

Questions from the CARES Plus – Round 2 In-box (April 5, 2103)

Program Management

1. Where can I find additional information about “low supply of licensed child care” and information about Academic Performance Index (API) ranks for schools?
 - A. Information about child care supply can be found at <http://www.rrnetwork.org/rr-research-in-action/network-resources-publications/> through California Resource and Referral Network. Information about API ranks for schools can be located at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/apireports.asp> .

2. Can a county require participants to meet more stringent requirements than outlined in the RFA for eligibility, such as requiring four meetings a year with a CARES Plus Advisor instead of two?
 - A. The eligibility requirements outlined in the RFA are the minimum requirements participants must meet. Local CARES Plus programs may add additional requirements to their programs to meet local needs. Such additions might include the requirement to attend an annual kick-off meeting, additional advising sessions or completion of local trainings, etc.

3. Is it absolute that we must offer a minimum stipend amount per participant? Is there any flexibility on this?
 - A. First 5 California set minimum stipend amounts to incentivize participation in the MyTeachingPartner (MTP) program and set a baseline based on effort and time that reflects the goals of the MTP intensive coaching model. With the \$50 per cycle minimum and maximum of cycles allowed, the upper end will not exceed \$800. We want to encourage participants to take full advantage of the professional growth activities offered through MTP program.

4. Who needs to verify participant eligibility and certify that they meet the program requirements?
 - A. It is the responsibility of each Lead Agency to verify that its participants meet the eligibility and completion requirements for CARES Plus. Each Lead Agency must designate program staff or a sub-contractor with knowledge of participants to certify that all program requirements have been met.

5. Can a Component A participant receive a stipend? Component A participants are those who will be working on completing professional development to maintain their child

development permit (21 acceptable and pre-approved hours provided by West Ed or CPIN). Can we offer them a stipend or just offer professional development?

A. Yes, the lead agency can provide a stipend to a participant completing their professional development for their Child Development Permit. We encourage Lead Agencies to support and incentivize participation in Component A trainings that are approved through CDE. Stipends are set at the county level and are awarded after the completion of 21 hours of CDE- approved training. Participants may also be able to use the professional growth hours toward their Child Development Permit renewal. If the trainings completed for professional growth activities are not on the approved list of CDE trainings, they would not count toward the 21 hours of Component A trainings needed for the stipend.

6. Is the Effectiveness and Access Plan (E&A) a separate form in the application due May 10, 2013?

A. The information for the E&A Plan is embedded within the application itself. Text boxes for responses to the application prompts will expand as the writer inputs information.

Research and Evaluation

1. Page 15 of the CARES Plus-Round 2 Information Webinar Notes of March 19, 2013, states: "Lead Agencies are required to capture data related to completion of program requirements. First 5 California did not develop forms for capturing completion data because the forms and procedures may vary based on local procedures. "Can you please tell us which program requirements this refers to and if the data related to this will be reported in PROOF for now and in the new system when it is activated? We do not want to exclude any required data.

A. This is referring to the information regarding a participant's completion of the annual requirements and the CORE and/or Component activities. Program requirements are defined in **Table A CARES Plus Program Round 2 Participant Requirements** on Page 9 of the RFA. Program completion data elements are defined in Appendix D, pages 16-24, and are indicated as required in the column labeled, "Required Data Elements-Program Completion." The program completion data will be entered using the new CARES Plus Data System. The deadline for submission of program completion data for participants during FY 2013-14 is July 31, 2014.

Fiscal

1. What are allowable cash matches? What is the definition of a cash match?

A. The "match" may include Proposition 10 local tax revenues, gifts, grants, and funds provided by a local partner that directly contribute to the CARES Plus strategies and objectives.