



**EVERY CHILD COUNTS COMMUNITY GRANTS INITIATIVE 2003-05
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) FROM 2/19/03 PARTNERSHIP GRANTS WORKSHOP**

1. When will programs be assessed for fiscal leveraging capacity?

We expect to meet with each grant recipient during the first quarter of the grant term. We will assess whether your agency and the activities you are conducting are eligible.

2. Do you anticipate receiving any "gray" area applications where once it has been received, you may find that it belongs under a different priority area?

The purpose of the Letter of Intent (LOI) is not only to find out who intends to apply for a Partnership Grant but to also assess early on if the requested program is appropriate for the Partnership funding priority. We hope that by providing extensive technical assistance on the front-end of the application process with very specific write-ups of each of the partnership grants areas that applicants will successfully determine which funding priority will be most appropriate for their program.

3. For the neighborhood-based school readiness partnership grant, is it acceptable to focus on a specific population (e.g. homeless, immigrants) and provide services in several areas of Alameda County rather than in a particular geographic area?

No. Consistent with the literature on "best practices," we are looking for neighborhood-based projects, ones that are concentrated in specific geographic neighborhoods or communities. You may focus your service on any neighborhood in Alameda County. We are expecting to fund approximately 2 school readiness partnership grants in each Partnership group with service delivery sites in South Hayward and East Oakland.

4. What type of partnerships you want to see formed?

"Partnership Grants" is the name of the funding priority. "Partnership Grants" refers to the working relationship a grantee in this program will have with ECC staff, including extensive technical assistance and training, and a deeper level of working with other grantees in the program.

5. Do you have to partner with other agencies to apply for a Partnership Grant?

It is a priority for ECC to promote service integration and collaboration. You may form partnerships or collaborations with other agencies, but it is not required in order to apply for the Partnership Grant funding area. We are not looking for a specific configuration of partnerships to be formed by your agency for the purpose of the grant.

6. When will the discussion of tracking common outcomes take place? Do we need to do this before we submit the application?

No, after you have been funded, ECC Grants and Evaluation staff will meet with grantees as a group to discuss tracking common outcomes. Our goal is to tie the outcomes of partnership grantees more closely to the ECC accountability matrix so we are better able to identify and compare outcomes across the different services we are funding?

7. Can you have a neighborhood-based program targeting more than one neighborhood?

Yes, if the organization has the capacity to do so successfully using best practices.

8. How extensive is the training requirement?

Refer to each of the program write-ups for information on the training requirement (page 22-25). Please note that you should describe in the Supplemental Narrative your agency's capacity to address staffing and start-up issues during the initial weeks of the grant term, when training will occur.

9. If the direct service staff person's supervisor participates in the training and technical assistance requirement, how can their salary be covered?

If the staff person who is participating is not the staff person whose position is being paid for by the grant, we cannot directly cover their personnel costs due to the prohibition against supplantation. But the funds in the administrative overhead line item can be used to at least partially cover these personnel costs. We allow you to allocate up to 10% of the grant request to administrative and overhead costs.

10. Are you expecting the same staff person to participate in the trainings or is it acceptable to rotate different staff members?

The purpose of the training is to provide information that is incorporated into each agencies' practices, and to build relationships and leadership between the participating agencies and ECC. The people involved in the training should have the ability to ensure that this happens. We are comfortable with up to three people in the training rotation but would prefer that one person participate on a consistent basis.

11. When do you anticipate the training component to begin?

Our hope is to begin the training component immediately after the grant term begins in July 2003.

12. How will ECC respond to an LOI that does not describe the type of activities that you are looking for?

If we think that it is absolutely impossible to conduct the activities you have proposed under the partnership grants area, we will call you and give you the option to change your funding request to a grants area where your proposal will be more competitive.

13. When reviewing proposals, will the review panel be looking to put together a group of agencies that they want to see work together or will each proposal be reviewed on its own merits?

Both factors are important. The community-based review panel will assess each proposal based on its own merits but it will also be mindful of the need to put together a group of agencies that will be able to work well together and learn from one another. In addition the review panel will seek a mix of grants serving the target areas of East Oakland, South Hayward and other areas of Alameda County.

14. Does the strategy of early identification and referral include mental health consultations done at pre-school sites?

Yes.

15. For current grantees, is there an opportunity to receive feedback on the midterm report?

Yes, time permitting, Christine Hom or Jane Wellenkamp are available to give feedback. Please call as soon as possible if you want this feedback.

16. In regard to the mental health grants, are you looking for a neighborhood-based focus or can the services be offered in a certain part of the county (e.g. South County)?

Because mental health consultation is site specific, you could have services in different locations as long as you can demonstrate knowledge of and expertise in working with those sites. Note: This seems to imply that they must have prior expertise working with particular centers. They can add new sites they've never worked with before, as long as they are knowledgeable about the populations being served at the sites?

17. Can an agency be a partner in one project and apply as a lead agency in another grant?

Yes. However, you cannot, be a lead agency on two different grant applications.
