



# First 5 California

Overview of RFA 2: Readiness  
Assessment and Quality Improvement

April 10, 2012



# Overview & Context



# Child Signature Program

## Child Signature Program

### RFA1 FY 2012-15

#### For Current PoP Counties

#### Application Release (February 17, 2012):

#### Quality Enhancement of PoP

- Designed to enhance the quality of PoP in the existing eight PoP counties for three years. This RFA requires matching funds from counties.

### RFA2 FY 2012-15

#### For All 58 Counties

#### Application Release (March 2012):

#### Readiness Assessment and Quality Improvement

- Supports assessments to determine strengths and challenges of identified county centers and classrooms.
- Designed to provide targeted training and quality improvement support in all 58 counties for local centers and classrooms not yet participating in PoP.
- This RFA does not require matching funds from counties.

### RFA3 FY 2013-15

#### For Potential Quality Enhancement of PoP Counties

#### Application Release (February 2013):

- Designed to enhance the quality of PoP in qualifying non-PoP counties for two years. This RFA requires matching funds from counties.

## TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND IMPROVEMENT SUPPORT

#### Access to Early Education Effectiveness Exchange (E4):

Designed as a Learning and Improvement Academy to provide specific training and assistance to facilitate quality improvements in identified early learning centers across all counties.

# Overview of CSP: Structure and Timeline

2012-2013

2013-2014

2014-2015

**RFA 1**

Current PoP  
Counties

Add New CSP Sites

Support for all CSP Sites

**RFA 2**

Current PoP & Non  
PoP Counties

CSP Promise sites continue improvement plans

**RFA 3**

New counties with sites that meet/exceed CSP  
Baseline Criteria apply for Quality Enhancement of  
PoP 2013.

## Early Education Effectiveness Exchange

- Readiness Assessment and Planning Support
- Training, TA and Improvement
- Policy and Promotion

## Evaluation

- Local Evaluation
- Statewide Evaluation

# Program Description



# Readiness Assessment and Quality Improvement

## RFA 2 Primary Objective:

- The main objective of RFA2 is to support participating sites to meet CSP Baseline Criteria and to prepare to further enhance quality

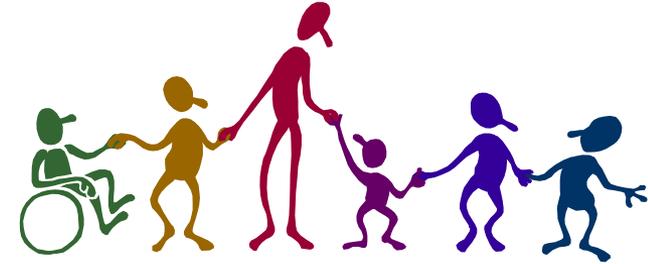
## RFA 2 is:

- Open to all 58 counties
- Provides assistance to counties to assess non-PoP centers and classrooms in readiness assessment content areas
- Provides assistance to fund an **Early Learning Systems Specialist (ELSS)** to coordinate and support readiness assessment and quality improvement activities



# Integrated into the Design: F5 CA Principles on Equity

- Four major areas:
  - Inclusive governance and participation
  - Access to Services
  - Legislative and Regulatory Mandates
  - Results-based Accountability
- Ensure children from diverse populations and those with special needs are integrated into the planning and implementation of programs



# Eligible Applicants



## First 5 County Commissions

- Non-PoP Counties
- PoP Counties
- Participation by a Consortium
  - Single Lead Agency as the applicant

## Counties can select any of the following for participation

- Multi-classroom centers
- One or more classrooms within a center
- Family Child Care Homes

*(Note, if FCCH are selected, they must meet or exceed CSP Baseline Criteria and Teacher/Provider Qualifications, and be supported by the County\*)*



# Target Population



- Children 0-5 yrs from ES attendance areas with  $API \leq 3$  ( $\leq 5$  if county has no ES with  $API \leq 3$ )
- Infants/toddlers (age 0-3) meeting CDE income eligibility (Attachment F)
- High priority areas defined by Needs Assessment of Local Child Care and Development Planning Council
- Dual language learners (DLL)
- Special needs children
- Children of migrant workers

# Desired Outcomes

- **Complete Readiness Assessment**
  - Collect and report baseline data on current status of quality in selected centers and classrooms
- **Develop Quality Improvement Plans**
  - Identify content areas for improvement and detail strategies for improving quality in those areas
  - Identify CSP Candidates and ongoing CSP Promise sites
- **Quality Improvement Activities**
  - Participate in training and technical assistance offered through E4
  - Monitor progress toward improvement goals

# Considerations for Selecting Centers & Classrooms

## Selecting number of centers/classrooms:

- What can you do with 1-2 ELSS?
- Are there other resources in the County that can support classrooms?



## Selecting types of centers/classrooms:

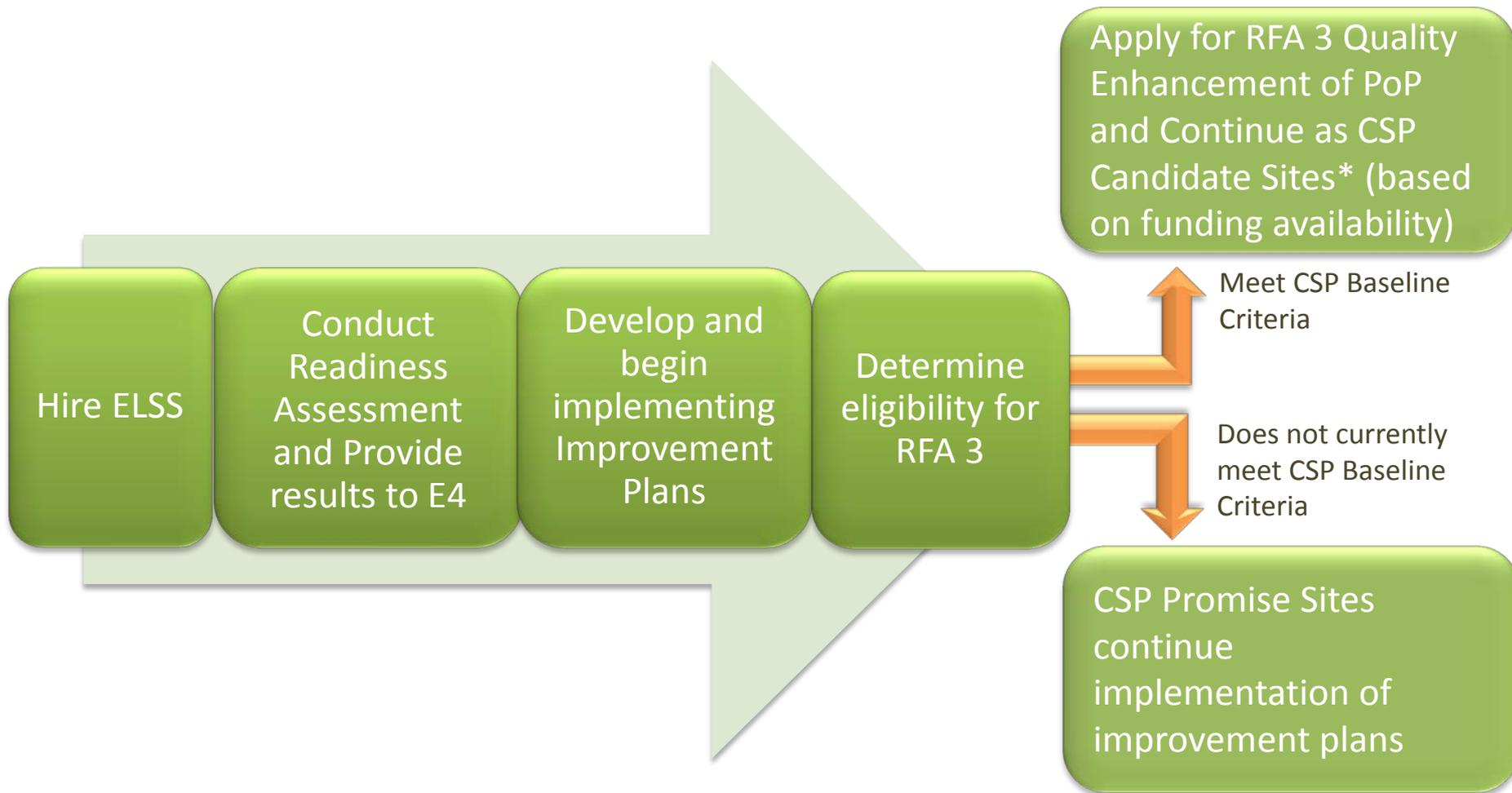
- What are your County's goals in selecting centers/classrooms that would qualify for RFA #3 and beyond
- What partnerships do you have with centers, local education agencies, or other community partners who can assist with gathering information on quality for these non-PoP centers & classrooms?

# Value of Participating in RFA #2

- Leveraging opportunities
  - Support meeting overlapping Race to the Top requirements
  - Build on other County-level quality enhancement activities
- Technical assistance from the E4
- Expertise and coaching from ELSS
- Positioning for funding opportunities in 2015 and beyond
- Learning Community for “knowledge” sharing and accelerated learning



# Phases of the Readiness Assessment And Quality Improvement



**JULY 2012 – DEC 2012**

**JAN / FEB –2013**

**FEB 2013 – JUNE 2015**

# Preparing for the Readiness Assessment

- County Prepares for Readiness Assessment
  - Hire qualified ELSS to work with center(s) & classrooms to conduct readiness assessment
  - Partner with centers, local education agencies, or other community partners to:
    - Establish relationships with centers & classrooms
    - Assist with gathering information on quality for these non-PoP centers & classrooms
  - Support improvement activities and future quality enhancement
    - Work with ELSS to make strategic decisions about improvement priorities
    - Plan for CSP Promise and Candidate sites



# Early Learning Systems Specialist



## The Early Learning Systems Specialist (ELSS)

- Supports the completion of the readiness assessment
- Helps develop county-wide and individual center and/or classroom improvement plans
- Acts as a **broker/coordinator** to support county, centers and classrooms with improvement activities, technical assistance, and training in preparation for the next CSP release
- Participates in ECE policy development and dialogue at local and state levels

# Early Education Effectiveness Exchange E4



- Provides training, technical assistance, shared learning and improvement activities for RFA 1, RFA 2, and RFA 3 participants
- Conducts at least one annual in-person meeting for essential staff
- Provides readiness assessment support and planning for Quality Enhancement of PoP **AND** critical resources and knowledge exchange for all
- Coordinates/facilitates the Learning Community
- Supports Policy and Promotion
  - Collaborates with EDs and Commissions Chairs to develop strategies for sustaining high quality ECE programs





# Preview of Readiness Assessment (RA)

## Content Areas (See Attachment G)

- CSP Baseline Criteria
- Leadership and Governance
- Infrastructure
- Classroom Instruction
- Social-Emotional Development
- Parent Involvement & Support
- Infants and Toddlers

*Content areas → Features → Guiding Questions*

## Additional Resources

- Readiness Assessment Roadmap
- Readiness Assessment Technical Assistance Guide



# Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs)

- Collaborative process for developing format of QIPs with E4 and county input
  - QIPs are approved by First 5 CA or its designee
- Support for development and implementation of QIPs provided by:
  - ELSS
  - Early Education Effectiveness Exchange (E4)
- Counties, in collaboration with participating centers and classroom will be responsible for
  - Developing and beginning implementation of QIPs by January 2013
  - Updating QIPs on a quarterly basis
  - Monitoring QIPs for achievement & progress toward objectives



# Evaluation and Accountability



# Data Collection and Evaluation

Evaluation  
Focus  
2012-2013

- Completion of Readiness Assessment
- Development of Improvement Plan
- Process Evaluation that Reviews
  - Participation in T & TA
  - Local Impact and Improvement

Evaluation  
Focus  
2013-2015

- Revisions to Improvement Plans
- Process Evaluation that Reviews
  - Participation in T & TA
  - Local Impact and Improvement

# Data Reporting

- Will vary depending on readiness for RFA #3 (CSP RFA #3 Candidates vs. CSP Promise Sites)
- May include additional reporting commensurate with progress:
  - Environmental Rating Assessments
  - Individual Child Developmental Assessments

# Qualifying Criteria



# Qualifying Criteria: Program

- No fewer than 10 classrooms; no more than 30 classrooms per full-time ELSS
- *At least* one infant/toddler classroom AND one preschool classroom
- Only Non-PoP counties participating in RFA #2 are eligible for RFA #3 (existing PoP counties not eligible for RFA #3)
- Completed Readiness Assessment and Improvement Plans, along with progress reporting



# Qualifying Criteria: Staff & Participation

Staff

- Hire ELSS
- Complete online tobacco training

Participation

- Participate in Training & TA provided by E4
- Attend E4 on-site meeting

# Reporting & Funding



# Reporting

- **Readiness Assessment**
  - Conduct Readiness Assessment in Fall 2012
  - Provide results to E4 by Dec 2012
- **Improvement Plans**
  - Develop and begin implementation by Jan 2013
  - Progress monitoring and updating on quarterly basis
- **Semi-annual progress reports**



# Funding Allocation



## Annual Funding Allocation Amounts

Number of Classrooms	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30
Annual Funding Allocation	\$35,000	\$52,500	\$70,000	\$87,500	\$105,000

## Maximum 3 Year Funding Allocation Amounts ( July 2012 – June 2015)

Number of Classrooms	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30
3 Year Maximum Allocation	\$105,000	\$157,500	\$210,000	\$262,500	\$315,000

# What Does RFA 2 Fund?



- Tiered funding to support an Early Learning System Specialist
  - \$35K-105K annually for RFA #2 funding period
  - Funding can be used to
    - Support completion of readiness assessment
    - Support county development and implementation of improvement plans
- Opportunity for key staff to participate in the Early Education Effectiveness Exchange to facilitate completion of the Readiness Assessment
- Support for improvement, achieving CSP Baseline Criteria, and preparing to further enhance quality

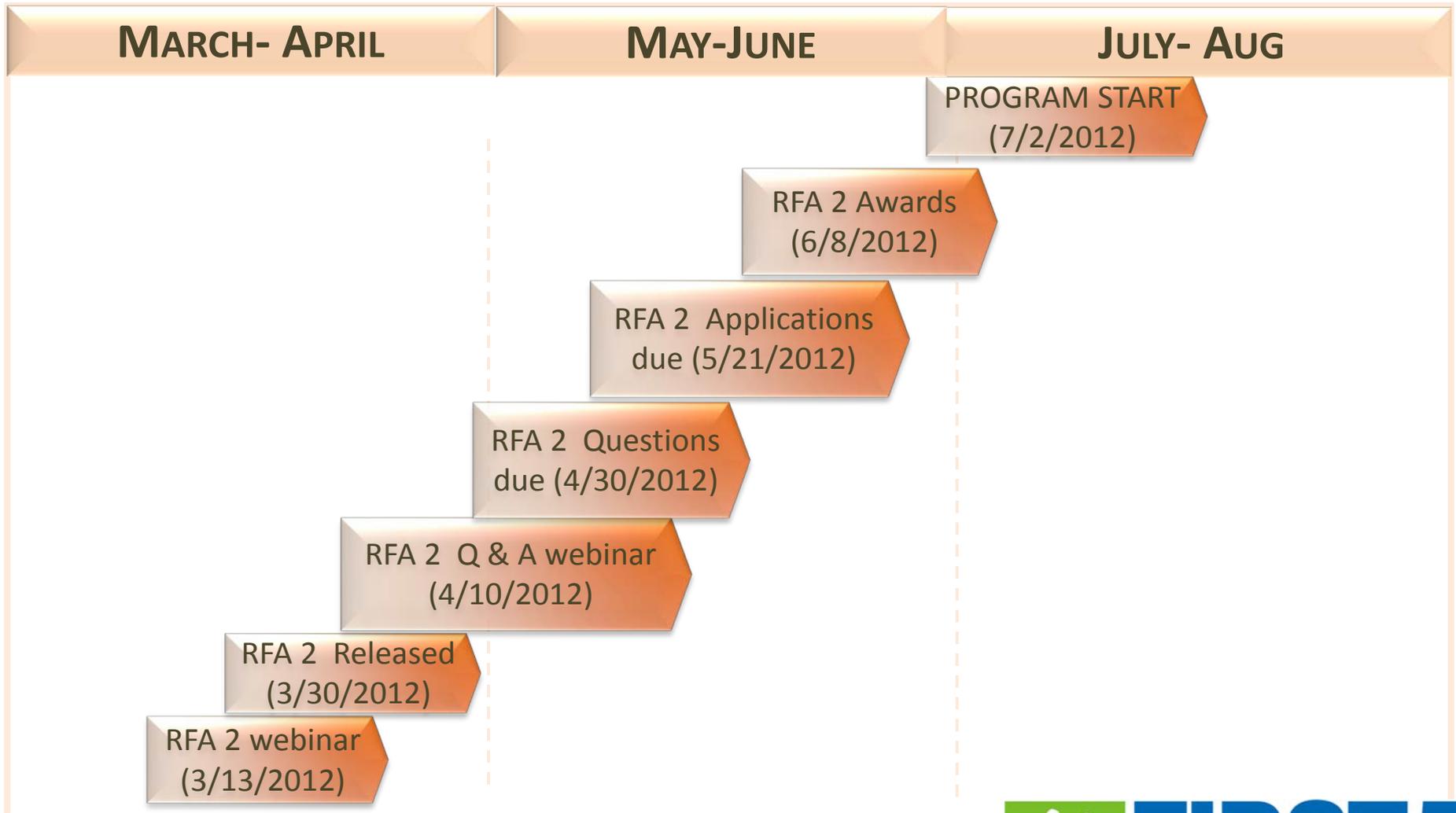


# How to Apply for Funding



- Application components
- Funding forms

# Next Steps Timeline FY 2012-'13



# Questions?

