

## Key Impact: EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION



1 in 4 children ages zero to five are at risk for developmental, behavioral or social delay.

### WHAT WE KNOW

#### Too often California's children are not getting screened for developmental delays.

Failing to address developmental or behavioral delays (such as autism, speech delays, or ADHD) in children, puts them at risk for life-long problems in learning, behavior and health. The sooner delays are identified, the more effective and affordable intervention can be.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children are screened at least three times before their third birthday. Developmental screenings are covered by the Affordable Care Act for both Medi-Cal and private insurance plans.

A robust screening system focuses on prevention by screening early and referring children needing follow-up to state and community-based services quickly.

### WE CAN DO BETTER: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

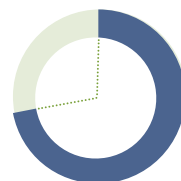
To fully achieve effective early intervention, California needs a multi-level approach:

**Educate and support** health care providers to identify and refer children at risk for delays.

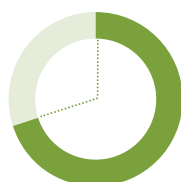
**Inform families** about the importance of screening and early treatment, and develop a centralized intake and referral process across counties.

**Collect and analyze data** on children screened, assessed, and served in order to effectively track statewide progress towards addressing developmental delays.

**Expand the Help Me Grow system** to more counties and regions throughout California.



72% of children do not receive a routine developmental screening



70% of delays are not identified until kindergarten, affecting a children's school-readiness and learning potential.

### HELP ME GROW

First 5 supports integrated systems, like Help Me Grow, to assist parents/care givers to identify potential developmental delays and referral them to appropriate services.



3/4 of California counties are developing their HMG system

First 5 leads the effort to build strong, effective and sustainable systems to serve young children in California. The First 5 Association of California is the membership organization for the 58 First 5 county commissions. In 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10 — The California Children and Families Act — creating First 5 commissions in every county. First 5 supports the healthy development of children from birth through five years of age.