438,000

Livermore Valley Joint Unified
Berkeley Unified
Alameda Unified
Castro Valley Unified
Fremont Unified
Pleasanton Unified
Dublin Unified

Grants and Basic Needs Stipends
(\$35,000)
(not mapped)

Charter schools affiliated with
Alameda County Office
of Education

*In addition to \$454,000 kindergarten transitions grant.

Pre-Existing Place-Based Investments

Neighborhoods Ready for School Grantees

(Total FY19-21 \$3,872,000)

- 1 Lincoln
- 2 Roots Community Health Center
- 3 San Antonio Family Resource Center
- 4 Union City Family Center

Early Learning Community Network Grantees

(Total FY19-21 \$990,000)

- 5 City of Alameda
- 6 YMCA of the East Bay / City of Emeryville
- 7 4Cs of Alameda County
- 8 City of Newark

Partnerships and Investments

Systems Partnerships

- Engagement with the **Alameda County Board of Supervisors** to support countywide systems change efforts. See our [Early Childhood Data Profiles](#) for each Supervisorial District for more information.
- Investment in **school districts** to support kindergarten transition in a time of crisis for families and our educational partners

Concrete Needs

- Purchase and distribution of concrete needs and essential supports for providers and families, working with Alameda County Community Food Bank and SupplyBank.Org
- Investment in family-serving shelters to improve access to essential supplies for unhoused families with young children, with support from Sunlight Giving

Early Childhood Education

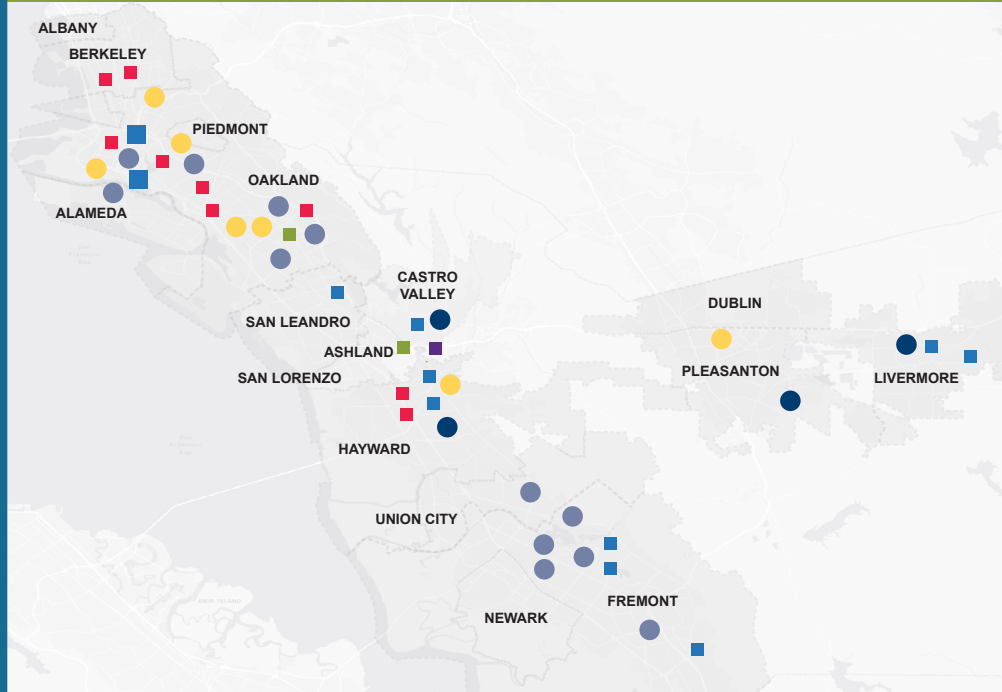
- Sustaining local infrastructure of backbone entities like the Resource and Referral Agencies to meet heightened demand during the current crisis
- Administrator of \$4 million in CARES Act funding provided by Alameda County Social Services Agency for grants and supplies to family child care providers
- Investment in local family child care providers in partnership with the Low Income Investment Fund and Silicon Valley Community Foundation, increasing access to financial technical assistance

Community Investments

- Investment in community and parent advocacy through increases to current contracts for our Neighborhoods Ready for School (NRFS) grants and Parent Voices Oakland
- Pivot of NRFS sites into distribution hubs and use of KRA study to inform support for kindergarten transitions and funding in areas with greatest need
- Targeted investments, in partnership with the California Wellness Foundation, for communities who are particularly vulnerable at this time
- Participation in a base building advocacy fund through the East Bay Community Foundation
- Support for Oakland Zoo and Children's Fairyland as local, family-friendly institutions

Essential Food and Supplies for Families and Providers

All Sites Requesting or Distributing COVID Relief Supplies



Distribution Hubs

- Alameda County Office of Education Meal Service Sites
- Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
- Neighborhoods Ready for School Sites

One-Time Donation Sites

- Community-Based Organizations
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Health Care Agencies
- Domestic Violence Shelters

Types of Supplies Distributed

Diapers	Non-Medical Grade Face Mask
Wipes	Books
Baby Formula	Hand Sanitizer
Bar Soap	Dental Supplies
Liquid Hand Soap	N95 Masks
Disinfectant Solution in Spray Bottles	Diaper Kits
Laundry Detergent	Dental Kits for Adults and Children
Bleach	Toothbrushes
Feminine Hygiene Products	Gloves
	Air Purifiers

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