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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: City of Long Beach and the Mayor's Fund for Education Launch Early Childhood Education Strategic Plan

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Earlier today, the City of Long Beach (City) in partnership with the Mayor's Fund for Education unveiled the Early Childhood Education Strategic Plan (Plan). The City is one of only a few California cities to have a comprehensive Plan.

"As an educator, I believe there is no better investment in a child's future than an investment in early childhood," said Mayor Robert Garcia. "This Plan will expand our educational and social commitments to our youngest residents, their families, and the professionals who support them so that all children will enter school ready to learn and be positioned for life-long success."



Pictured: Mayor Robert Garcia

The Plan is a collaborative and comprehensive plan developed with multiple stakeholders throughout the City. This Plan was created to ensure all families and young children across the City have equitable access to the programs and resources they seek or could benefit from, as well as to provide a roadmap for the City's Early Childhood System to continue to advance and promote access to high-quality services and support for all families. A full version of the Plan is available at: <http://www.longbeach.gov/health/services/directory-by-population/early-childhood-education-program/>.

“The city-wide Plan focuses on bringing awareness to the importance of the early years in life and on improving access to early childhood education opportunities for all children in Long Beach,” said Kelly Colopy, Director of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. “More importantly, it is a blueprint for our collective action, one that compels each of us, individually and as organizations, to dedicate our best thinking, energy, and commitment to making significant improvements for our children.”



Pictured: Children from Long Beach day Nursery



Pictured: Karissa Selvester- LB Mayor's Fund for Education, Dr. Jill Baker- LBUSD, Kim Pattillo Brownson- First 5 LA, Glenda Williams- Long Beach Public Library, Whitney Leathers- Long Beach Early Childhood Education Program, Nick Schultz- Pacific Gateway

The Plan is organized around a set of guiding principles that, focus on strengths, seek to remove barriers, consider the “whole child” and ensure that “all children and their families receive the respect and opportunities they need to succeed.” The Plan has seven overarching goals with objectives and activities organized under each.

The event that is made possible through funding from First5 LA commenced with a reception and light refreshments, followed by speakers including Mayor Robert Garcia and Director of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Kelly Colopy. At the end of a panel presentation, attendees were invited to participate in a call-to-action around the Plan's seven goals.

“We know from experience that the sooner we can bring children into a high-quality learning environment, the more likely they are to succeed in their later years of schooling and life,” said Christopher Steinhauser, Superintendent of Schools. “This plan is a big step toward making full equity and access to early childhood programs a reality. I look forward to seeing significant and lasting results as the plan moves forward.”

The Long Beach Early Childhood Education Strategic Plan was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration to Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network.

[Karissa Selvester - LB Mayor's Fund for Education](#)
Dr. Jill Baker - [Long Beach Unified School District](#)
Kim Pattillo Brownson - [First 5 LA](#)
[Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia](#)
Glenda Williams - [Long Beach Public Library](#)
Whitney Leathers - [Long Beach Early Childhood Education](#)
Kelly Colopy - [LB Health Early Childhood Education Program](#)
Nick Schultz - [Pacific Gateway](#)

About the City of Long Beach

Home to approximately 480,000 people, with 32,474 children, the multiple award-winning and innovative City of Long Beach offers all the world-class amenities of a large metropolitan city while maintaining a strong sense of individual and diverse neighborhoods nestled together along the California coast. As a full-service charter city, Long Beach is home to the Queen Mary, Aquarium of the Pacific, several museums and theaters, a highly-rated school district, Long Beach Airport, the Port of Long Beach, as well as many award-winning City departments such as Health, Parks, Recreation and Marine, Development Services and more. The City also has a highly-respected university and city college, two historic ranchos, five hospitals, five golf courses, 170 parks, miles of beaches, marinas, bike paths, and a Bike Share program.

For more information about the City of Long Beach, visit <http://longbeach.gov/>. Follow us on social to keep up with the latest news: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

About Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

The mission of the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services is to improve quality of life by promoting a safe and healthy community in which to live, work and play. Long Beach Health is one of only three city-run health departments in California, which allows for better engagement with residents, neighborhoods, businesses and community partners, and fosters a greater understanding of the City's strengths. For more information, visit us at www.longbeach.gov/health, "Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

For more information about Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services programs and services, visit <http://www.longbeach.gov/health/>. Please "Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @LBHealthDept.

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