



# First 5 LA Approaches to Family & Community Engagement

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# Presentation Objectives

## Understand First 5 LA Approaches to Family & Community Engagement

- F5LA Pathway for Systems Change
- Guiding Principles & Strategies
- Program Highlight: DULCE
- Program Highlight: Best Start
- Resources



# Pathway for Systems Change



By 2028, all children in L.A. County will enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.

**We Want Systems To Be**

- Accessible
- Quality
- Aligned
- Sustainable

**Results for Children and Families**

- Families optimize their child's development.
- Children are connected early to developmental services and supports.
- Children are safe from abuse, neglect, and other trauma.
- Children have high-quality early-care and education experiences.

**We Change Systems By**

- Policy change
- Practice change
- Will building

**Our Strategic Priorities**

- Strengthen public & community systems
- Advance & leverage community experience
- Expand influence & impact with data
- Optimize our effectiveness

**Our Values**

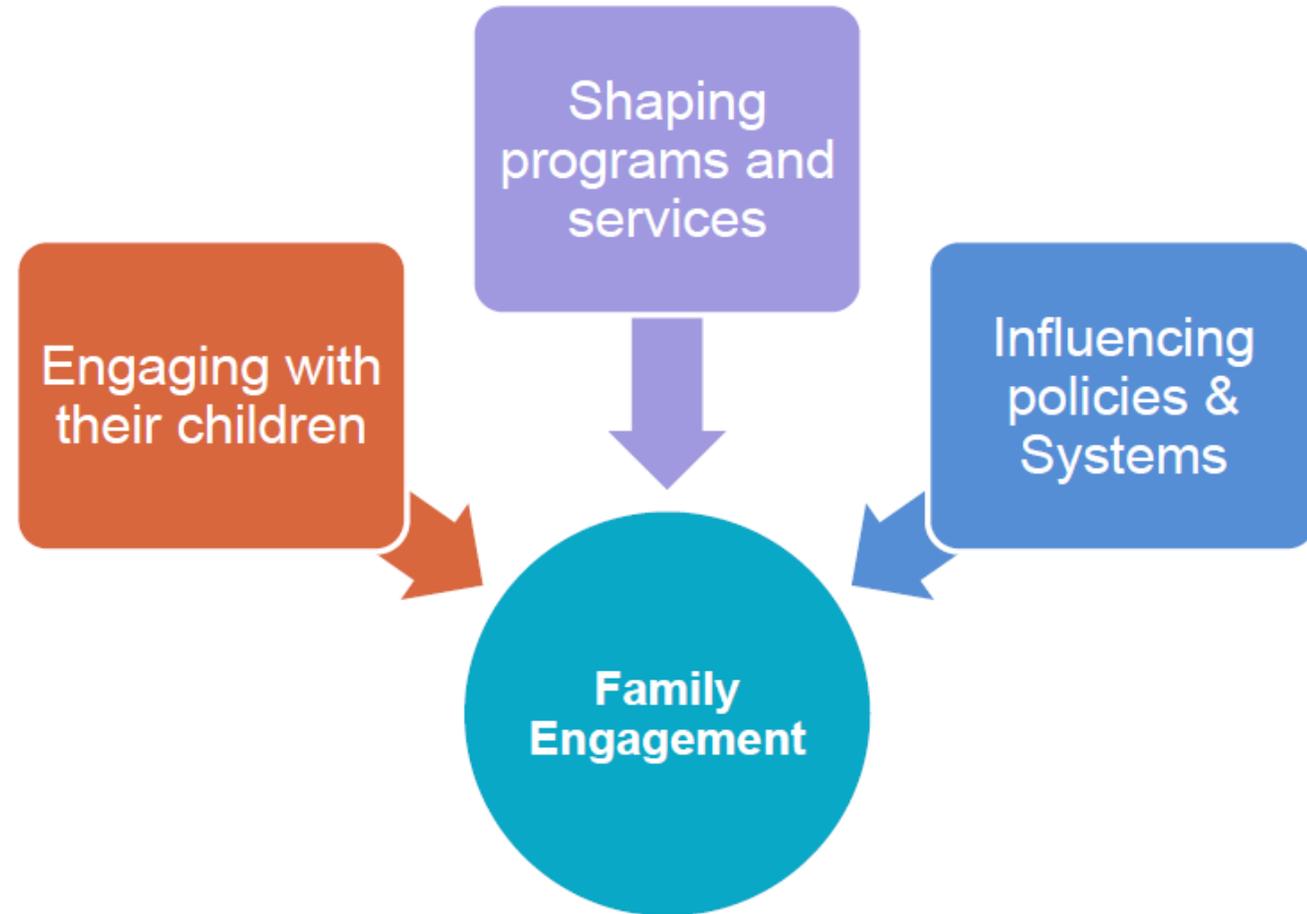
- Collaboration
- Integrity
- Learning
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**Our Investment Guidelines**

- Equity
- Sustainability
- Upstream
- System and Policy Change
- Evidence and Innovation
- Partnership

# Family Engagement as a Continuous Stream of Opportunities

- **Engaging with their children:** Families enhance their role as the child’s “first teacher” through learning about their child’s development, building a network and getting support for basic needs and parenting challenges.
- **Shaping programs and services:** Families partner with organizations to inform decisions, participate in planning and delivery of services and develop their leadership.
- **Influencing policies and systems:** Families use their voices and experiences to advocate for improved, family-centered, equity-driven systems, programs and services.



Source: *Ripples of Transformation: Families Leading Change in Early Childhood Systems* developed by Center for the Study of Social Policy & First 5 Alameda

## Guiding Principles



**Foster mutual respect, trusting relationships, and shared responsibility and leadership:** Respectful and trusting relationships between parents and providers are critical ingredients for effective family engagement efforts. Building trusting relationships takes time but ultimately bolsters a sense of shared responsibility, leadership, and connections to responsive services and supports.



**Respect, value, and be responsive to cultural and linguistic assets:** Culturally and linguistically responsive programs and providers are also critical. Providers should understand and respect cultural assets, norms, and experiences that impact family development and influence families' receptiveness to engagement strategies. Making adaptations to fit the appropriate cultural context makes programs relevant and accessible.



**Foster an integrated and family-centered systems approach:** A systems approach should promote and institutionalize the value and practice of family engagement by creating seamless connections across programs, services, and systems. When possible, programs and services should be coordinated to promote and reinforce continuity of care, build on existing efforts in the community, and extend reach through existing services and resources.



**Engage families where they are:** Family engagement programs should be highly accessible and engage families in places and at times that are safe and convenient. They should be strengths-based, responsive to the diverse needs of families, focus on protective factors, and develop over time to deepen and broaden engagement.



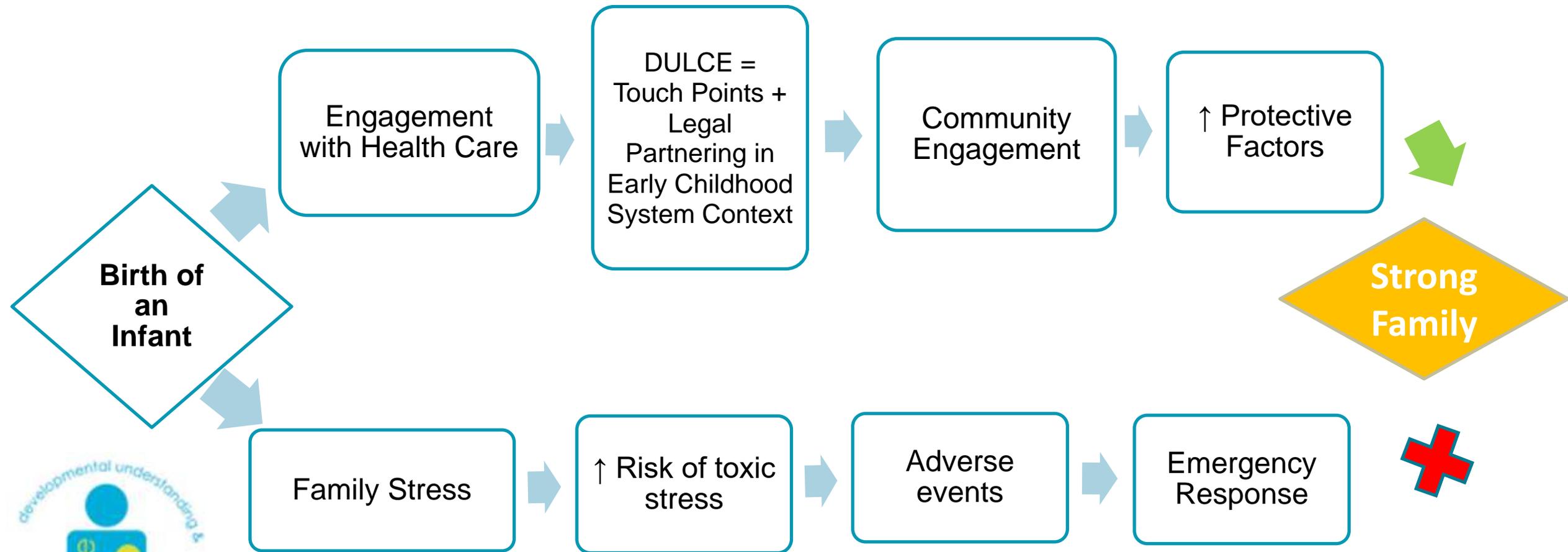
**Support strong social networks and connections:** In addition to trusting relationships, creating space to strengthen existing social networks and connections among parents and caregivers is an important part of effective engagement. This may happen in informal community settings or as a structured part of parent engagement programs.

# Program Highlight: DULCE

- Innovative, **universal** pediatrics-based intervention
  - Add family specialist to primary care team
  - Intentional partnership with local early childhood communities
  - Integrate legal knowledge and resources into primary care team
- Primary care sites bolster family strengths through:
  - Structured coaching for parents on infant development milestones
  - Proactively detecting and addressing SDOH
- Intervention includes:
  - Highly structured interdisciplinary team
  - Dedicated *Family Specialist* trained and supported by:
    - Legal partnership that strengthens families' ability to secure concrete supports
    - *Brazelton Touchpoints* training and reflective mentorship to promote knowledge of parenting and child development and to strengthen collaborative parent, child and provider relationships



# DULCE: Improving Family Engagement, Reducing Toxic Stress & Strengthening Families

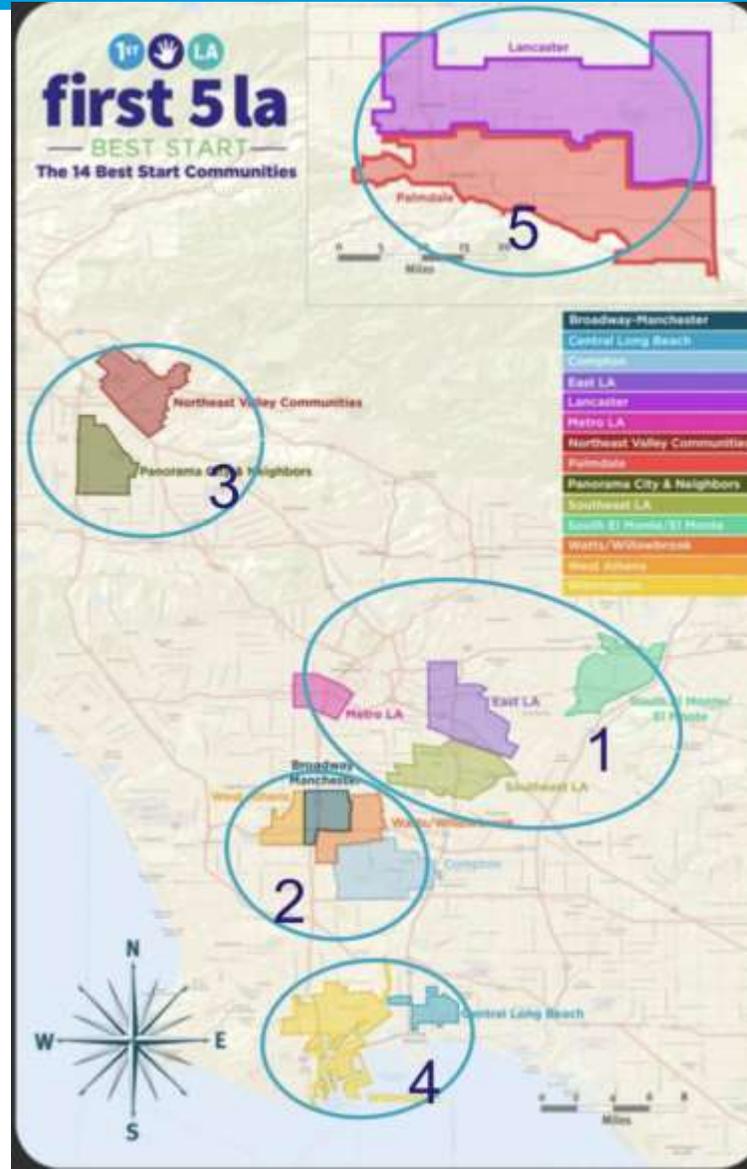


# DULCE: Programmatic Impact

- **Families respond positively to DULCE**
  - ✓ 98% of families offered DULCE accepted the intervention
  - ✓ 87% of families complete the program (main reason for non-completion is that the family moved away)
  - ✓ DULCE families participate: on average, 9 service contacts in 6 months
- **Families get more of what they need and want, thanks to Family Specialist relationship**
  - ✓ Often uncover issues not revealed through screening, especially related to depression or interpersonal violence
  - ✓ Links to social supports go beyond referral — families get the benefits they need
  - ✓ Connect parents to employment or further education
- **Relationship with Family Specialists help develop protective factors**
- **Families receive more comprehensive and effective services to meet needs**
  - ✓ Can address legal needs with “a whole new level of expertise”

# Program Highlight: Best Start Communities

The purpose of the Best Start investment is to cultivate strong collaborative efforts among parents, residents and organizations so that, together, they are a powerful catalyst for change to achieve and sustain positive outcomes for children and families in their communities.



## Region 1: Central East

RNG: Para Los Niños

East Los Angeles, South El Monte/El Monte, Southeast LA, Metro LA

## Region 2: South Los Angeles

RNG: Community Health Councils

Compton, Broadway Manchester, Watts Willowbrook, West Athens

## Region 3: San Fernando Valley

RNG: El Nido Family Services

Northeast Valley, Panorama City & Neighbors

## Region 4: Port Cities

RNG: The Nonprofit Partnership

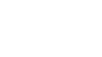
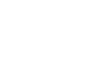
Central Long Beach, Wilmington

## Region 5: Antelope Valley

RNG: Children's Bureau, RNG

Lancaster, Palmdale

# Supports for Community Mobilization & Empowerment

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES	best start BROADWAY / MANCHESTER	best start COMPTON / EAST COMPTON	best start WATTS / WILLOWBROOK	best start WEST ATRANE
Green Spaces & Parks				
Community Campaign to Engage Parents/Members & Connect to Resources				
Clean & Safe Community				
Quality Schools & Improve Parent, School, & Student Engagement/Trainings				
Healthy Food Access				
Homeless Families/Assist Families at Risk of Losing Their Children				
Increase Participation of African Americans				
Increase Participation of Fathers				
Increase Participation of Young Parents				

## Community Partnerships Supported By:

- Regional & Local Support Networks
- Community Change Agendas
- Capacity Building/Training & Technical Assistance
- Communications & Outreach
- Stakeholder Engagement & Advocacy
- Community Identified Projects
- Strategic Partnerships

# BEST START Mobilizing to Impact the Transportation System: METRO LA AND AVTA



## Metro™



- Advocating for family friendly transportation policies including
  - Improved transit fares for families with small children
  - Safety improvements
  - Transit service at night for working families
  - Improved bus reliability
  - Much more
- Elevating parent voice to help inform how transportation system serve families in the Antelope Valley
- Collected over 150 comment cards to provide additional recommendations to METRO LA's Vision 2028 Plan



**Thank You!**

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