

## Environment Rating Scales Hub Anchor Certification Policy in First 5 IMPACT

This policy is intended to help First 5 California (F5CA) ensure every Regional Coordination, and Training and Technical Assistance Hub (Hub) has a sufficient number of Environment Rating Scales (ERS) Anchors to certify assessors in their region.

The following graphic and role descriptions are from the Race to the Top–Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) Consortia Implementation Guide (available at [http://www.cfc.ca.gov/programs/impact/impact\\_gris.html](http://www.cfc.ca.gov/programs/impact/impact_gris.html)) and also are used in First 5 IMPACT. As F5CA moves to a Hub approach to address regional efficiencies, we hope Hubs will hire, designate, or coordinate full-time Anchors to meet the region’s needs.

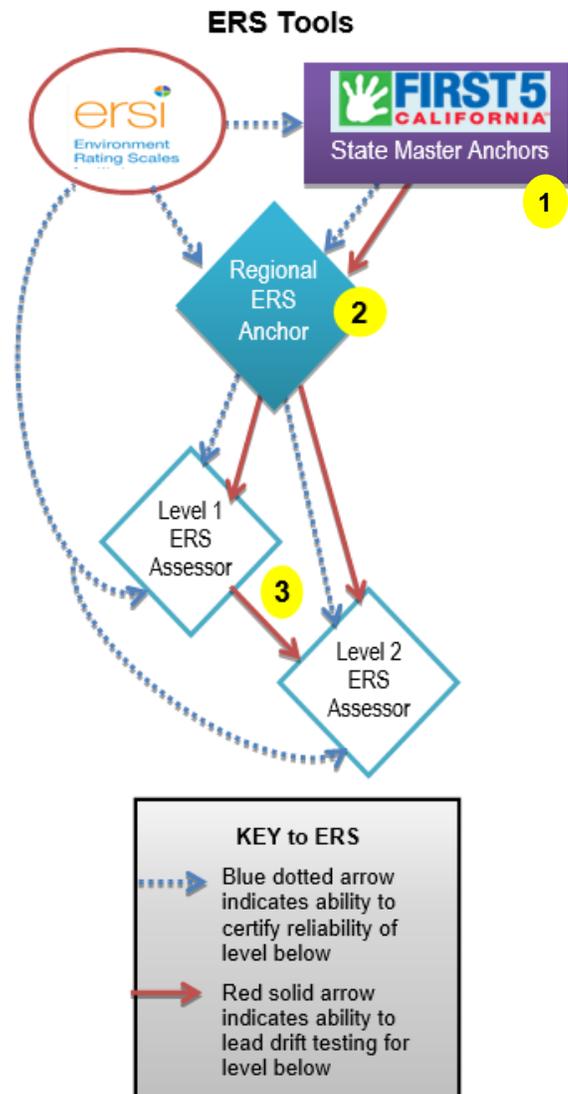
### Roles in the California Quality Rating and Improvement System (CA-QRIS) Assessor Management System

#### 1. First 5 California Master Anchors (F5CA MA):

- Receive certification from the Environment Rating Scales Institute (ERSI) (at least 90% reliability)
- Carry out the following duties:
  - Certify/recertify regional ERS Anchors
  - Support Regional ERS Anchors to carry out the duty of training, certification, and drift testing
  - Manage the development and dissemination of resources

#### 2. Hub (Regional) ERS Anchors:

- Receive certification from a F5CA MA (at least 90% reliability)
- Are hired or assigned this role by consortia or the Hub
- May carry out the following duties:
  - Certify/recertify regional or local level one (90% reliability) or level 2 (85% reliability) assessors
  - Other duties as assigned by the Hub or consortia (e.g., review of assessors’ reports, training, coordination of drift testing, carry out assessments)



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### 3. ERS Assessors:

- Receive certification from a Regional ERS Anchor or F5CA MA (90% = level 1; 85% = level 2)
- May conduct assessments and carry out other duties as assigned by Hub or consortia

Note: F5CA encourages consortia to be responsible stewards of public funds by using the approved, no-cost option of certifying Anchors and assessors through F5CA MAs. However, Hub ERS Anchors and ERS assessors also may be certified by ERSI.

### Arranging a F5CA MA Anchor Certification Visit

The purpose of F5CA MA certification visit is to certify reliability of participants who are knowledgeable about the ERS tool and who would like to act as an “expert” for their region. The F5CA MA certification visit is not a training. The initial certification process for each ERS tool requires a minimum of five consecutive days of dedicated time by each participant and participants should be prepared to demonstrate assessment reliability with the F5CA MA. We urge agencies to impress upon their participant(s) the need to prepare for certification.

Please follow these guidelines when making a request for a F5CA MA ERS certification visit:

1. The request must come from a First 5 IMPACT Hub Fiscal Lead Agency of a CA-QRIS Consortia Lead Agency (e.g., Lead Agency for First 5 IMPACT, RTT-ELC, or CSPP or Infant/Toddler QRIS Block Grant) making the request on behalf of the Hub region (see attached Hub regions, page 4).
2. If the Lead Agency making the request is in a multi-county region, F5CA requests participants come from two or three different consortia.
3. The maximum group size for the Family Child Care Rating Scales (FCCERS) is two participants, and the maximum group size for the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales (ECERS) and Infant-Toddler Environment Rating Scales (ITERS) is three participants.
4. Please send your request to [Training&CQI@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:Training&CQI@ccfc.ca.gov) and designate a point person to assist with arrangements. This individual will be responsible for working with the F5CA MA and the other participating consortia to set up the site visits and ensure training participants receive relevant information.
5. Depending on the size of the region and proximity of participating counties, the certification visits may take place in more than one county. The assigned F5CA MA will work with the designee on these arrangements.

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6. F5CA MAs do not certify or recertify reliability of independent contractors who conduct assessments or provide anchoring services for a fee. Contractors must certify/recertify Anchor status through ERSI.
7. If possible, please request certification of new participants and recertification of existing Anchors to be conducted in separate visits.
8. Participants who achieve a minimum of 85% reliability with the F5CA MA will receive a certificate showing their reliability score and date within ten business days following the certification week. A participant who achieves 90% reliability will receive a certificate and is eligible to become a consortia or regional Anchor.
9. F5CA does not designate the title of regional Anchor to individuals whose reliability they certify. It is the responsibility of consortia or the Hub to designate this role to individuals who are certified reliable at or above 90% with the F5CA MA.
10. F5CA MAs require 6–8 weeks of advance notice to schedule a visit for new ERS certification and will prioritize requests from Hub regions with no existing Anchor on the requested tool. Where regional capacity exists, F5CA MAs may refer a consortium with Anchor/assessor certification needs to another consortium in their Hub region for assistance.

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If you have questions about this policy or the regional Hub map, please send an e-mail to [Training&CQI@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:Training&CQI@ccfc.ca.gov) or [F5IMPACT@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:F5IMPACT@ccfc.ca.gov).