FIRST 5 LA MATCHING FUNDS RFP
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

PROGRAM QUESTIONS

Question: Is there a maximum amount of grant request?

Answer: Yes. There is a maximum request of $200,000 per year. For a two year matching grant request the maximum request would be $400,000.

Question: Will First 5 LA provide less than a 1:1 match?

Answer: Yes. There is no minimum request for First 5 LA matching funds. However, the non-First 5 LA source must award an amount equal to or beyond the matching funds request to First 5 LA.

Question: Can we submit to the non-First 5 LA source for more than $200,000? In other words, we might submit a $300,000 request to another source, but only receive the First 5 LA match of $200,000.

Answer: Yes you can request more than $200,000 from the non-First 5 LA source. First 5 LA will provide up to $200,000 per year for a maximum total award of $400,000.

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

Question: We already applied for and submitted an application for funding to X foundation. Can we now apply for First 5 LA matching funds?

Answer: In order to be eligible, the organization must be in the process of submitting an application. Organizations must submit the application after hearing from First 5 LA about matching funds. Eligible organizations should submit an application after June 30, 2011. If an application is submitted to a non-First 5 LA source prior to June 30, 2011 the organization will not be eligible for this matching funds opportunity.

Question: If I have submitted a grant proposal to a non-First 5 LA source, but the funds are not yet secured am I eligible for matching funds?

Answer: No. In order to be eligible you should not submit an application to the non-First 5 LA source until after June 30, 2011.

Question: Can you tell me if we can submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) (opposed to a final grant application) before June 30, 2011 or if we have to wait?

Answer: You can submit an LOI before June 30, 2011, but not a final application. As long as there is a competitive process beyond the LOI that requires a grant proposal this organization would be eligible for First 5 LA matching funds.
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Question: Can I identify two non-First 5 LA sources that I am going to apply for which First 5 LA can provide a match? In the case that our organization does not receive a grant from one source, would First 5 LA match the other non-First 5 LA source?

Answer: No. Your organization must identify one source that it will be pursuing. First 5 LA will only commit matching funds for one non-First 5 LA source. First 5 LA will only commit to providing a cash match for a successful application to the non-First 5 LA source identified in the application.

Question: Is it possible to combine funding sources (for example, two grants for $50,000) to apply for the cash match (in this case $100,000) if they will be funding the same activities?

Answer: No. The First 5 LA cash match can only be matching one non-First 5 LA source grant for the same activities. Organizations may submit two grant applications for matching funds to fund two different projects.

In this case, an organization would complete two applications for matching funds from First 5 LA and the non-First 5 LA source could be the same source or different source.

Question: Does the matching grant from a non-First 5 LA source have to be over two years as well?

Answer: It depends on how many years you are asking First 5 LA for matching funds. If your organization is asking for two years of funding from First 5 LA, the non-First 5 LA source must also be over a two year period. Matching funds could be for one year if the non-First 5 LA source also awards funds for the same year.

Question: What kinds of philanthropies can qualify as a non-First 5 LA source? Are state foundations eligible? How about local philanthropies or those based in state other than California?

Answer: The RFP included national philanthropies and the federal government as examples of non-First 5 LA sources, but it does not preclude other sources. State foundations, local philanthropies and those based outside of California are all eligible non-First 5 LA sources.

Question: Could a church or individual donor be the non-First 5 LA source?

Answer: A church or individual donor could only be considered a non-First 5 LA source if they conducted a formal competitive grant making process. Please note that First 5 LA may request evidence of such a process (i.e. RFP announcement, call for applications, email announcement or letter indicating funds available).

Question: We have a contract with X organization to serve the 0 to 5 population. Can they provide us with a grant for which we can then request First 5 LA matching funds?
Answer: No this would not be eligible. Funds from a non-First 5 LA source must be secured through a formal competitive grant process.

Question: By when do we have to have raised the funds for the matching grant?

Answer: Your organization should receive notice of an award by the non-First 5 LA source by December 1, 2011. Please note that First 5 LA may ask for evidence of this award (e.g. letter of commitment, award letter, etc.)

Question: We are a current First 5 LA grantee with funds scheduled to sunset. Would we still be eligible to apply for this program?

Answer: Applicants to the Matching Funds RFP must be implementing a new project and/or expanding an existing project. Regardless of whether you are a current or past grantee, you must be implementing a new project or expanding an existing project. For this RFP, expanding an existing project means that your organization is increasing your reach in terms of the 0 to 5 population. Ways to expand your reach include: (1) increasing the number of children served; (2) increasing the geographic service area; and (3) serving the 0 to 5 population which you might not have served before.

Question: Must only the First 5 LA matching fund if awarded be used for new or expanded activities or must the entire program be “new or clearly expanded upon”?

Answer: The entire project. Your organization must be able implementing an entirely new project or expanding an existing project.

Question: Do the other funds that we raise have to be strictly restricted / dedicated to the same project for which we are requesting matching funds from First 5 LA?

Answer: Yes. A grant award from the non-First 5 LA source must be dedicated to the same project that your organization identified in the First 5 LA matching funds application. Dedicated to the same project includes dedicated to serving the same population that you are requesting First 5 LA matching funds.

Question: Can I apply as a collaborative?

Answer: Yes, you may apply as a collaborative, but one organization needs to serve as the lead and applicant.

Question: Can I apply for matching funds for more than one project?

Answer: Yes you may apply for matching funds for more than one project.

Question: What types of projects will First 5 LA be funding through this grant? Is it limited to work done with parents? Can it include work with child care providers? Or assisting
providers with hurdles they face as they are going through the process of opening up quality child care center (land use barriers, facility financing, obtaining permits, etc)?

   Answer: First 5 LA will fund projects that align with the Strategic Plan Theory of Change. Projects are not limited to work done with parents. Organizations should

Question: Does the project need to impact all the priority outcomes and/or intermediate outcomes?

   Answer: No your project does not need to impact all priority outcomes or intermediate outcomes. Please identify which outcomes your project impacts and how you see your activities and projects making that impact. Please note that the most recent Theory of Change Figure referred to in the Matching Funds RFP is the figure located on the Matching Funds RFP website (http://www.first5la.org/Matching-Funds-Program-RFP).

CRITERIA QUESTIONS

Question: We are applying to another local foundation for $20,000. It seems like the RFP is geared toward larger grants. Can I still apply?

   Answer: We encourage any organization who is applying for funding from a non-First 5 LA source to apply for a matching grant. For this particular RFP, there is no minimum level of request.

Question: Will First 5 priority for matching funds that come from outside L.A. County?

   Answer: No. There is no priority in terms of where the non-First 5 LA source is coming from.

Question: Will applications be prioritized based on serving the Best Start communities?

   Answer: No. There is no priority for organization’s serving Best Start communities.

APPLICATION PACKAGE

Question: Do we have to actually complete the (non-First 5 LA) application or just show First 5 LA the process and a copy of the application.

   Answer: No you do not have to complete an application. Works in progress and drafts are sufficient. Any material that you have developed such as a project narrative for submission of a grant proposal or application would be sufficient. This material in part will be used to assess your organization’s readiness in applying for a non-First 5 LA grant.

Question: How do we submit a copy of a proposal (to a non-First 5 LA source) that we have not yet submitted?
Answer: Works in progress and drafts of proposals are sufficient. Any materials that indicate your intent and readiness to apply to the non-First 5 LA source would be sufficient.

Question: Organizations do not always have completed project budgets two years out. Can these budgets be estimates?

Answer: Yes, the budgets can include estimates. Budgets should be timed based on when your organization anticipates beginning a grant period with the non-First 5 LA source.

Question: Can I start my online application and then come back to it?

Answer: Yes you can. Please remember to save the information you enter often into the online system. If you should lose internet access in the middle of a session you will lose any information that you have not saved.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Question: Where can the new First 5 LA Strategic Plan be obtained?

Answer: The First 5 LA Strategic Plan can be obtained on the following website (http://www.first5la.org/Strategic-Plan). Please note that the most recent Theory of Change Figure referred to in the Matching Funds RFP is the figure located in the Strategic Plan Implementation Plan and on the Matching Funds RFP website (http://www.first5la.org/Matching-Funds-Program-RFP).

Question: Is the ARRA funding still available? Will the ARRA funding be extended?

Answer: No the ARRA Matching Funds program is not available. The ARRA funding will not be extended.

Question: Can you please tell me more about the Challenge Grant?

Answer: The Challenge Grants Program, another type of matching grant, is for those organizations seeking to enhance, expand or sustain existing programs. For selected grantees, First 5 LA would commit upfront to matching any new funds raised by the grantee at a 1:1 match rate, up to a specified amount during the challenge timeframe (i.e., contract period). First 5 LA anticipates hiring a program administrator for the Challenge Grants Program through the release of an RFQ, and will finalize the parameters of the Challenge Grants Program once the program administrator is contracted. The RFP for prospective grantees is expected to be released in Winter 2012. A total of $1.5 million dollars is currently budgeted for the Challenge Grants Program.