



**Attention Proposers for the Desired Results RFP 10-01 under the Early Care and Education focus area:**

First 5 San Bernardino is working to align with on-going statewide efforts related to Early Care and Education. This includes work on development and implementation of a statewide Quality Rating System for child care facilities as well as general commitment to recruitment and retention of highly qualified, well-compensated and diverse early learning workforce. The State of California is applying for Federal funding for Early Care and Education and that application is due in September 2010. First 5 San Bernardino is posturing to participate in this funding opportunity.

Working to that end, through the Desired Results RFP 10-01, Early Care and Education (ECE) Cluster, First 5 San Bernardino seeks to support high quality and developmentally appropriate early care experiences for children in San Bernardino County. In addition to expanding capacity (number of slots), First 5 San Bernardino is committed to building local infrastructure and working with providers to continuously improve the quality of early care and educational settings.

First 5 San Bernardino has completed initial evaluation and subsequent due diligence of applications under the Early Care and Education strategy. Unsuccessful proposers have been notified. The remaining proposers have been informed of the proposed funding process, designed to channel through a designated fiscal agent versus direct payment to child care provider/facility for subsidized child care slots. In the month of August 2010, all ECE proposers being recommended for further consideration will enter into conversations related to their subsidized slot allocations, participation in quality improvement process and stipend awards expected to become effective as of September 1, 2010.

The timeline related to Early Care and Education contract awards is revised as follows:

**PROCUREMENT TIMELINE**

Contract Conversations/Negotiations (to be scheduled)	August 5 - August 19, 2010
Site Visit and Clearance by F5 SB ECE Facilitator (to be scheduled)	August 5 – August 19, 2010
Notice of Intent to Award Letters to Successful Proposers (Commitment of subsidized child care slots allocation)	August 24, 2010
Contract to Commission for Approval	September 1, 2010
Tentative Start Date for Contract(s)	September 1, 2010

On-going conversations will continue to follow the standard critical review process developed by the Commission. From the Critical Evaluation phase, contract negotiations will be based on the following criteria:

- a. Cost.
- b. Demonstrated ability to serve target population.
- c. Proposed Program Services and Strategies.
- d. Readiness to provide services.
- e. Experience
- f. Staffing levels and qualifications.
- g. Appropriateness of facility (Geographic Service Area, near mass transit, facility layout, etc.)
- h. Fiscal Stability

This includes consideration of the effectiveness of the Proposer in the delivery of services based on demonstrated performance ***and*** the need for such services in the area proposed and in alignment with the First 5 San Bernardino Strategic Plan. Selection of providers to receive Child Care Subsidies will be based on the determination of which proposal(s) will best meet the needs of the Commission and the requirements of this RFP. Proposers may be interviewed or otherwise brought into clarity review conversation with First 5 San Bernardino staff regarding the breadth and scope of their proposal.

Contract(s) will be awarded based on a competitive selection of proposals received. The contents of the proposal of successful Proposers will become contractual obligations and failure to accept these obligations in a contractual agreement may result in cancellation of the award.

The final authority to award a Contract rests solely with the Children and Families Commission for San Bernardino County.