

INLAND EMPIRE

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Women Who Lead

Karen E. Scott

Executive Director

First 5 San Bernardino

Children under the age of 5 and their families endure a lack of investment in resources when compared to school-age children across federal, state, and local funding streams. With 90% of brain development occurring in the first 5 years of life, generating funding for the developmental needs of children to thrive is a cause worth fighting for. In 1998, Actor, Screenwriter, and Activist Rob Reiner lobbied for the State of California to address this issue, and voters approved Proposition 10 to see that children in prenatal stages to age 5 receive the exclusive funding they need through taxation of tobacco and cigarette products sold in the state, with revenues distributed to California counties according to their number of live births.

As the fourth largest revenue generating county in California, First 5 San Bernardino Executive Director Karen E. Scott drives collaborative problem-solving and program development to serve the needs of children and their parents in San Bernardino County.

Her career in San Bernardino County's Human Services for over 40 years speaks to her knack of building relationships. For 10 years, she has led the commission's efforts to promote, support and enhance the health and early development of children.

She's been at the helm of investing in innovative and comprehensive solutions leading to the development of the Children's Autism Center, funding staffing for Pediatric Forensic professionals at the Children's Assessment Center, implementing evidence-based parenting education countywide, funding access to developmental screenings and numerous services ranging from oral health, early education, asthma, and nutrition.

Karen has been married to her husband James Scott for 36 years. As a mother of 4 and grandmother of 4, she knows how funding the next intervention or breakthrough for a child in San Bernardino County can enhance their quality of life and the future of our communities.



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