Appendix D
Things to Consider When Selecting a Partner

Based on First 5 LA's experience and best practices in the field, we have developed a set of considerations for collaboratives as they begin to establish a collaborative. These questions are meant to assist proposers in their selection of Collaborative Agencies and Supporting Partners and for consideration by potential Collaborative Agencies and Supporting Partners in teaming up with a Unifying Agency.

Finding Partners

- What will the potential partner bring to the table?
- What is needed to make this project successful? What are the human resources needed to make this project successful?
- What are the skills needed in the collaborative? What skills can be built during the life of the project?
- Is there alignment of organizational values, individual values, philosophy, vision and approach? What is needed to achieve that alignment?
- Does the collaborative work well together? How can they improve working together?
- What else is happening at the organization level during the 3-year grant period? What else is happening at the community or L.A. County level during the 3-year grant period that can contribute to or pose challenges to project success?
- Who is the person best suited from the organization to serve on this collaborative? Can they dedicate an appropriate amount of time? Do they have the right level of experience, background, decision-making power for the types of changes that need to be made collectively?
- What is the level of commitment of the individual and organization that will be part of the collaborative?
- What is your leadership style? What are the leadership styles of people on the collaborative? How do these interact?
- How does everyone best learn? For example, do they prefer to learn visually, auditorily or by using their sense of touch? Give feedback? Accept feedback?

Considering Contribution and Fit

Collaborating Partners:
- Is there shared interest to commit to strengthening referral pathways for young children with and at risk for developmental delays for the duration of the 3-year grant period? How is this commitment demonstrated?
- Are there existing efforts in place at the organization that relate to the objectives of the grant (e.g., increasing service utilization as it relates to EII; service coordination; increasing parent/caregiver satisfaction with referral process and linkage to services; etc.)? Are there future opportunities within the organization, such as a strategic planning period or new investment/project, that related to the objectives of the grant?
- What system/sector does the organization represent? Is there diverse representation among the represented partners?
- Does the organization's service area align and or overlap to ensure participating partners can all serve targeted community/region?

Supporting Partners:
- Does the individual have experience with services provided to families and young children that would help inform the collaborative's strategy design? Does the organization have experience serving families and young children that would help inform the collaborative's strategy design?

- Does the individual/organization have interest in observing and learning from the collaborative's efforts over the 3-year grant period? Can this learning further enhance/support the community they service or are part of?
- Does the individual/organization represent or have experience in a system/sector outside of EII (e.g., social services such as housing, nutrition, safety, etc.; First 5 LA Best Start Communities; municipality and elected officials; community; faith-based; private sector; etc.)?
- Does the organization's service area align or overlap with collaborative? Similarly, does the individual's experience with the community and systems overlap with the geographic area of the collaborative?

Establishing a Collaborative

- What do we believe?
- What do we bring to the table? What are areas we can grow individually and collectively?
- How will we make decisions?
- What are each partner's roles and responsibilities?
- How will we resolve conflict?
- As people (independent of our affiliation), what are our individual and team strengths and areas of growth?
- What do we envision? What will we achieve?
- What type of group structure will be chosen?
- How will we manage expenses? How will subcontractors be paid?
- How will we hold ourselves accountable?