

# First 5 Inyo Seeking Solutions for Children 0 to 5, and their Families



## **Young children participate in a Lone Pine Unified School District class to promote family nutrition and fitness, sponsored by a First 5 Inyo County 2009-10 Special Grant.**

Strategies to service children and families from birth through age 5 for fiscal year 2010-2011 are being requested by the First 5 Inyo County Commission. Local schools, health clinics, caretakers, charities, churches, and nonprofit groups are all encouraged to apply for up to \$60,000 to offer, extend, or improve early child health, child development, or family functioning services.

The formal Request For Special Grant Proposals, or Special Grant RFP, is available online at [www.inyocounty.us/first5](http://www.inyocounty.us/first5), as is First 5 Inyo's Strategic Plan which outlines critical goal areas like early oral health care, parent and provider education regarding child development, and supporting existing community organizations that help families meet their basic needs for food and shelter.

For a complete written version of the RFP, contact First 5 Director Jody Veenker at 760-873-6453, or email your mailing address to: [jveenker@inyocounty.us](mailto:jveenker@inyocounty.us). Veenker is also available to share findings from last year's countywide needs assessment and to help explain the ins and outs of First 5's evidence-based funding structure and reporting requirements.

"As the last year of First 5's School Readiness funding goes out into our community, the Commission would really like to see that children who do not currently have access to health care or developmental opportunities get connected," explains First 5 Inyo Commissioner Jean Turner. "We want to make it easy for parents who need the most help to find the local nonprofit, religious, or government resource that will reduce family stresses or help families create healthier routines."

Proposals are due by Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 in order to allow for the contracts to be negotiated, signed, and approved for funding by July 1, 2010, when the fiscal year begins.

This past year First 5 Inyo contracted with Inyo Superintendent of Schools Child Development Division, Lone Pine Unified School District, and Inyo Child Care Services on goals as diverse as early childhood nutrition and fitness education to night and weekend childcare. First 5 staff also oversees free literacy programs and parent education events, and hopes to connect parents to local resources through their online family events calendar, monthly early childhood health e-

newsletter, and community listserv. First 5 is also sponsoring a free literacy party at laws on April 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to Noon to promote its free used book program the Reading Railroad.

Groups looking to fund short-term goals and objectives for children 0 to 5 can also apply on a monthly basis for Strategic Grants up to \$2,500. Forms and training information for these ongoing funding opportunities are also available at the First 5 Inyo website.

"First 5 is not only structured so that we are responsible to show the community how it's funds are benefiting families, it also is structured so that our results are only as strong as the best idea that is proposed or service that is provided," Commissioner Susan Cash says. "This is the perfect chance for local groups who have similar goals to really impact children and their families."