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

The First 5 LA Commission recently 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 with 10,000 or more service connections 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 4 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: 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 implemented annually on a competitive, first-come-first-serve basis over the course of three years. RFP’s for this funding cycle are due December 20, 2007 and contracts will be executed on July 1, 2008.

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

The review process involves several steps. One of these steps will be a review team, consisting of multiple departments in First 5 LA and an external
reviewer, reviewing each proposal to determine its fulfillment of the proposal requirements.

6. **Is there an appeals process?**

   No appeal process will be available.

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.

8. **Will agencies be able to see the rating instrument for evaluating proposals?**

   No. However, the general scoring criteria for evaluating proposals is included in the Review Criteria section of the RFP.

9. **Where does a water agency direct questions that might arise in preparing their Letter of Intent (LOI) or Request for Proposal (RFP) the planning and preparation phase of the proposed Project?**

   Questions related to the LOI and/or the proposal submission, may be submitted in writing to the Commission via e-mail to: OHCD@first5la.org. All questions and answers will be posted on the First 5 LA website for the benefit of all applicants.

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

    The Informational Meetings scheduled to take place on:

    **November 19, 2007**
    1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
    Sherman Oaks Senior Center- Annex
    5040 Van Nuys Blvd.
    Sherman Oaks, CA  91403

    **November 20, 2007**
    1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
    Florence-Manchester Center (2nd floor conference room)
    7807 S. Compton Avenue
    Los Angeles, CA 90001

    **November 27, 2007**
    1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
    First 5 LA
    750 N. Alameda Street
    Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attendance at an Information Meeting is not a prerequisite for submitting a proposal. You may email additional questions to: OHCD@first5la.org.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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 J: Request for Public Education funding.

14. 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.

15. What if an agency needs more time to submit its OHCD Project proposal? Can the December 20, 2007 be extended?

No. Extensions will not be granted. A second funding cycle is projected to occur in Fall 2008.
16. When will water agencies receive notice of funding?

Water agencies selected for funding will receive notice by March 2008.

17. 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.

18. How is the criterion for the number of service connections for a water company/agency determined?

A water company or agency must have 10,000 or more combined service connections to be eligible for the OHCD Project?

19. 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.

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

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

21. 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.