

Application for the First 5 Sonoma County Commission

Applications are due by June 20, 2025 by 5 pm.

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. If you are interested in being appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve on the Commission, please review the Commissioner description, and complete this application.

First 5 invests in Sonoma County's youngest children by supporting programs, systems change and public policy that promotes optimal development from the prenatal stage through age five. Investments are made through a racial-equity lens and a targeted universalism approach: ensuring that the needs of those children and families farthest from opportunity are centered and that their voices are engaged and elevated in all of First 5 Sonoma's planning processes. A strategic plan provides guidance and is updated regularly to respond to trends impacting children and families; the latest update to our current plan can be found [here](#).

First 5 Commission Membership

Three permanent ex officio members:

- A member of the Board of Supervisors
- Director of the Sonoma County Human Services Department, or their designee
- Director of the Department of Health Services, or their designee

Six at-large members, each member representing at least one of the following:

- Organization focused on parenting, and/or early childhood development
- Private sector, businesses, business associations, chambers of commerce
- Child Care Planning Council or Resource & Referral Agency
- Post-secondary educator specializing in early childhood development
- Local TK-12 public education systems
- Local medical, pediatric, or obstetric associations
- Tribal organizations and communities
- City or town that has established policy and/or dedicated resources to promoting the healthy development of children
- Parent of a child who is a recipient of First 5-funded services

First 5 Commissioner Roles & Responsibilities

1. Actively participate in strategic policy and funding decision-making processes that

- centers racial equity and addresses the needs of the most marginalized children.
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. Attend 10 monthly Commission meetings annually 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
 6. Actively avoid all real or perceived conflicts of interest.
 7. Complete Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) and ethics training annually

Reimbursement of Expenses

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

- \$75 per diem for meetings and half day events
- \$125 per diem for whole day events and meetings
- Mileage
- Cost of child care necessary to attend Commission and committee meetings

If you have any questions please reach out to Yvette Guzman at yguzman@first5sonomacounty.org

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

The respondent's email [REDACTED] was recorded on submission of this form.

Name *

Erica Gutierrez

Address *

[REDACTED]

Mailing Address *

[REDACTED]

Cell Phone *

[REDACTED]

Business Phone

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

How long have you resided in Sonoma County? *

13 years

Present Occupation & Employer *

Community Engagement Manager

Please list all relevant professional/ community service including the following information: *

1. District/Organization
2. Dates Served
3. Role/ Position

District/Organization: Healdsburg Unified School District

Dates Served: 2023 2025

Role/Position: DELAC President (District English Learner Advisory Committee)

District/Organization: Healdsburg Unified School District

Dates Served: 2022 2024

Role/Position: ELAC President (English Learner Advisory Committee School Level)

District/Organization: Healdsburg Unified School District

Dates Served: 2023 2025

Role/Position: School Governance Council Member

Organization: Healdsburg Futuro/Heartizens

Dates Served: Current

Role/Position: Board Member

Describe your role as a parent leader in TK-12 public education or Child Care Resource & Referral, and how it aligns with First 5's mission to enhance children's development, including their readiness for kindergarten. *

As a mother of six children, including a 4-year-old, I am deeply involved in my children's education and development. For the past two years, I have actively participated in school activities and have served as President of the DELA (District English Learner Advisory) committee. Additionally, I have been a member of the Governing Council for the Healdsburg School District.

In these roles, I have advocated for the needs of students and families, helped foster a supportive and inclusive school environment, and worked closely with educators and administrators to improve programs that support children's academic and social growth. My commitment aligns strongly with First 5's mission to enhance children's development and readiness for kindergarten by promoting early learning, family engagement, and community collaboration. I believe that empowering parents and ensuring children have access to quality resources are essential for their success as they transition into school.

Describe your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the First 5 Sonoma County Commission. *

My understanding of the role and responsibilities of the First 5 Sonoma County Commission:

The First 5 Sonoma County Commission is responsible for supporting the healthy development of children from prenatal stages to age five. They develop and oversee a strategic plan that guides programs and services focused on early childhood development. The Commission manages local funding from tobacco tax revenues to invest in community programs, monitors and evaluates the impact of these programs, and engages the community through public meetings. Additionally, they oversee the Executive Director who implements the Commission's policies and initiatives. Overall, their role is to ensure resources are used effectively to improve outcomes for young children and families in Sonoma County.

Describe your personal aspirations for what you hope to contribute as a First 5 *
Commissioner.

As a First 5 Commissioner, my personal aspiration is to represent the voices of families like mine—hardworking, dedicated, and deeply invested in the well-being of our children. As a mother of six, including a 4-year-old who will soon enter kindergarten, I understand firsthand the challenges parents face when trying to access quality early childhood education, health resources, and family support services.

Over the past two years, I've served as President of DELAC and as a member of the School Governance Council in the Healdsburg School District, where I've worked closely with parents, teachers, and administrators to advocate for equitable education and meaningful parent engagement. These experiences have shown me the power of parent leadership and community collaboration.

I hope to bring this same passion and perspective to the Commission—to help shape programs that are culturally responsive, inclusive, and focused on real family needs. I want to be a voice for parents who may not always feel heard, and to support policies that help all children enter school healthy, supported, and ready to learn.

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 3:30 5:30pm on the 4th Monday of the month (January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October) and the 1st Monday in December.

I am fully committed to serving on the Commission for the full two year term and attending all required meetings. The scheduled meeting times work for me; however, as a parent of a 4 year old, having access to child care during Commission meetings would be very helpful. While this is not a barrier to my participation, support with child care would make it easier for me to fully engage and focus during meetings. I am dedicated to preparing for and contributing meaningfully to both Commission and sub committee work.

Please list two local references, including contact information. *

Caroline Rodriguez Gonzalez
Early Childhood Development Coordinator

Bianca Calderon
College & Career Prep Program Manager

This form was created inside of First 5 Sonoma County.

Google Forms