

First 5 California
Child Signature Program (CSP)
RFA #2
Frequently Asked Questions
April 27, 2012

Program Questions

1. **Q:** Can counties include preschool classrooms in RFA #2 that have some form of parent fees? Some counties have several preschool programs funded with First 5 dollars that serve a high-need population and charge a sliding scale parent fee. There are also classrooms that have successfully blended State Preschool, First 5, and parent fees.

A: **Preschool classrooms that meet all requirements of RFA #2 (e.g., “Eligible Applicants,” “Target Population”) and impose a parent fee, are eligible to be included in RFA #2 provided all classrooms that do not impose a fee have been targeted without success. Documentation confirming unwillingness to participate in RFA #2 for each targeted classroom that does not impose a fee must be maintained by the county for audit purposes. If classrooms that charge a fee are included in RFA #2, they will not be eligible to apply for RFA #3.**

2. **Q:** Are privately owned child development centers able to participate in RFA #2?

A: **No. Privately owned child development centers are not eligible to participate in RFA #2. This is consistent with the PoP program and RFA #1.**

3. **Q:** As a current PoP county whose CSP candidate sites do not qualify for RFA #3, how will we keep those sites so that our reimbursement won't be reduced because they drop out?

A: **For current PoP Bridge counties, all classrooms participating in RFA #2 will remain Promise Sites throughout the three-year period. Training covering the three quality enhancement Program Elements will be available to Promise Sites that, through the Readiness Assessment, have demonstrated that they meet the CSP Baseline Criteria (Attachment C2).**

4. **Q:** Is the expectation that if the E4 does not provide needed training it will be the responsibility of the county to do so?

A: The E4 is designed to develop training based on the results of the Readiness Assessment with input from the ELSS. If the targeted training areas available through the E4 do not include additional training desired by a county, the county may elect to fund that additional training. It is solely at a county's discretion as to whether it chooses to fund training not available through the E4.

Eligible Applicants Questions

5. Q: Would a Community College Child Development Center located in a school catchment area with an API decile greater than 5 be eligible to participate in RFA #2 if documentation is provided demonstrating that the children in care reside in elementary school catchment areas with an API in deciles 1-3?

A: A Community College Child Development center may be included in RFA #2 provided documentation is provided that supports the children enrolled reside in elementary school catchment areas with an API score in deciles 1-3. Children enrolled in Community College Child Development Centers can come from all parts of the county. In this instance, the location of the center is not reflective of the API for which children reside.

6. Q: Can a classroom like Head Start that targets high risk low-income children that is located in an elementary school catchment area with an API score greater than 5 participate in RFA #2?

A: Yes. Programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant Child Care and State Preschool that have strict eligibility requirements targeting low-income high risk children can be included in RFA #2 regardless of the API where the program is located.

7. Q: What if a county only has one infant-toddler center and it is located in an API district with a decile 5 or below, does this automatically disqualify them from participation?

A: No. Section IV of RFA #2 under "Eligible Applicants - Overview" states that "classrooms selected by the county must serve children ages 0 to 5 who live in elementary school catchment areas with a current Academic Performance Index (API) score in deciles 1-3. An exception will be made to extend the API to 1-5 only for counties that can demonstrate that they have no elementary school with an API ranking at or below the 3rd decile." In limited cases, exceptions may be considered based on documentation supporting the exception request.