FIRST 5 SONOMA COUNTY COMMISSIONER RECRUITMENT
INFORMATION & APPLICATION FORM

First 5 Sonoma County is seeking community leaders to fill a vacancy on the First 5 Commission. Eligible candidates must represent one of the following categories and have a deep understanding of how they intersect with and support the needs of children, birth to five years old and their families in Sonoma County:

- *An individual representing an organization focused on parenting, and/or early childhood development*
- *An individual from the private sector which includes but is not limited to businesses, business associations, chambers of commerce, entrepreneurs, sole proprietors, trade or labor unions*
- *A representative of the Child Care Planning Council or a Resource & Referral Agency*
- *An Educator specializing in early childhood development including but not limited to Child Care Providers, Preschool teachers, early childhood professors, facilitators, and paraprofessionals.*

This recruitment also prioritizes the Commission's goal of increasing representation of Black, Indigenous and other people of color in the governance of First 5 Sonoma County as members of the Commission. Please review the following Commissioner description outlining roles and responsibilities, and complete the application through this **Google Form** or return via email to Kathleen Natividad at knatividad@first5sonomacounty.org **February 3rd, 2023 by 5 PM.**

*Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to observe a First 5 Commission public meeting via Zoom. The next meeting will take place on **January 23rd, 2023 from 330-530**.*

Register here: **https://sonomacoe.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IOHpUBRIQtewSz7-6TeROA**

HISTORY & PURPOSE OF FIRST 5 SONOMA COUNTY

Traditionally, society invests most heavily in children during their school years, yet brain research shows that children's brains develop most dramatically in their first five years of life. During this window of opportunity, the foundation of a child's life-long potential is established, so investing in these early years is critical. Children who start out in safe, nurturing environments grow up to be happier, healthier people. First 5 supports the health and well-being of children and their families to prepare children to succeed—at home, at school, in life.

First 5 invests in Sonoma County's youngest children by supporting practice, programs, systems and policies that promote optimal early development from the prenatal stage through age five. The Commission develops and is guided by a strategic plan that outlines the needs of young children and their families in the county, goals and priority outcomes, and is updated regularly to respond to trends impacting children and families; the current plan can be found **here**.

The First 5 Sonoma County Commission was established by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in December 1998 and is primarily funded by Proposition 10, a statewide ballot initiative that added fifty cents per pack to cigarettes and other tobacco products. The resulting revenues are allocated statewide to First 5 California (20%) and to a First 5 Children and Families Commission in every California county (based on birth rate). The First 5 Sonoma County Commission directs the investment of more than $5 million annually to support the optimal development of children from birth to age five in Sonoma County.

FIRST 5
sonoma county

FIRST 5 COMMISSIONER ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Constructively contribute to a collective strategic policy decision-making process that centers racial equity and through a targeted universalism approach, addresses the needs of the most marginalized.
2. Elevate critical issues impacting children's health and well-being in the community and advocate for policies and resources that promote optimal development.
3. Prepare for, attend and engage in 10 monthly Commission meetings annual and actively participate as a member of 2 ad hoc or regular sub-committees.
4. Ensure fiscal accountability and ethical, responsible stewardship of public funds.
5. Uphold principles of fairness and transparency in government by acting in accordance with Commission's bylaws and in compliance with the Brown Act.
6. Comply with conflict of interest requirements; actively avoid all real or perceived conflicts of interest.
7. Completes Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and ethics training on a yearly basis.

REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

At-large members of the Commission may request to receive:

- $75 per diem for meetings and half day events
- $125 per diem for whole day events and meetings
- Mileage reimbursement
- Reimbursement for the cost of child care necessary to attend Commission and committee meetings

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE FIRST 5 WEBSITE AT **WWW.FIRST5SONOMACOUNTY.ORG/NEWS/** OR EMAIL KATHLEEN NATIVIDAD AT **KNATIVIDAD@FIRST5SONOMACOUNTY.ORG**

First 5 Sonoma County Commissioner Application

Return completed application via email to: knatividad@first5sonomacounty.org

Name:	
Address:	
Mailing Address:	
Home Phone:	**Business Phone:**
Cell Phone:	**Email:**
How long have you resided in Sonoma County?	
Present Occupation & Employer:	

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL / COMMUNITY SERVICE:

District/Organization	Dates Served	Role/Position

Describe your work in one of the following categories, and how your work intersects with the First 5's Mission to promote optimal child development, including how it promotes the whole family/whole child approach?

- An organization focused on parenting, and/or early childhood development
- An individual from the private sector which includes but is not limited to businesses, business associations, chambers of commerce, *entrepreneurs, sole proprietors, trade or labor unions*
- An individual from the Child Care Planning Council or a Resource & Referral Agency
- An Educator specializing in early childhood development

Describe how you would apply an equity lens to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the Commission?

How would you bring your lived experience and authentic self to the First 5 Commission?

What impact in the Community do you hope to see with your participation on the Commission?

Please describe any concerns or limitations that would impact your commitment to serve on the Commission for a two-year term (e.g. attendance at Commission and sub-committee meetings, preparation for meetings). Please note that Commission meetings take place in person from 3:30-5pm on the 4th Monday of the month (January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October) and the 1st Monday in December.

Please list two local references, including contact information.

NOTE: Appointees will be required to take an Oath of Office and will be subject to filing an annual Statement of Economic Interest

Signature Date