1. Does the $500,000 maximum amount refer to “per year” or for all 5 years?
   a. The $500,000 is not “per year” – it is the total max grant amount allowed for
      the entire project period for up to 5 years.

2. Can the funding show different amounts for different years?
   a. Yes, the budgets for different years in the project may vary. The budget
      amount should align with the project activities planned for that time period.
      For example, if there will be a higher level of activity or more costly
      activities in year 1, then it is justifiable to show a higher amount for that
      year. The total over the complete project timeline should not exceed $500,000.

3. Do you have a target percent of traditional vs. non-traditional providers we expect to
   fund?
   a. No, there is no specified ratio or target for one or the other. We are open to
      selecting the best proposals based on a variety of specified factors (see the
      Review Tool in appendix I).

4. Does submitting a proposal for this fund prevent your organization from applying for
   subsequent funding from First 5 LA?
   a. No.

5. Are the MOU’s for partnerships required with the proposal application?
   a. No, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is not required until and only
      if your organization is selected as a grantee. This will be part of the contract
      negotiation process and will be required before payments to partners are
      made.

6. Do the policy goals have to be county level or statewide?
   a. The proposal/project can focus on a local, county, statewide or federal policy

7. What does a non-traditional partnership look like?
   a. The non-traditional agency may serve as the lead organization or may be a
      partner to the lead organization. Non-traditional organizations may also be
      included as collaborators, coalition members, or affiliate with the lead
      organization in a variety of ways. Points are given for both non-traditional
      organizations as the lead or as a partner

8. Does this RFP allow for program services to children 0-5?
   a. No, this RFP will not fund direct services.

9. Can one agency submit proposals for multiple projects?
a. There is no restriction against submitting multiple proposals.

10. For the evaluation requirement, can we use outside evaluators?
   a. Yes, please plan ahead and ensure the budget reflects an internal or external evaluation. Evaluation staff must be separate from the program staff leading the project if it is being executed internally.

11. Can an organization be affiliated with more than one proposal?
   a. Yes.

12. What are examples of leveraging?
   a. The RFP states the following on page 11:

   “Additional preference will be given to proposals that specify a source and strategy for leveraging additional resources (fiscal or non-fiscal resources, such as facilities, equipment or commitment of staff) towards the chosen goal either during the project period or to extend the effort after the grant is completed. This could be match funding for the proposed project or complementary resources that support the agency’s efforts toward reaching the project goal(s). These funds or resources do not need to be directly received by the grantee to be considered as leverage toward the project goal. “

   Examples of leveraging include (but are not limited to):
   * Policy leveraging - drawing down additional funding for children’s programs/services 0-5 in LA via city, county, state or federal programs;
   * Project leveraging - Receiving matching funds for the advocacy project; additional resources from a partner such as data, expertise in a certain field or technical skill, or utilizing existing data or resources to benefit the population through your project.

13. Are you ineligible for funding if you are a traditional advocacy organization?
   a. No – traditional advocacy organizations (see page RFP for definitions) are encouraged to apply. Points are awarded for non-traditional agencies serving as the lead agency or partner to some degree in the project (see the Review Tool appendix I)

14. Are previous/current Community Opportunity Fund (COF) or Policy Advocacy Fund (PAF) Cycle I policy grantees or other previous/current First 5 LA grantees restricted from applying?
   a. No – there is no restriction against current or previous First 5 LA grantees. Like other applicants, the organization’s capacity to implement the additional project will be carefully assessed, and projects that duplicate current or past funded projects will be eliminated from the competition.
15. What do you look for to determine the capacity of the organization? Are points given for capacity?
   a. Yes, points are given for capacity (see Review Tool appendix I on the PAF website). Capacity considerations include staff expertise and capacity and the organization experience in the proposed area. The project budget will be evaluated as well as a financial evaluation (conducted by our Finance staff) of the overall health of the applying organization will be conducted during the proposal review process. Tax and audit forms are utilized for the latter.

16. The First 5 LA Policy Agenda includes several “opportunities” listed under each policy goal – are those the only issues you can focus on?
   a. No – those are provided as potential areas of opportunity within that goal.

17. Can we use these funds for lobbying?
   a. No. As a 501c3 your organization should have clear guidelines about the technical definitions around lobbying versus advocacy and education. If you are using a 501c3 as a fiscal sponsor, please ensure you are trained on these definitions. Please see all “restricted activities” on page 10 of the RFP.

18. Will there be more points awarded for including multiple First 5 LA Policy Agenda goals?
   a. No.

19. Can we use a fiscal agent to apply?
   a. Yes.

20. Do you have a cap on indirect costs?
   a. Yes, it is 10% of Personnel before benefits are added.

21. Can you define what is meant by Direct Service in this instance?
   a. The PAF RFP does not support funding for direct service projects. Direct services include (but are not limited to) programs or services that directly benefit children and or families – for example a family literacy program, preschool program or child care program, a school lunch program or provision of health services or care. Advocacy education or training is not considered a direct service.

22. Can you please confirm what type of salary, if any, can be included in the budgets for the RFP?
   a. See budget instructions and worksheet for information related to budgets.