

CARES Plus Conference Call – June 7, 2011 For Component D Counties

GENERAL INFORMATION

Web Posting of CARES Plus Implementation Information

First 5 California will continue to post current CARES Plus implementation information, including the summary notes from all of the CARES Plus conference calls, on the CARES Plus Implementation page of our website. We will send you an email alert with the link to this webpage when any new items are posted.

CARES Plus Questions

You can submit questions to the CARES Plus inbox at any time at:
CARESPLUS@ccfc.ca.gov.

Schedule of CARES Plus Implementation Conference Calls

The next CARES Plus conference call is scheduled for:

- June 21, 2011, from 10-11 a.m.

OVERVIEW OF CARES PLUS COMPONENT D

Component D – The State Coaching Pilot

Through Component D of CARES Plus, First 5 California will be piloting an evidence-based professional development strategy using the Classroom Assessment and Scoring System (CLASS) and My Teaching Partner (MTP).

Because of limited resources and the need to ensure the quality of implementation, this coaching pilot will not be accessible to everyone in CARES Plus. Only a limited number of participants will be selected.

The pilot will allow First 5 California to more closely assess this model while maintaining and assuring the quality of implementation and fidelity to an evidence-based model. The pilot also will allow the model to be fully evaluated and compared to other, more traditional professional development investments in the early educator workforce.

We will evaluate the use of the MTP in California to capture the results and outcomes of this program. The findings will be shared as part of a growing body of research-based knowledge, and will be used to direct future state-level policies and investments.

My Teaching Partner (MTP)

MTP is a research-based, 10-month, intensive and ongoing coaching program that has been proven to boost effective classroom/program interactions and improve child outcomes. These strong outcomes are reflected in greater gains in language, math, and early literacy development.

MTP provides interactive, relevant, and ongoing feedback to early educators through web-mediated consultation and on-line resources. MTP coaches and teachers focus

their work together using classroom videos and the CLASS assessment tool to identify specifically what areas need strengthening to effectively help children learn successfully. Teachers and coaches use the CLASS assessment as a guide.

Prior evaluations of My Teaching Partner indicate improvement in the quality of services provided by early educators who participated in this professional development effort.

RANDOM SELECTION PROCESS

There are 12-14 counties currently planning on participating in Part D. These counties have estimated that they will have about 2,100 teachers interested in MTP for both years (i.e., total for Year 1 and Year 2). However, there are only 500 MTP slots open for year 1, and another 500 MTP slots open for year 2.

That suggests that about 25% of eligible teachers in each county will get a slot in year 1. However, final numbers per county may be affected by the selection process.

In collaboration between First5 California and Teachstone, the selection process will be done as follows:

All CARES Plus counties are currently compiling information on participating teachers. This is the "Minimum Data Elements" form - date of birth, languages, program type, # served by program, etc. We will look across counties to get a sense of the population of teachers involved in CARES Plus.

We will then try to ensure that the population of teachers is well represented in the MTP program, (for example, teachers from large and small programs, teachers who speak English and other languages, as well as additional factors deemed important). After blocking teachers by these factors, selection into the program will be random.

We will select an additional 50 teachers to be on the wait list in case some teachers leave the program during the year.

Next year, we will sample again from the pool of teachers identified by the counties.

We will start with the wait-list teachers – they will receive MTP in year 2. We'll select an additional 450+ teachers. For year 2 only, MTP slots will be divided between preschool and toddler teachers.

MY TEACHING PARTNER (MTP) TIME COMMITMENT

Teachers work with coaches to complete approximately 18 cycles in a 10-month program year. Each two-week cycle, teachers spend approximately 2.5 hours (1.25/week) videotaping instructional activities, responding to reflective prompts, studying the CLASS and exemplar videos, and meeting with their coaches to discuss how to apply their growing observational and relationship skills to instructional opportunities in the classroom. When the teachers complete 18 cycles, then they will have spent about 45 hours in MTP during the school year.

MY TEACHING PARTNER (MTP) TIMELINE

First week of August – August 1-5, 2011

Counties submit participant data to First 5 California for selection.

Second week of August – August 8-12, 2011

First 5 California will be working with staff at Teachstone to select 500 participants across all counties in Component D (with a wait-list of additional potential participants).

Third week of August – August 15-19, 2011

First 5 California will inform counties on the participants that have been selected from their counties. Immediately following, MTP coaches will be contacting selected participants to initiate AV kit delivery, plan the participant's CLASS observation and MTP "kick-off." The 10-month professional development course will commence as quickly as possible.

September 2011 through June 2012

MTP coaches and CARES Plus participants are engaged in the professional development cycle.

May 2012-June 2012

At the end of the 10-month process, the MTP coach will direct the participant to video-record an "end of year" CLASS observation. At this point the MTP participation is completed.

THE ROLE OF CARES PLUS PARTICIPATING COUNTIES IN COMPONENT D

- Develop a CARES Plus participant application that includes information about the 10 month My Teaching Partner (MTP) professional development cycle (this will be provided by Teachstone).
- During the first week in August 2011, submit to First 5 California the required 17 "minimum data elements" sent in an email dated May 27, 2011, from Craig Osborn, Business Advantage Consulting at First 5 California.
- If a participant is interested in **Component D (MTP)**, the county must enter Component D in the field named **Program Component Applied for**. This will enable the participant to be entered into the selection process for MTP participation. If Component D is not entered into this field, the candidate will not be considered for MTP.
- After receiving the results of the selection process from Teachstone, inform all selected Component D participants of their selection in a timely manner, and determine if they are still interested. Communicate this information to First 5 California.
- Work with CDTC to provide each selected MTP participant with the necessary equipment to begin MTP and the CLASS observation.
- Work with CDTC to encourage and support continued MTP participation during the 10 month cycle.
- Offer a stipend to Component D participants who successfully complete the 10 month MTP training.

THE ROLE OF FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA IN COMPONENT D

- First 5 California will be responsible for all costs associated with participating in Component D, with one exception, a lead agency is responsible for offering a stipend to all CARES Plus participants who successfully complete **My Teaching Partner** training (MTP) in their county.
- First 5 California will provide each MTP participant with all of the necessary AV equipment and materials needed to complete the 10-month MTP training.
- First 5 California will contract with Teachstone staff to train the observers/coaches, to ensure their reliability during the two-year program period. They will also train the observers to be MTP coaches. Both trainings are live and in-person.
- First 5 CA will contract with the Yosemite Community College District, Child Development Training Consortium (CDTC) to hire and manage the observers/coaches, and to handle the day-to-day program operations. CDTC has worked closely with CARES programs in the past and possesses the knowledge and expertise to handle the management of this professional development program.
- CDTC will coordinate the training for the observers/coaches with Teachstone, and they are scheduled for late summer.
- Each MTP participant, randomly selected from the participating counties, will receive a pre- and post- CLASS observation. Then over the course of 10 months, they will work one-on-one with their assigned coach to complete MTP. Since the observers/coaches are the same individuals, no observer will be assigned to coach any teacher that he/she has observed.

THE ROLE OF YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (YCCD), CHILD DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CONSORTIUM (CDTC) IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CARES PLUS COMPONENT D

- CDTC's first step in program implementation is to hire a **CLASS Project Coordinator** to oversee the project. The coordinator will serve as the liaison between the coaches, training sites, participants, and First 5 California. While these entities each will develop their own relationships, the coordinator will ensure that communications are consistent and support the objectives of Component D. Interviews with candidates have been conducted and the coordinator will be hired once the contract has been approved by the Department of General Services.
- CDTC's second step in implementation is to advertise, interview, hire, and train 40 independent contractors to perform the duties of a CLASS observer and MTP coach. CDTC works with 103 community college child development departments and will disseminate the CLASS observer/coach position announcement via the CDTC community college list serve, and to participating counties.

The qualifications of the coach include, preferably, a MA degree in Early Childhood Education or Child Development, or related subject with an emphasis in Early Childhood. BA degree applicants also will be considered. In addition, applicants must have extensive experience in child development/early education settings. The CLASS observers/coaches will reflect the diversity of the CARES Plus participants, with a minimum of 20% of the coaches being bilingual. All coaches must reach “reliability” status before contracts with them can be fully executed. CDTC will organize meeting logistics for CLASS observer trainings in July and My teaching partner trainings in August.

- CDTC will be responsible for tracking the inventory of video equipment that will be mailed to each participant’s classroom for virtual observation. The AV packet will include a video camera, memory cards, various cords and chargers, and user instructions. CDTC will distribute the equipment to selected sites for pre- and post-assessments of classrooms and those individuals participating in My Teaching Partner. Additionally, a Dimensions Guide (available in either English or Spanish) will accompany the AV packet for the My Teaching Partner participants. CDTC will coordinate the dissemination and reclaiming of all First 5 equipment utilized throughout the project. CDTC will use various forms of communication to the counties and participants to keep them apprised of all necessary technical assistance and information regarding Component D. For example, a webpage will be located on the CDTC website that will highlight resources of the CLASS State Coaching Pilot. The webpage is to be developed early in the project and will be accessible at CDTC website at www.childdevelopment.org.