

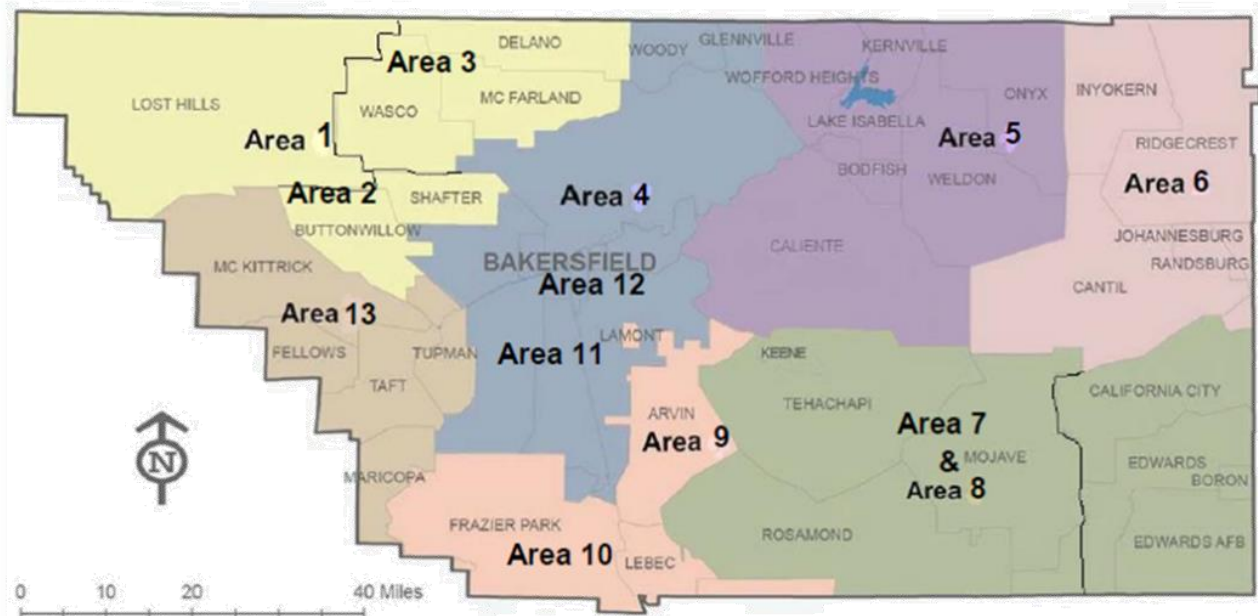


2017 Town Hall Meeting **RECAP**

Purpose

The First 5 Kern Commission is beginning the 2020 Strategic Plan effort and the launch of the next 'Request for Proposal' effort. In preparation, staff met with communities across the county, hosting 12 Town Hall meetings for the purpose of:

1. Sharing First 5 Kern's history and planning steps for the next funding cycle beginning 2020;
2. Identifying priority needs and gaps in services that First 5 Kern can address in the next funding cycle;
3. Utilizing direct discussions with residents to better understand the needs throughout Kern County; and
4. Gathering attendee input, ideas and priorities to share with First 5 Kern Commission.



Meetings

Town Hall meetings were held in the following cities and surrounding communities (not in order of priority):

1. **Lost Hills** – Area 1
2. **Shafter** – Area 2
3. **Delano** – Area 3
4. **Bakersfield - Oildale** – Area 4
5. **Kern River Valley** – Area 5
6. **Ridgecrest** – Area 6
7. **Mojave** – Areas 7 and 8
8. **Arvin / Lamont** – Area 9
9. **Mountain Communities** – Area 10
10. **Bakersfield - Greenfield** – Area 11
11. **Bakersfield - Southeast** – Area 12
12. **Taft** – Area 13

First 5 Kern’s Vision

All Kern County children will be born into and thrive in supportive, safe, loving homes and neighborhoods and will enter school healthy and ready to learn.

First 5 Kern’s Mission

To strengthen and support the children of Kern County prenatal to five and their families by empowering our providers through the integration of services with an emphasis on health and wellness, parent education, and early childcare and education.

The Process

Meetings were advertised throughout the County of Kern via flyers, networking and public service announcements. All meetings were open to the public.

Attendees were asked to share how they view programs and services in their surrounding region based on First 5 Kern’s focus areas: (I) Health and Wellness, (II) Parent Education and Support Services and (III) Early Childcare and Education.

BAKERSFIELD / GREENFIELD TOWN HALL MEETING – AREA 11

First 5 Kern staff met with 93 residents of the Greenfield, Bakersfield area, including parents, early childcare providers, and 47 children. The 90 minute event was held at the Valle Verde Elementary School, Thursday, April 27, 2017.

Town Hall Hosted By:

- Greenfield School Readiness Program (Greenfield SR)
Greenfield Union School District
5400 Monitor Street
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Jordan Green, Supervisor
661-837-3720
greenj@gfusd.net

The Greenfield SR provides direct family support services through:

- a. Case management.
- b. Parenting classes.
- c. Health screenings and referrals.
- d. Promoting parents' knowledge of developmental milestones and norms.
- e. Center-based and kindergarten transition activities.

Discussion Results

I. Health and Wellness

- Classes in nutrition, preventive health care and parenting support groups are provided throughout the year by the Greenfield SR staff.
- Certified assistants help in Healthy Families, CalFresh and Medi-Cal applications.
- Poor access to quality health care was identified and the need to:
 - a. Increase local access to pediatric well-child visits.
 - b. Reduce long waits to see the doctor.
- For dental care, the mobile dental van, funded through First 5 Kern, visits Greenfield each year.
 - a. More dental services are needed including low cost orthodontic care.
- Immunization services are needed as the mobile immunization unit no longer comes to the Greenfield Family Resource Center.
- Increase mental health services in the area are a great need.

II. Parent Education and Support Services

- Parenting classes using the Nurturing Parenting curriculum are offered in ten-week sessions by Greenfield SR. These classes are well received by local residents who want

them to continue classes because they help understand child development stages, parenting styles, discipline techniques and much more.

- The parenting classes provide a link to case management services through the Greenfield SR.
- Parents would like parenting classes that allow their children to attend with them.
- Incentives to attend parenting classes in order to reach more families.
- Employment training programs for parents who are unemployed or underemployed are needed.
- Case management services are available to families in need of setting and reaching goals.
- English classes for dads.

III. Early Childcare and Education

- Children 0-5 are served through the Greenfield SR program.
- Greenfield Family Resource Center provides quality center-based child care.
 - a. Offers a natural transition for children between preschool and elementary.
- Many families expressed that they would like more than two days a week of the Tell Me a Story Program. If it were offered more often, there would not be a wait to attend.
- More summer programs for children should be provided.
- Better access to child care (wait for openings can be two to three years).
- Qualifications for child care needs to be more accessible for working families, not just low income families.
- Children wearing uniforms in schools would save families' money.

IV. Other Comments

- Paved roads and improved sidewalks would improve the community and safety for all.
- Provide more police services:
 - a. To stop speeders and drag racing in the area, especially near schools and parks.
 - b. Drug paraphernalia (found in parks where children play) needs clean up.
 - c. Residents have reported problems and provided video to authorities demonstrate the problems (Greenfield Park in Rexland Acres) around elementary schools – e.g. McKee and Kendrick.
- Adding a stop light at Union and East Berkshire would improve pedestrian safety.

--- END BAKERSFIELD / GREENFIELD ---