



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 28, 2011

CONTACT: Mary Pettit
(707) 462-4453

FIRST 5 Mendocino CARES for Child Care Providers

Awards \$65,000 to providers who continue their education

FIRST 5 Mendocino recently awarded 83 child care providers with \$65,000 for continuing their education and providing quality child care in Mendocino County.

With the average American woman still earning 77 cents to every dollar a man makes today FIRST 5 Mendocino wants to invest and retain the quality child care providers and prevent them from leaving the field that is so in need of experienced professionals.

The program which is funded locally by FIRST 5 Mendocino, Mendocino County Child Care Planning Council and California Department of Education AB 212 is aimed at skilled and stable early care and education staff including aides, teachers and directors working in center-based programs or family child care homes with children ages 0 to 5.

Still, child care experts cite consistency in staffing as an important factor in quality child care programs.

“Research consistently proves that the quality of care is dependent upon the provider’s consistency and training,” said Anne Molgaard, Executive Director of FIRST 5 Mendocino. “C.A.R.E.S. program is addressing both of these issues so that Mendocino County children can enjoy a healthy and vital young childhood in their daily environment.”

Research shows that 95% of a child’s brain develops in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child’s growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. .

FIRST 5 Mendocino has the continued goal to increase quality and access to child care in Mendocino County. By sponsoring the C.A.R.E.S program for the past 10 years, FIRST 5 Mendocino has distributed nearly \$2,000,000 to local child care professionals in order to keep trained professionals in the field and trained.

To be eligible for the program, child care providers submit transcripts and other documents that show their continuing education and training during the past year. Stipends are based on the provider's level of education, ranging from \$250 to \$500.

###