

Mission of First 5 Inyo County

Research shows that a child's brain develops in rapid and unique ways during the first 5 years of life. Early experiences set the stage for future growth and gifts. The environment in which a child lives, plays, and learns has the potential to impact the rest of his or her life. First 5 Inyo County is dedicated to funding outcomes that help shape the trajectory of a child's life to yield ongoing benefits and rewards. We do this by enhancing communities to support and ensure child health, child development, school readiness, and family functioning.

Strategic Grants

Strategic Grants are our most accessible tier of funding. This simple 3-page application allows you share your idea for helping children 0 to 5 and their families here in Inyo County, and tells us how you plan to measure the impact your idea makes in their lives. Strategic Grants do not exceed one year and may be funded up to \$2,500. Projects will include small community efforts of limited scope, project sponsorships, and what has in the past been termed First 5 Inyo Minigrants. The Commission is looking to fund new ideas; enhancements that provide an addition to, or extension, of existing services or projects; and group projects that need matching funds.

Eligibility

Non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations, community groups, civic clubs, and public & private agencies are all encouraged apply. Applicants must be in compliance regarding services, invoicing, & evaluation materials on any existing contracts with First 5 Inyo to apply. If an organization has defaulted on delivery of a contract in the past, we will not accept proposals from the responsible agency until 3 fiscal years have passed since the end of that original contracting period.

Grant Objectives

The First 5 Inyo Commission funds projects that address one or more of the following objectives. The Commission will give preference to projects successfully designed to meet more than one objective the grant awarding process.

CHILD HEALTH:

1. Children have access to nutrition and fitness resources to maintain a healthy weight.
2. Children receive access to preventative and ongoing oral health care.
3. Children receive access to preventative and ongoing health care.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT:

1. Parents & caregivers have increased knowledge & skills regarding child development.
2. Children have increased access & availability to a variety of quality care & early education programs.

FAMILY FUNCTIONING:

1. Community programs help families of children 0 to 5 meet basic needs.
2. Community resources have increased support to sustain children 0 to 5's health & development.

Funding Priorities

- The Commission may, but is not required to, fund in each of the four state result areas: Child Health, Child Development, Family Functioning, & Systems of Care.
- Priorities may be established by result area for different geographic areas of the county.
- The Commission will focus on, but is not limited to, funding direct services.
- The Commission may give preference to providers located within the communities they plan to serve, but residency in any particular area is not a requirement.
- The Commission will focus on funding special projects that are designed to meet the following guiding principles (see sample scoring sheet):
 - 1) Reduce barriers and improve access to services
 - 2) Focus on reducing disparities.

Grant Period

The grant period is for one year or less, depending on date of approval. The fiscal year begins July 1, 2010 and ends June 30, 2011. After official written acceptance, grantees should submit all receipts and invoices for the expenditure of their award to First 5 staff prior to June 15, 2011. No reimbursements will be made for receipts turned in later than June 15, 2011. If a group or program lacks the ability make expenditures for reimbursement, they should indicate this to the Commission in their application so the Commission may consider other arrangements as they discuss the merits of each individual application.

Limitations

These types of expenses are not eligible for funding:

- capital assets
- supplanting existing program funding with First 5 funds
- ongoing operating/administrative expenses
- retroactive funding for costs previously incurred
- re-granting monies to other organizations

Application Process

1. BRAINSTORM - Think creatively about what you would like to accomplish, who might be involved, and if there are any existing resources that you might be able to partner with. If your project could develop many ways and you want some direction, call Jody in the First 5 office at 873-6453 for some ideas.

2. DOWNLOAD – You can get a copy of the application at our office at 568 W. Line Street, or you can visit www.inyocounty.us/first5 and download the application there.

3. PLAN – Put your ideas on paper. Calculate how much time, manpower, and money it will take to bring your idea to life. A concrete plan of action should emerge with a specific budget and timetable. Also, think about what measures you could use to show effective your plan was. You need to turn in a detailed, specific roadmap of what you plan to do and how you will accomplish each step. The commission is looking for ideas that:

- Target either prenatal services or services to infants, toddlers, or preschoolers ages 0 to 5. Be clear about whom your project serves and address age-appropriate concerns.
- How many children 0 to 5 or their families will your program or service impact? Does the amount of money you are requesting seem equal to the percentage of children and families you are going to benefit?
- Link your project to a Commission goal. Clearly demonstrate how your idea relates back to one of the seven critical needs highlighted in our strategic plan.

4. TURN IN FOR APPROVAL – The First 5 Inyo Commission tries to meet the first Thursday of every month from 8 to 10 AM at 912 N. Main St. in the One Stop Conference Room behind Taco Bell. If you want your application to make it on the agenda for review at this meeting, then turn it in to First 5 Staff at 568 W. Line Street at least 1 week before the Commission meeting.

5. MEASURE & REPORT – If your grant request is awarded at the monthly Commission review, then you will receive further instructions about reporting and turning in your receipts and invoices in to staff for reimbursement. The Commission is committed to evaluating programs for effectiveness in achieving measurable goals, so take steps to document your project and its outcomes with pictures, data, testimonials, etc. All receipts and all reporting must be turned in to staff by May 15, 2010 to allow us to close out the Fiscal Year per Inyo County standards.



Strategic Grant Application
Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Call 760-873-6453
with any questions!

Organization / Agency Information

Organization/Agency Name:		
Physical Address:		City/State/Zip
Mailing Address:		City/State/Zip
CEO or Director:		Title:
Phone:	Fax:	Email:
Contact Person:		Title:
Phone:	Fax:	Email:
Web Site Address:		Tax ID:

Program / Grant Information

Please check the program interest area for which you are requesting funding: <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD HEALTH <input type="checkbox"/> CHILD DEVELOPMENT <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY FUNCTIONING		
Program or Project Name:		
Amount of Grant Requested vs. Total Project Budget:	Est. # of Children 0 to 5 Project Serves:	Est. # of parents & caregivers of children 0 to 5 this project serves:
Purpose of Grant Request (one sentence):		

Signatures

Board President / Chair: (please print)	Title:
Signature:	Date:
CEO / Director: (please print)	Title:
Signature:	Date:

Please return to First 5 Inyo staff at 568 W. Line Street for submission to the Commission.



First 5 Inyo County Strategic Grant Application Questions

Please provide the following information for items I. through IV. by answering all questions in no more than TWO (2) typed pages. Please be thorough, clear, specific, and concise.

I. Organization/Agency Background:

- A. What is the history, mission and purpose of your organization? How long has the organization been providing programs and services to the community?
- B. What are some of your past organizational accomplishments (last three years)?
- C. What are some of your current programs and activities? (Include populations and geographic locations served.)

II. Project Information:

A. Statement of Need, Project Goal, Objectives, and Methodology

1. Specify the community need you are seeking funds for.
2. State your project goal. Describe your project. How does your project meet the community need? What is unique and innovative about this project?
3. State up to three objectives. Objectives should be specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic, and time-specific. What are the specific activities you will undertake to meet your goal? How will you use the grant funds?
4. What is your timeline for implementing the project?
5. How does this project relate to other existing projects in the community? Who else in the community is providing this service or has a similar project?

B. Project Outcomes and Evaluation

1. What are the key anticipated outcomes of the project and how will it impact participants?
2. How will you know if you have achieved the expected outcomes?
3. How will progress towards the objectives be tracked and outcomes measured?

III. Governance and Executive Leadership

- A. Describe your board and the role they have played in developing your ideas for this application. Include a statement that explains why this grant would fund a new service or project, or expansion of an existing service or project to a new population or group, along with a signed copy of the First 5 Commission's Supplantation Policy.

IV. Documentation of participants

- A. Please include a list of participants registered for your program or service, or use one of the First 5 sign-on templates for participation commitments.

First 5 Inyo County Strategic Grant Fiscal Questions

V. Project Budget

Please provide a detailed line-item budget for your project by completing the table below. Include all sources of funding for the proposed project.

Line Item Description	Line Item Explanation (Formula/equation used as applicable. Example: 20 books @ \$4 each = \$80)	Support From Your Agency	Support From Other Funders	Requested Amount From F5	Line Item Total of Project
TOTALS:					

VI. Ancillary Documents

Please check the boxes below indicating the submission of any pertinent ancillary documents included with your completed application:

- A list of Board Members with their affiliations
- A signed copy of the First 5 Supplantation Policy
- A copy of your current 501 (c)(3) letter from the IRS
- OR
- Documentation of your Tax ID Number
- Co-participation documentation (if relevant)

