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. Proposals for this funding cycle are due April 17, 2008 and contracts will be executed on September 1, 2008.
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 was 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?

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. Last day to submit questions will be April 17, 2008.

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

The Informational Meetings are scheduled to take place on:
Attendance at an Information Meeting is not a prerequisite for submitting a proposal. You may email additional questions to: OHCD@first5la.org until April 17, 2008.

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 April 17, 2008 due date be extended?

No. Extensions will not be granted.

16. When will water agencies receive notice of funding?

Water agencies selected for funding will receive notice by May 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 formal support 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.

22. 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 12, Section VI, Submission Guidelines, of the RFP)

23. 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.

24. Is funding a reimbursement or advance process?

It is a reimbursement process.

25. 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 13 of the RFP)

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

Yes.

27. Is there a minimal level of fluoridation?

A proposal requesting OHCD funding is to optimally fluoridate its community drinking water. (Page 3 of the RFP)

28. What is the maximum allocation per contract?

Contracts funded under the OHCD Project will not exceed $1 million per contract. (Page 3 of the RFP)
29. Is Compton part of the priority areas?

Compton is not one of the First 5 LA Priority Areas. These areas are: Baldwin Park, Bell, El Monte, Hawthorne, Huntington Park, Lancaster, La Puente, Lynwood, Panorama City, South Gate, South LA, and Long Beach. However, being one of First 5 LA Priority areas is not a requirement for this RFP. (Page 10 of the RFP)

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

Yes. The OHCD Project funds water fluoridation infrastructure equipment construction. (Page 3 of the RFP)

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

First 5 LA does not provide this information.

32. 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 8, Section G, Scope of Work, of the RFP)

33. 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).