

COUNTY OF COLUSA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

251 E. Webster St.
Colusa, CA 95932

Elizabeth Kelly
Director



ADMINISTRATION: (530) 458-0250

HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Children's Services: (530) 458-0280
Adult Services: (530) 458-0280
Eligibility Services: (530) 458-0250
Public Guardian: (530) 458-0280
Veterans Service Office: (530) 458-0388
Fraud Prevention: (530) 458-0279

HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

Public Health/Nursing: (530) 458-0380
Tobacco: (530) 458-0380

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:
ELIZABETH KELLY
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Colusa County
(530) 458-0380

Colusa County DHHS Sponsors Readiness Backpack Program

(COLUSA, CA) **March 20, 2023** – In January 2023, First 5 Colusa notified its school partners about the need to discontinue funding for two school readiness projects due to a decrease in Proposition 10 (Tobacco Tax) funding. These two projects, Kinder Camp and School Readiness Backpacks, have been in operation for more than 16 years, and have served hundreds of local children and families. Upon hearing this news, Colusa County Health and Human Services stepped up to provide financial assistance to help fund the School Readiness Backpack program ahead of the 2023-2024 academic year.

“The goal of the School Readiness Backpack program is to foster family engagement to support Kindergarten readiness for Colusa County families,” said Ginger Harlow, Executive Director of First 5 Colusa Children & Families Commission. *“The backpacks aim to provide parents with the education and resources they need to successfully carry out their role as their child's first and most important teacher, and help to promote positive program-family connections that lead to greater Kindergarten readiness outcomes among the 3–5-year-old children who receive them.”*

The Colusa County Department of Health and Human Services will be partnering with First 5 Colusa to offer school readiness backpacks for all incoming TK and K students in Colusa County schools. The sponsorship will allow the program to continue and provide resources to Colusa County residents. Each School Readiness Backpack is comprised of a backpack filled with a Parent Involvement Activity Calendar, a pack of crayons, a pencil and sharpener, an ABC Guide

and Workbook, a glue stick, scissors, children's books, and much more. The School Readiness Backpack program helps ensure that every early learner in Colusa County has access to school supplies in their home and transitional activities for parent/student engagement to better prepare children for TK and Kindergarten.

-###-