



March 17, 2011

Dear Members of the CARES Plus Email Distribution List:

This letter contains information regarding the application process for participation in the CARES Plus Program. This letter provides information regarding this process that is specific to the following three groups:

- I. The 37 counties that applied for CARES Plus funding at the time the original application was posted in November 2010.
- II. The 21 counties that did not originally apply but are now eligible for a second application period for selected counties.
- III. Potential eligible local public entities located within the 21 eligible counties.

### **CARES Plus CORE Program Update**

First 5 California launched its new Signature Program, CARES Plus, in November 2010 with the posting of the CARES Plus Request for Application (RFA). When the CARES Plus RFA was originally released, it was anticipated that the translation of each of the CARES Plus CORE requirements would be available in Spanish by July 2011, with the exception of the Looking at CLASSrooms (LAC) video library. Since that time, First 5 California staff has worked with the proprietary vendor of the CLASS materials to accelerate the translation of the LAC into Spanish.

We are pleased to announce that the Spanish translation of the LAC will now be available to all CARES Plus participants during the first year of CARES Plus implementation. This latest translation is in addition to the other CARES Plus CORE requirements already available in Spanish, including: *Introduction to the CLASS*, the *CLASS Dimensions Guide*, and the Webinar training on the effects of second-hand smoking on young children.

As a result of the accelerated translation of the LAC, now making all CORE requirements available in Spanish, **First 5 California has decided to conduct a second application opportunity**, open only to those 21 counties that originally did not apply for CARES Plus funding.

#### **I. Information for the 37 lead agencies that applied during the original funding period**

The 37 county commissions or local public entities that applied for CARES Plus funding during the original application period **do not have to reapply**.

First 5 California will soon send local area agreements to the 37 CARES Plus applicants. The agreement must be signed and returned to First 5 California in order to receive program funding. This agreement will contain the award amount, the agreement terms and conditions, and instructions on how to make any necessary edits/changes to the submitted Effectiveness and Access plan, budget changes that may have occurred as a result of the accelerated translation, any other changes as appropriate.

We thank you for your continued patience during this process.

**II. Information for the selected 21 county commissions eligible for the second CARES Plus funding opportunity**

The CARES Plus second application period is open only to the following 21 counties:

- |              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. Butte     | 12. Placer          |
| 2. Calaveras | 13. Plumas          |
| 3. Glenn     | 14. San Joaquin     |
| 4. Imperial  | 15. San Luis Obispo |
| 5. Inyo      | 16. Sierra          |
| 6. Kern      | 17. Sutter          |
| 7. Kings     | 18. Trinity         |
| 8. Lassen    | 19. Tulare          |
| 9. Mariposa  | 20. Tuolumne        |
| 10. Monterey | 21. Yuba            |
| 11. Nevada   |                     |

Phase I Planning and Development funds will not be available during this second application period. For those counties that receive approved applications from this second round, program funding will begin on July 1, 2011. Accordingly, all local CARES Plus programs will begin implementation on that date. The original CARES Plus RFA is being revised to reflect the fact that Phase I funds are not available during this second application period. The new RFA will be posted during the week of March 21, 2011.  
*NOTE: This change does not affect the original 37 applicants.*

**III. Information for potential local public entities located within the 21 eligible counties**

The 21 eligible local county commissions will have the “first right of refusal.” An interested eligible county commission must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to First 5 California by March 29, 2011. First 5 California will post local county commission LOIs on the Web site on April 4, 2011: <http://www.cfcf.ca.gov> .

If a county commission does not wish to apply, then an eligible local public entity located in one of the 21 eligible counties may apply instead. The LOI from the local public entity must be submitted by April 12, 2011. First 5 California will accept only one application per county.

As stated above, Phase I Planning and Development funds will not be available during this second application period. However, program funding will begin on July 1, 2011, for

those counties whose applications are approved. Accordingly, all CARES Plus program implementation will begin on that date.

### **Important Dates and Information**

- Week of March 21, 2011** RFA for Selected Counties, Cover Letter, and Letter of Intent (LOI) available on the First 5 California (F5CA) Web site at:  
<http://www.cafc.ca.gov/commission/funding.asp>
- March 29, 2011** **Deadline** for First 5 county commissions to submit to F5CA the electronic and Tuesday original (hard copy) of the LOI with signature.
- April 4, 2011** F5CA posts on its Web site LOIs submitted from First 5 county commissions. Monday
- April 12, 2011** **Deadline** for local public entity to submit electronic and original (hard copy) of Tuesday the LOI. A local public entity may apply for funding through this RFA only if a First 5 county commission does not submit an LOI by the March 29, 2011, deadline OR expresses its intent not to submit an application.
- April 15, 2011** F5CA posts on its Web site the LOIs received from local public entities. Friday
- May 16, 2011** **Application submission deadline.** F5CA must receive electronic and print Monday copies of the application package (original application with signature, three additional hard copies, and one electronic copy). The one (1) electronic copy must be emailed to [caresplus@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:caresplus@ccfc.ca.gov). The four (4) hard copies must be received in the F5CA office by 5:00 p.m. on May 16, 2011. F5CA's business hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, except holidays. See Application Submission Requirements in the RFA.
- June 1, 2011** F5CA posts on its Web site matching awards and mails agreements to Lead Wednesday Agencies.

All the information you will need in order to apply will be included in the RFA.

Thank you for your continued interest in improving the quality of early learning by raising educational standards for those who care for our youngest children. For more information, please contact:

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Sincerely,

Diane Levin, Deputy Director, Program Management Division  
First 5 California