

First 5 California  
Child Signature Program (CSP)  
RFA #2  
Frequently Asked Questions  
May 16, 2012

**Program Questions**

1. **Q:** In Appendix C1, it states that the preschool teacher/provider child ratio is 1:8. I understand that for the existing PoP sites, a ratio of 1:10 is allowed for Head Start sites. Can you confirm that the ratio for all sites in RFA #2 must be 1:8? That would leave out most Head Start sites.

**A:** For RFA #2, counties may select preschool classrooms with a ratio of 1:10 to participate. However, those classrooms will not be eligible to apply for RFA #3 in 2013 unless the ratio is reduced to 1:8, which will be a requirement for those classrooms included in that application.

2. **Q:** Is it possible to waive the full day infant/toddler requirement?

**A:** No. Infant/toddler care is 6 or more hours per day operating for a 175 day school year or an equivalent plan. Infant/toddler programs would operate 1050 hours per year.

3. **Q:** Next year, can counties substitute newly identified county funded classrooms for a classroom eliminated due to funding cuts or FY 2013-14 with the understanding that they would not be eligible to apply to be a CSP PoP site (RFA #3) but would be eligible to receive training and technical assistance for the remaining two fiscal years?

**A:** No. Only classrooms listed on Form 4a - Classroom Profile Information at the time of application are able to participate. Requests received by June 15, 2012, to replace classrooms that were submitted on Form 4a with the application for RFA #2 will be considered provided the county submits documentation substantiating the need for replacement, identifies which classrooms were eliminated, and which were added. A new Form 4a marked "REVISED" also must accompany the request.

4. **Q:** Will counties working with Early Head Start and CDE Infant-Toddler programs be required to provide additional information on income eligibility?

**A:** No. However, this documentation should be available at the site for audit purposes.

5. **Q:** Does the “Early Education Expert” on page 17 of RFA #2 refer to the essential staff required in RFA #1, or is it a best practice of getting input from Early Education Experts in general throughout the field?

**A: Use of “Early Education Expert” on page 17 of RFA #2 refers to the essential staff required as part of RFA #1.**

6. **Q:** Will there be a tool or rubric designed to evaluate the implementation of the Principles on Equity and/or will they be imbedded into the Readiness Assessment?

**A: The Principles on Equity will be imbedded into the applicable content areas of the Readiness Assessment.**

### **Staffing Questions**

7. **Q:** Does the Assistant Teacher have to have an AA degree in order to be eligible for RFA #3 or will an alternative pathway be allowed (e.g., Associate teacher permit or CDA or ongoing progress toward those requirements)?

**A: In order for a classroom to be eligible to participate in RFA #3, all staff must meet the Teacher/Provider Qualification Quality Levels (Attachment D). This includes all Assistant Teachers having no less than an Associate in Arts degree by July 1, 2013.**

### **Fiscal Questions**

8. **Q:** While the classrooms listed on Form 4a are the proposed First 5 California Participating Classrooms, these Form 4a classrooms also receive First 5 local indirect dollars for comprehensive family support and mental health services. Should we re-enter the same classrooms on Form 4a in Form 4b?

**A: No. Any classroom that appears on Form 4a should not appear on Form 4b. Only classrooms supported by First 5 California funding for RFA #2 should appear on Form 4a. Form 4b is completed only in cases where the county decides to fund additional classrooms (not included on Form 4a) with their local funds or funding other than First 5 California RFA #2 funding.**

9. **Q:** Can “taxes” be included in allowable costs for the salary and benefits of the ELSS?

**A: All costs to fund a specific position will be fully reimbursed.**