



COMMUNITY GRANTS

Transitional Kindergarten Special Projects Application Packet FY 2011/2012

**First 5 Fresno County
550 E. Shaw, Suite 215
Fresno, CA 93710**

**(559) 241-6515
(559) 241-6510 Fax
www.first5fresno.org**

General Overview

A. First 5 Fresno County

On November 12, 1998, California voters passed Proposition 10, the “California Children and Families First Act of 1998.” The Act provided for a 50 cent per pack tax on cigarettes. The monies collected are to be used to fund anti-smoking and early childhood education programs, including parent education, health and childcare programs that promote early childhood development from prenatal through age five.

Funds from Proposition 10 are distributed to local counties based on the number of babies born in that county. Fresno County receives approximately \$13 million per year. First 5 Fresno County is responsible for developing a strategic plan to guide local funding decisions that are consistent with the intent of the California Children and Families Act.

First 5 Fresno County was established in 1999. It is led by a Commission appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. Since its inception, First 5 Fresno County has developed four strategic plans and has invested more than \$103 million in local programs serving young children and their families.

***Vision:** All children 0-5 years will achieve optimal social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development.*

***Mission:** First 5 Fresno County will be a catalyst for creating an accessible and effective network of quality services for young children (0-5 years) and their families.*

Note: Throughout the remainder of this document, First 5 Fresno County will be referred to as the “Commission”

B. Strategic Plan Goals and Focus Areas

In June 2007, the Commission began a comprehensive strategic planning process to guide community investments from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2013. Strategic planning sessions were facilitated with the Commission and community members over a six-month period. The information gathered from this valuable community input process served as a guide for the strategic planning process and resulted in the adoption of the 2008-2013 First 5 Fresno County Strategic Plan. The strategic plan is organized into four Focus Areas: Child Health, Early Care and Education, Family Strengthening, and Systems Improvement.

Goals

The goals of the 2008-2013 Strategic Plan are consistent with the focus and intent of the Children and Families Act, build on what has been learned and accomplished locally, and provide a framework for the Commission and the community for how Proposition 10 funds will be invested over the next five years. The Focus Areas include corresponding goals and outcomes – what the Commission would like to see happen for children, the strategies for how the Commission proposes to move towards these outcomes, and indicators – how the progress in achieving these outcomes will be measured. The goals, outcomes, strategies and indicators have been selected based on research, best practices, local learning and community input.

Focus Area: Early Care and Education

Goal: *Optimize child development*

Outcomes:

1. Parents understand their child's development and engage in early learning activities beginning at birth
2. Families use high quality early care and education opportunities available
3. Early care and education programs are staffed with well trained professionals
4. High quality, affordable, early care and education is available throughout the county
5. Children are ready for kindergarten
6. Schools are ready for children

Focus Area: Systems Improvement

Goal: *Maximize organizational systems and policies*

Outcomes:

1. Community organizations and agencies work collaboratively to best support and partner with families to promote optimal child health and development
2. Community agencies in Fresno County support the needs of young children and their families
3. Services supporting the needs of young children and their families are accessible and delivered in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner
4. Community members and policy makers advocate for an environment that is safe and nurtures young children and their families
5. Local policies promote and meet the needs of young children and their families

Purpose of the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Special Projects Program

The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 made a fundamental change to kindergarten in California, shifting the age of children entering kindergarten and creating transitional kindergarten (TK) for those students turning five between September 1st and December 2nd. Transitional kindergarten, the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience, will give children the gift of time to develop the skills that will prepare them for the challenges of elementary school. The new law (SB1381-Simitian) will be phased in over three years beginning in 2012, and when fully implemented, 120,000 children statewide will benefit from transitional kindergarten.

The TK Special Projects Program is part of the Commission's Community Grants Program and a partnership with the Fresno County Office of Education. The program was established to support Fresno County school districts implementing transitional kindergarten in the 2011/2012 school year with ongoing technical assistance and professional development through the Fresno County Office of Education and financial support for supplies, materials, curriculum, etc. through the Commission.

Funding requests for one-time only support grants may be submitted under the TK Special Projects Program for up to \$5,000 per school. Requests will be accepted by the Commission on a continuous basis from July 22, 2011 through October 15, 2011 contingent on available funding.

Eligibility Criteria

The TK Special Projects Program is intended to support schools implementing Transitional Kindergarten in Fall 2011. Priority will be given to Title 1 schools.

Please make note of the following:

- Schools should provide a developmentally appropriate program that addresses the children's language, literacy, and pre-math skills with an emphasis on social and emotional development;
- Program must provide a seamless transition for a developmentally appropriate grade level referring to Preschool Foundations and the Preschool and Kindergarten Curriculum Standards;
- Funding is not intended for on-going support, but for one-time only support;
- School/School District must be in Fresno County;
- Funds are used for a Transitional Kindergarten classroom (materials, training, curriculum) in Fall 2011
- Materials are developmentally appropriate for implementation of a TK classroom;
- Funds may not be used for personnel, consultants, or indirect costs.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis through October 15, 2011 as long as funding is still available.

Steps for applying:

1. Read through the application packet
2. Complete the full application

To be considered, you must complete and include:

- Application Cover Sheet;
- Narrative (not to exceed 2 pages);
- Budget and Justification form;
- Signed Disclosure Statement.

Applications will not be accepted after October 15, 2011. Please submit two (2) original applications to the address below and email an electronic version of budget to Vianey Chairez at viboa@first5fresno.org.

First 5 Fresno County
550 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 215
Fresno, CA 93710
Attn: TK Special Projects Program
Mercedes Carmona

If you have a disability and/or need special accommodations in order to complete the application, please contact Mercedes Carmona at (559) 241-6583 to make arrangements.

If granted funding:

Steps for Reimbursement

The TK Special Projects Program is a reimbursement program. In order to be reimbursed you must do the following:

1. Turn in all original receipts including packing slips with your reimbursement request form
2. Complete the evaluation form
3. Commission was properly credited if reproduction of materials was requested.

Questions

Fresno County Office of Education and First 5 Fresno County offer technical assistance and are available to answer questions, go over the application, and provide feedback on drafts of your application.

Please direct all questions concerning TK Special Projects Program requests to Wilma Hashimoto at whashimoto@fcoe.org or by phone at (559) 497-3846 or Mercedes Carmona at mcarmona@first5fresno.org or by phone at (559) 241-6583.

Funding Process

Commission and Fresno County Office of Education staff will exercise discretion in recommending a request for funding. Requests will be reviewed based on the eligibility criteria.

Requests that meet the criteria will be forwarded to the Executive Director and Commission Chair for approval. Applications that are forwarded are not guaranteed funding. Applicants will be notified in writing whether their request was approved. Please allow a maximum of three weeks for internal process. All funded applicants will be required to participate in the Commission's evaluation program.

Appeals Process

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all applications and to waive informalities or irregularities. The Commission is the sole and final authority regarding the approval or disapproval of applications and the conditions under which they are funded. The Commission will not hear appeals for TK Special Projects requests.