

ORAL HEALTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (OHCD) PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Oral Health Community Development (OHCD) Project?

In September 2007, the First 5 LA Commission approved the \$20 million OHCD Project to help prevent dental decay in children. The primary focus of the OHCD Project is to provide funding to eligible water agencies in LA County that currently do not have the ability to optimally fluoridate their community drinking water. OHCD Project funding is available to fund infrastructure equipment construction and related public education activities in order to improve the oral health of children from the prenatal stage through age five.

2. Who is eligible to apply for the OHCD Project funding?

Eligibility requirements are set forth on page 3 of the OHCD Project Request for Proposal (RFP).

3. What are the criteria each agency must meet to receive “increased priority”?

Priority will be given to agencies proposing to provide optimally fluoridated water to areas identified as “Priority” areas in *First 5 LA’s Next Five Strategic Plan (FY 2004-2009): Revised Fiscal and Programmatic Policies*. The priority areas are: Baldwin Park, Bell, El Monte, Hawthorne, Huntington Park, Lancaster, La Puente, Lynwood, Panorama City, South Gate, South LA, and Long Beach.

Increased priority will also be provided to water agencies blending water with Metropolitan Water District (MWD) water.

4. What is the funding timeline?

The OHCD Project activities are one-time costs and will be available on a competitive, first-come-first-serve basis contingent upon availability of funds.

5. What is the Oral Health Community Development Project proposal review process?

First 5 LA staff will review each proposal to ensure that threshold criteria are met to determine if the water agency is eligible to submit a proposal for OHCD Project funding.

The water agency(ies) will be selected through a review process and this process includes a review panel. The review process may involve an

interview and/ or site visit. Proposals that are incomplete or do not meet the minimum requirements are subject to disqualification.

6. Is there an appeals process?

There is no appeal process at First 5 LA although staff can offer a feedback session.

7. Will OHCD Project activities that occur prior to the execution of the contract be funded?

No, First 5 LA will not fund any activities before the contract is fully executed, with the exception of additional funding, through a separate RFP, to eligible and selected water agencies for preparing the preliminary cost estimate report required for the OHCD Project proposal.

8. Where does a water agency direct questions that might arise in preparing their Proposal during the planning and preparation phase of the proposed Project?

Questions related to the proposal submission, may be submitted in writing to the Commission via e-mail to: OHCD@first5la.org or by calling Lucy Lin, Program Officer, at (213) 482-7546. All questions and answers will be posted on the First 5 LA website for the benefit of all applicants. No questions will be accepted after the applicant submits their proposal.

9. What are the dates and times of the Information Meetings? Is attendance required to submit a proposal?

The Informational Meetings can be scheduled with First 5 LA at a mutually convenient time at the First 5 LA offices. Attendance at an Information Meeting is not a prerequisite for submitting a proposal but strongly encouraged.

10. Will additional funding be available for construction cost overruns?

Actual project cost(s) over and above an approved OHCD Project budget will be the financial responsibility of the water agency and not of First 5 LA.

11. What if my proposal content (not including appendices) is more than 20 pages?

The 20 page proposal limit does not include the appendices required by First 5 LA. The proposal limit only applies to the length of the Proposal Content section.

12. Is there additional funding available for public education activities?

Water agencies may request additional funding for initial public education efforts that will supplement their public education campaign. For more information, refer to Appendix H: Request for Public Education funding.

13. In general, what type of public education activities will be required of water agencies?

Water agencies must comply with all California Code of Regulations requirements regarding notification of water system's fluoridation (California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 4, Chapter 15, Article 4, Section 64433.7(c)).

In addition, First 5 LA requires each agency to inform its consumers and stakeholders of:

- The levels of fluoride in its community drinking water;
- The effects of consuming optimally fluoridated water; and
- Fluoride's role in effective prevention of tooth decay, particularly in children prenatal stage through age five.

Public education efforts must be in multiple languages as appropriate for the consumers served.

14. When will water agencies receive notice of funding?

Water agencies selected for funding will receive notice 45 days after the submission of their proposal.

15. What is the OHCD Project evaluation plan?

As stated in the RFP, water agencies awarded funding will work with First 5 LA to develop an individualized evaluation plan.

16. Does a water agency need to obtain formal support from each municipality that it proposes to provide optimally fluoridated water to through the OHCD Project?

Yes. Each water agency must obtain formal support from each municipality that it serves even if the agency does not supply water to the entire municipality.

17. How does a water agency obtain formal support from unincorporated parts of the County that it serves?

For unincorporated areas, the agency must obtain formal support from the designated County Supervisor.

18. Are the water agency's projected expenditures for space, supplies and telephone, etc. considered "matching funds" in the Budget portion of the Project proposal?

Yes, matching funds can include agency's contribution such as space, supplies and telephone expenses.

19. Will First 5 LA fund design costs?

No. The costs of developing the proposal are entirely the responsibility of the water agency submitting this proposal and cannot be charged to the Commission or included in the proposed budget. (Page 11, Section VI, Submission Guidelines, of the RFP) The exception is the additional funding, through a separate RFP process, to eligible and selected water agencies for preparing the preliminary cost estimate report, which may include design, required for the OHCD Project proposal.

20. Can an updated Preliminary Cost Estimate Report (using the Engineer News Records, Construction Cost Index) be used for the proposal?

Yes, if approved by an engineer, licensed in California.

21. Is funding a reimbursement or advance process?

It is a reimbursement process.

22. As a municipal utility agency, do you want the city's or the utilities' financials?

Current audited financials of the water agency applying for funding is required as part of the Proposal Package. (Page 12 of the RFP)

23. Do you want resumes of all key staff involved in the Project?

Yes.

24. Is there a minimal level of fluoridation?

A proposal requesting OHCD funding is to optimally fluoridate its community drinking water. (Page 2 of the RFP)

25. What is the maximum allocation per contract?

Contracts funded under the OHCD Project will not exceed \$1 million per contract. (Page 2 of the RFP)

26. Can a water agency request OHCD Project funds for fluoridation testing equipment?

Yes. The OHCD Project funds water fluoridation infrastructure equipment construction. (Page 2 of the RFP)

27. Can First 5 LA provide information regarding companies who sells fluoridation injectors?

First 5 LA does not provide this information.

28. Will the OHCD Project fund fluoridation of future wells?

Water agency(ies) who receive First 5 LA OHCD Project funds must complete the construction of fluoridation equipment and begin fluoridation within two years from the date of receiving OHCD Project funds. (Page 7, Section G, Scope of Work, of the RFP)

29. If a municipal or city water department or agency has neither proof of non-profit status nor a business license, what must the agency submit in lieu of these required documents?

A municipal or city water department or agency must submit its Employer Identification Number (EIN).

31. In Section III Eligibility, criteria (3) stated that "At minimum, 5% of the population in the service area that will receive optimally fluoridated water identified in this proposal is age zero through five". Would you consider the demographic data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau in the year 2000 to be credible?

The most recent existing data is required. The OHCD RFP refers to a potential source: www.healthycity.org