1. **Why is the timeframe to respond to the RFQ for the ECE Workforce Policy Project six weeks?**
The six week period available to respond to this Project’s RFQ is a typical timeframe First 5 LA provides to respond to RFQs.

2. **If an Applicant is invited for an Interview as part of the Project’s Proposal review process, should the Applicant include subcontractor(s) in the Interview or is the participation of subcontractor(s) at the discretion of the Applicant?**
The participation of subcontractor(s) in the Interview is at the discretion of the Applicant. The participation of subcontractor(s) may strengthen an Interview as the subcontractor(s) might be able to answer some questions in more detail.

3. **Can First 5 LA help facilitate the formation of partnerships to apply for funding?**
First 5 LA allows the formation of partnerships to apply for funding but is not able to facilitate the formation of partnerships.

4. **Does the ECE Workforce Policy Project aim to strengthen and enhance existing ECE career development systems, organizations, and infrastructures in order to sustain ECE Workforce Policy Project outcomes?**
The aim of the ECE Workforce Policy Project (Project) is to achieve the Project’s outcomes. Through, and as a result, of the Project’s activities, the Project seeks to determine which system support, organizational and career planning practices are effective, identify which of these practices are potentially sustainable and scalable, and advance the sustainability and scalability of the ECE Workforce Policy Project’s outcomes.

5. **If a Proposal consists of a lead agency and a collaborative of organizations, will First 5 LA consider the qualifications of both the lead agency and the collaborative of organizations or must the lead agency meet each of the qualifications identified in this RFQ?**
Programmatically, First 5 LA will evaluate the qualifications of the lead entity applying for ECE Workforce Policy Project funding as well as the qualifications of its team (for example, subcontractors and partners) identified in the entity’s Proposal that will support the Applicant’s implementation of the ECE Workforce Policy Project. Fiscally, First 5 LA will evaluate the financial standing of the lead fiscal agency to assess its financial solvency, accountability, and capacity to support the project.

6. **If a collaboration of organizations responds to this RFQ with one organization designated as the lead agency and fiscal agent, may the Contractor’s responsibilities (including attendance at each Collaborative and Policy Workgroup meeting) be fulfilled by the staff of the non-lead agencies or must the responsibilities be fulfilled by the staff of the lead agency?**
The Contractor will be responsible for fulfilling all of the Contractor’s requirements as agreed upon in the contract with First 5 LA. The Contractor may subcontract aspects of its work in order to fulfill its contract requirements. However, all subcontractors must be clearly identified in the Scope of Work (Exhibit A) and Budget (Exhibit B) approved by First 5 LA prior to commencing work. Subcontractors not included will require prior Commission approval.
7. **Are participants in the Career Development Demonstration Collaboratives and Policy Workgroups required to provide matching resources in order to participate in the ECE Workforce Policy Project?**
   First 5 LA expects that individuals and/or organizations participating in the Career Development Demonstration Collaboratives and Policy Workgroups will commit some level of resources, such as staff time.

8. **Which entity, First 5 LA or the Contractor, determines the amount of financial support that will be provided to individuals and/or organizations that participate in the Career Development Demonstration Collaboratives and/or Policy Workgroups?**
   The financial resources allocated to support participants’ costs associated with participating in the Career Development Demonstration Collaboratives and/or Policy Workgroups will ultimately be determined by First 5 LA. These decisions will be informed by the Contractor and the Career Development Demonstration Collaborative and Policy Workgroup participants.

9. **Will the commitment of staff time to participate in the Career Development Demonstration Collaboratives and Policy Workgroups be compensated?**
   It is expected that organizations participating in the Career Development Demonstration Collaboratives and Policy Workgroups will be able to commit resources such as staff time. The ECE Workforce Policy Project design includes some financial support to Career Development Demonstration Collaborative and Policy Workgroup participants.

10. **What is the criteria for selection of the five geographic areas?**
    The implementation of the ECE Workforce Policy Project's three strategies (Career Development Demonstration Collaboratives, Access to Higher Education and Training Policy Workgroup, and ECE Workforce Sustainability Policy Workgroup) will be implemented in coordination with one another in the five geographic areas. This approach will help address the unique needs of current and potential ECE providers in different environments and test a diverse range of ECE career development policies and practices. Selection of the five geographic areas will occur in 2009. The criteria for selecting the five geographic areas is in development.

11. **Are the key stakeholders identified in the RFQ (child care Resource and Referral agencies and networks, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), LA County Office of Childcare and LACOE Head Start-State Preschool) eligible to apply to be the Contractor?**
    The Contractor must be able to facilitate the Career Development Demonstration Collaboratives, Access to Higher Education and Training and ECE Workforce Sustainability Policy Workgroup meetings and discussion that, at a minimum, include these key stakeholders identified in the RFQ. The Contractor will be prohibited from engaging in any other role other than what is identified in the Contract and therefore will not be able to be a “participant” in the Career Development Demonstration Collaboratives or Policy Workgroups as described in this RFQ. Thus, the key stakeholders identified in this RFQ are not eligible to be the Contractor for the ECE Workforce Policy Project.

12. **Are grantees funded by key stakeholders identified in the RFQ (child care Resource and Referral agencies and networks, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), LA County Office of Childcare and LACOE Head Start-State Preschool) eligible to be subcontractors of an Applicant?**
    Grantees and contractors that receive funding from key stakeholders identified in the RFQ are eligible to be a subcontractor of an Applicant.
13. How will the ECE Workforce Policy Project build upon and not duplicate existing web based efforts?
It is expected the Contractor and participants will provide information regarding web based efforts that currently exist in order to ensure that the selection and testing of web based services are either new and/or build off of existing ECE career development web based services.

14. Will the outcomes identified in the RFQ be measured in aggregate or within each of the five geographic areas served?
First 5 LA will work closely with the ECE Workforce Policy Project’s selected Contractor to develop an appropriate evaluation plan that will collect both aggregate data and data from each of the five geographic areas for the Project.

15. Will a separate RFQ be released to select an Evaluation Contractor specifically for the ECE Workforce Policy Project?
There are no plans to release a separate RFQ for a Contractor to conduct evaluation activities only for the ECE Workforce Policy Project.

16. Are ECE Workforce Policy Project Proposals required to include matching funds?
ECE Workforce Policy Project Proposals are not required to include matching funds.

17. Can an ECE Workforce Policy Project Applicant apply to lead only one component of the ECE Workforce Policy Project, such as the Policy Workgroups, but not the Career Development Demonstration Collaboratives?
First 5 LA seeks to secure a Contractor that will meet all of the requirements identified in the RFQ to support First 5 LA’s implementation of the ECE Workforce Policy Project. A Proposal can be submitted by a collaborative of organizations, entities, and/or individuals that support the full implementation of the ECE Workforce Policy Project.

18. Can the key ECE Workforce Policy Project personnel or subcontractors be based outside of LA County?
Applicants must have a presence in and the capacity to work throughout LA County. The Proposal must demonstrate the Applicant’s knowledge of and familiarity with the underlying issues and complexities affecting the ECE workforce, delivery of ECE career development services, and ECE career development opportunities and resources available in LA County. The Applicant must also demonstrate established relationships and access to key stakeholders such as policy makers and leaders within LA County.

19. How will the Policy Workgroup participants be selected and will the participants include the key stakeholders identified in the RFQ (child care Resource and Referral agencies and networks, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), LA County Office of Childcare and LACOE Head Start-State Preschool)?
The criteria and selection process to identify appropriate Policy Workgroup participants is being developed. The criteria is being informed by a thorough scan of the ECE workforce policy environment. The Access Policy Workgroup will include leaders from organizations and institutions such as higher education, training entities, county level supports and key participants from the Collaboratives that impact the career development services systems in the five geographic areas and county wide. The Sustainability Policy Workgroup participants will include representatives from different segments of the ECE field, private sector, academia and other key stakeholders. The selected areas of focus for each Policy Workgroup will help inform the selection of appropriate Policy Workgroup participants.
20. Does Early Care and Education refer to infants and toddlers?
Yes, First 5 LA’s focus on Early Care and Education (ECE) includes children from the ages zero to five.