

**Intermediary for Early Care and Education Policy and Advocacy Fund  
RFQ  
Questions and Answers**

*Last Updated September 30, 2016*

1. ***Does the entity need to be physically located in LA County to be eligible?***  
Applicants must have a physical presence in Los Angeles County and the capacity to work throughout L.A. County and Statewide, as needed. The ECE Fund design and implementation will be done in partnership between First 5 LA and the Intermediary. Therefore, it is imperative to have in-person discussions and strategy sessions with the selected Intermediary throughout the length of the project.
2. ***Do applicants have an opportunity to partner with other local organizations for this grant?***  
With First 5 LA approval, the selected Intermediary may subcontract with partners or other entities to deliver or implement tasks associated with this funding opportunity. If proposing the use of subcontractors, clearly indicate so in the application along with a description of which proposed tasks or portions of the tasks would be outsourced to other subcontractor(s).
3. ***Can you share more about what it means for First 5 LA to retain all rights and control of the project?***  
In addition to serving as a project manager, coordinator, and fiscal sponsor, the selected intermediary is expected to be a strong thought partner with First 5 LA and offer recommendations, best practice advice, and share their experience managing multi-grantee initiatives. However, because the ECE Fund is closely tied to First 5 LA's strategic work, First 5 LA will make final decisions on the ECE Fund approach, process and final selection of grantees.
4. ***Do you envision First 5 LA to choose the grantees that will be awarded grants?***  
While the Intermediary will be responsible for releasing the partnership grants through a traditional competitive award process and for co-designing a funding mechanism for emerging policy and advocacy grants, First 5 LA will be the final decision maker on the selected grantees. As mentioned above, the selected intermediary is expected to be a strong partner and offer recommendations, best practice advice, and share their experience managing multi-grantee initiatives. However, because the ECE Fund is closely tied to First 5 LA's strategic work, First 5 LA will make final decisions on the ECE Fund approach, process and grantees.
5. ***Will there be any government (state/local/federal) funding associated with this project?***  
The ECE Policy and Advocacy Intermediary and subsequent ECE Policy and Advocacy Fund are solely funded by First 5 LA and not linked to any other funding sources.
6. ***Is the application of the indirect limited to the \$500k admin budget? Can the indirect be applied to the entire FY16-17 amount eligible for indirect, including the \$2.5M subgrants?***  
First 5 LA's policy limits indirect costs to up to 10% of the total contract award, excluding pass-through costs, subcontracts, capital expenditures, equipment and depreciation expenses. As such, the \$2.5 million is not eligible for indirect cost. However, given the nature of the services

being contracted, costs that would be classified as indirect in a typical service delivery agreement may be eligible to be classified as direct costs for this project. First 5 LA tests allowability of proposed direct cost based on whether the proposed cost can be directly attributable to the services being funded.

In addition, the cost-reimbursement budget template included in the RFQ is being utilized by the internal review team to understand the main cost drivers of the proposal. If you feel that that the formula to calculate indirect costs does not reflect the real indirect costs that your organization will incur, include an additional line item in the Budget with the amount that is above the allowed percentage and provide a detailed explanation of those costs in the Budget Narrative.

**7. Section VII states “funds for grants may be advanced to the Fund Intermediary with the terms and conditions finalized during the contract negotiation”. What factors are taken into consideration to ensure that portion is an advance?**

Some of the factors that will be considered for fund advances for grants:

- justification addressing the need for the advance
- financial review to confirm need from a fiscal perspective
- timeline for the re-grant process

**8. Is there a page limit for Appendix A – the SOW or the résumés?**

No.

**9. In regards to the \$2.5M in grants, will the focus be to issue grants within the Los Angeles/Southern California area or statewide?**

The Early Care and Education Policy and Advocacy Fund (Fund) is a multi-year initiative that reflects First 5 LA’s understanding that access to affordable, quality early learning experiences is essential in ensuring all L.A. County children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life. It also recognizes that broad public policy, advocacy and public funding support are critical to achieving First 5 LA’s overarching goal. For a comprehensive list of the goals of the Fund please review Section III. Project Overview of the RFQ. The intent of Early Care and Education Policy and Advocacy (ECE PAF) grants is to advocate for policy changes that ultimately impact Los Angeles County children. While the grant opportunities and funding requirements will be jointly determined by First 5 LA and the selected intermediary, First 5 LA expects that the ECE PAF grantees will have an LA County presence and impact, even if the scope of the work is statewide.