

# Best Start LA

**Spending Millions In the SFV**



## Background

Best Start LA is a \$125 million, multi-year investment created by First 5 LA that aims to shape, strengthen and support five Los Angeles communities by building resources and providing access to activities that improve the well-being, development and care experienced by pregnant women, parents of newborns. Children ages 0-5 will benefit from this program.

Best Start/First 5 LA has identified 14 communities where \$400-\$500 million dollars will be spent to improve the lives of children from 0 to 5 years old. Two of the communities identified are in the San Fernando Valley: **Panorama City and Pacoima.**

Best Start has organized a number of community meetings in order to get feedback from people regarding what services they believe should be included in order to benefit this targeted population.

### GET INVOLVED!

You are invited to be a part of the solution. Join other community members and share your ideas about what services, businesses, organizations, programs, etc. should be included to serve children 0-5 years old.

### Best Start goals are that all children:

- (1) Are born healthy
- (2) Maintain a healthy weight
- (3) Are safe from abuse and neglect
- (4) Are ready for kindergarten.

## December 7, 2010

### African American Community Meeting

The Greater Community Multi-Purpose Building was the site for a special meeting for the African American community to learn more about the millions of dollars that will be spent in Pacoima by the **BestStart LA Program**. It was an opportunity for 100 people who attended to participate in small group discussions and ask questions about how the process will work during the next year as plans are rolled out



100 people meet to learn more about BestStart LA.



**Pastor Rozar, (left) Rev. Lett and Rev. Ware** attended this community meeting to learn more about resources that will be coming to Pacoima.



Community members were divided into discussion groups that focused on each of the four Best Start goals. Each discussion group shared their thoughts about what services currently existed in the community, or what services should be brought to the community in order to serve children 0-5. In each group one person summarized and recorded the groups suggestions. In this group **Kenneth Taylor Broadous** asks questions and writes their responses on the board.



**Karen Blakeney-Granado**, First 5 Program Officer listens intently to feedback from community members at the meeting held at Greater Community Missionary Church Multi-Purpose building.



BestStart LA holds community meetings in the targeted communities. They provide food and child care (and sometimes transportation) for community members attending. People enjoyed a great breakfast at this 8:00 am meeting in Pacoima.



**Pastor Dudley D. Chatman** (host) and Program Officer **Karen Kowalewski** agree the meeting was a great success.



BestStart continues to develop plans for Pacoima, Panorama City and surrounding communities. Members of the African American community are encouraged to stay informed, stay involved and “stay at the table”. Feedback from the community will ultimately determine how resources are allocated. We know our community best. Let’s tell BestStart about the great work already happening and how we can build on it to make it even better.

Everyone in the community including parents, business owners, teachers, students, church leaders, church members, community agencies, organizations...everyone is encouraged to share their ideas. Keep informed about community meetings and the latest news about BestStart by signing up with your email address at their website <http://beststartla.org>.

Tell someone about AALO and ask them to join our mailing list by emailing us at [sfvaalo@gmail.com](mailto:sfvaalo@gmail.com)

**Email: [sfvaalo@gmail.com](mailto:sfvaalo@gmail.com) ■ Phone: (818) 561-5646**



# AAALO

SFV African American Leadership Organization

The African American community shares ideas and opinions at a BestStart community meeting.



**The African American Leadership Organization (AALO)** is a voluntary network of African American leaders who collaborate in key areas of interest or need to support the African American community in the San Fernando Valley. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us via voicemail at (818) 561-JOIN (5646) or email at [sfvaalo@gmail.com](mailto:sfvaalo@gmail.com)

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