



CAPTION: New ideas -- like Altrusa of the Eastern Sierra's extension of their Readers Theatre program to preschool classroom activities that promote child development -- exemplify the kind of creative synergy the First 5 Commission wants to support.

First 5 Inyo Grants Encourage Groups to Develop Big Ideas for Our Littlest Citizens

Monday, June 22, and Thursday, June 25, First 5 Inyo County will hold Strategic Grant Workshops to introduce the results of their needs assessment and the outcomes they are committed to funding in the fields of child health, child development, and family functioning.

Non-profits, civic clubs, community-based groups, faith-based groups, private and public institutions, service organizations, small businesses, and regional organizations are all invited to attend the short presentation and to pick up a simple, 3-page application for the up to \$2,500 grant which can be applied for year-round.

"Our goals encompass everything from child nutrition and fitness to parent education to health care access," explains First 5 Commission Chair Susan Cash. "If you have an idea to benefit local children 0 to 5, or their families, we want to hear about it."

Monday's grant workshop will be held in Lone Pine at Statham Hall from 6 to 7 PM, and Thursday's workshop will be in Bishop at First Presbyterian Church from 6 to 7 PM.

Strategic Grants are the first tier of First 5 Inyo's funding, and they are aimed at small community efforts of limited scope. They are designed not to exceed one fiscal year and are easy to apply for and fund.

Special and Targeted Grants, the other two levels of funding the Commission releases, will soon be available in response to Requests for Proposals, or RFPs, currently being developed by the First 5 Commission.

"Summer is busy time, so if anyone is interested but unable to attend these workshops, we will schedule more in the future," explains First 5 Commissioner Jean Turner. "We will also be posting the applications and the workshop power point on the First 5 Inyo Website, so anyone who wants to apply after the 25th will have access to all the tools they will need."

Visit www.inyocounty.us/first5 to view our Community Calendar or download a copy of the updated Strategic Plan. Grant applications will be available after June 25th online, as well. You can also call the First 5 office at 873-6453 with any questions.

