Strategic Partnership with Abriendo Puertas: Improving Family Engagement Capacity of ECE-related providers

Barbara Andrade Dubransky & Christine Tran

October 13, 2016
Presentation Objectives

• Approve and Review Strategic Partnership
• Overview of Investment Approach
• Demonstrate Alignment to Promoting Parent Engagement in LA County
First 5 LA’s Mission & Strategic Plan

Mission

First 5 LA, in partnership with others, strengthens families, communities, and systems of services and supports so all children in L.A. County enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.

Families Strategy 2

Improved capacity of ECE- and health-related providers to engage parents/caregivers in supporting their child’s development.
Latino Children Under 5 in LA County

Percentage of Children Under Age 5 who are Hispanic/Latino

- 0 - 16
- 17 - 39
- 40 - 61
- 62 - 81
- 82 - 100

Data classified by quintile

LA County
63.1%
(413,141 Children)

Best Start Communities
81.3%
* Margin of Error is +/- 0.02%
(95,132 Children)

Source: L.A.'s Early Care & Education Landscape Website
(Advancement Project, 2015)
Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

• **Evidence-based** training program and curriculum developed **for and by Latino parents** with children ages 0-5
• Builds **provider capacity** through a train-the-trainer model
• Increase **parents’ self-confidence, parenting skills, and advocacy** on behalf of their families
Evidence of Effectiveness

Abriendo Puertas parents:

• Demonstrated significant increases in their knowledge of language and literacy development, social-emotional development, health development, and school preparation.

• Exhibited noteworthy gains in understanding their rights as parents, and their children’s rights in school.

• Reported a significant boost in self-confidence regarding their parenting skills, getting their children ready for school, and advocating on behalf of their children.

(Bridges, Cohen, & Fuller, 2012)
Evidence of Effectiveness

Abriendo Puertas parents:

• Adopted parenting practices that enhance their preschool children’s learning & preparation for school.

• Expanded their knowledge about high quality child care & education settings, & improved their organizational strategies and ability to plan and set goals for their children.

• Gained an appreciation for their role as models for their children.

• Increase their use of libraries and their resources

• Developed plans to reach family goals and took time to respond to children’s behaviors

(Moore, Caal, Lawner, Rojas, & Walker, 2014)
Alignment with First 5 LA’s Investment Areas

• **Research & Development.** Promote the widespread use of proved best practices that are grounded in research and real-life application

• **Provider Training.** Build the knowledge and skills of the people providing support and services to parents and children
Alignment with First 5 LA’s Investment Areas

- **Community Capacity Building.** Help individuals and groups that live and work in neighborhood and communities take greater ownership and responsibility for the children and families who live within them by fostering safe, healthy and vibrant communities.
Build local provider capacity and prepare families to engage with the K-12 system

Expand the body of evidence around effective parent engagement

Provide opportunities to conduct limited pilot testing in diverse settings
Phase 1: Increase Provider Capacity

- Evidence-based program: Abriendo Puertas
  - 20 sites
    - School Sites
    - Non-School Sites
  - 80 Facilitators
    - Co-Facilitators
  - 800 Parents
    - Program Participants
  - Future Cohorts
    - Program Participants

- Diverse Provider Settings
- Build Provider Capacity
- Connect Families with Advocacy Opportunities
- Sustainability
Phases & Objectives

Phase 1: Learning & Researching
(FY16-17 & FY 17-18)
$900,000
(High-end estimated cost)

- **Objective:** To understand provider capacity and identify program implementation barriers and best practices

Phase 2: Learning & Developing Partnerships
(FY 18-19)

- **Objective:** To build provider capacity across diverse settings to promote sustainability and develop partnerships for Phase 3

Phase 3: Learning & Co-Creating
(FY 19-20)

- **Objective:** To develop a culturally and linguistically responsive curriculum for a high need population, in partnership with others

**Major Cost Drivers:** operations, Train-the-Facilitator Institutes, technical assistance, translation, implementation grants

**Outcome:** A deeper understanding of provider best practices, barriers, and real cost of program implementation to inform Phases 2 & 3

**Contract:** Abriendo Puertas (fiscal agent: Tides Foundation)
Seek Board approval to:

- Establish a Strategic Partnership with Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors
- Authorize staff to execute an initial 18-month contract starting January 1, 2017 for an amount not to exceed $900,000
Questions?