

Family Services 11-04

	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Is Nurturing Parent the ONLY curriculum that is going to be taught/accepted in this RFP? Is it safe to assume that an agency not proposing to use Nurturing Parenting but using an evidence/research-based curriculum will not be funded?	Nurturing Parenting curriculums are the ONLY ones that will be funded for parent education programs through RFP 11-04 Family Services.
2	If it is Nurturing Parent, does that include, Nurturing Teen, Nurturing Father, and the other Nurturing Parent programs?	As stated on pg. 2 of Exhibit A for RFP 11-04 Family Services, "Programs may target specific age groups, cultures and needs utilizing the Nurturing Parenting curriculum". The Nurturing Parent Curriculum includes Nurturing Teen, Nurturing Father and many others.
3	If we are currently a Parenting Education and Resource Center can we write both of those programs into one proposal?	No. Proposers submitting multiple proposals must submit one (1) proposal package for each Program Focus/Service Delivery Approach as outlined under the Funding Requirements and Expectations in Exhibit A to this RFP (pg. 33).
4	If we only wanted to do Parenting Education, do we have to have a resource center as well?	No. Parent Education programs do not have to have a resource center but a requirement for parent education is that programs must demonstrate a collaborative relationship with resource centers to meet ongoing family needs.
5	On the staff qualifications it states on page 2 of 5 exhibit A "programs proposing to utilize facilitators possessing a Masters Degree in Social Work, or closely related field" Does that mean that all facilitators must have a Masters Degree?	No. Funding requirements and expectations for facilitators is that they must be certified in Nurturing Parenting, possess a Bachelor's degree and have experience in group facilitation. Programs proposing to utilize facilitators with Masters degrees in Social Work or a closely related field will be given priority consideration for this funding.
6	For a Resource Center, do we have to do Case Management to receive funding for a Resource Center?	Yes. Case Management must be based within a Resource Center and Resource Centers must include a model of structured case management as outlined in Exhibit A (pgs. 3-5).
7	If yes, does that Case manager have to have a Bachelors degree? Does work experience count towards anything?	The funding requirements and expectations for Case Management includes that Case Managers must possess at minimum a Bachelor's degree and have experience in case management. Work experience cannot substitute for the Bachelor's degree requirement.
8	Does the LSP count for a model of structured case management as referred to on page 3 of 5 in Exhibit A?	The Life Skills Progression (LSP) is not a model of structured case management. The LSP is a measurement tool that is required within the Case Management component and is used to measure case management outcomes.
9	The RFP for Family Services states that an agency must use one of the Nurturing	Other Agencies <u>are</u> utilizing the Nurturing Parents models within the County of San Bernardino.

	Parenting Program models. We are unfamiliar with this program and would like to know if any other agency in the county is currently using any of the models.	
10	On Exhibit A, page 2 under Funding Requirements and Expectations, it states, "Must provide structured licensed child care during parenting education classes." Does this indicate that all parenting education classes MUST offer childcare (and it must be licensed) or does this mean that IF we choose to offer child care, it needs to be licensed?	<p>The goal of the Commission is to raise the level of outcomes whenever children are gathered for a First 5 funded activity. It is the expectation of the Commission that structured child care will be provided during activities such as parenting education. The child care provider must be licensed, not the facility. All parent education programs MUST offer structured child care during parenting education classes. Child care workers must possess at minimum an Associate Teacher credential and follow the requirements of adult/child ratios. Assistant teachers can assist an Associate Teacher in this setting to ensure adherence to adult/child ratios.</p> <p>Certified Nurturing Parenting facilitators will deliver program services according to curriculum to participating children.</p>
11	Please define "Licensed Child Care Provider".	The teacher providing care must have 12 units of early education and possess a Child Development Associate Teacher permit.
12	If your organization is considered license-exempt, do you still qualify.	The qualification for structured child-care is in reference to the person providing the care, not the organization.
13	If I want to provide a make up class to an individual do I need to provide licensed child care?	Make-up classes are allowable only in group settings. This is a requirement by First 5 in order to control costs.
14	If the child is at school at the time the participant is taking the class, do we still need to provide child care.	No you would not need to provide child-care in that situation.
15	If the child is at a licensed child-care facility, would I need to provide child-care	No, you would not need to provide child-care in that situation.
16	As a mobile program using child-development major interns, do we have to provide licensed child-care	As long as the intern has 12 units or early childhood education and possess an associate teacher permit, they are able to provide child-care.
17	Will First 5 consider (on a case by case basis) equivalent requirements such as proven success under First 5 awards, including training and experience in lieu of the advanced degree requirement for Case Managers and Supervisors?	There are no exceptions to the advance degree requirements of Case Managers and Supervisors including training, experience and past performance.
18	Does First 5 hope to fund awards in traditionally underserved areas and will First 5 take into consideration the historic level and types of	Yes, First 5 is looking to fund awards to organizations serving populations in underserved areas throughout the County with such approaches as the Resource

	need in those areas?	Center and Case Management and the Parenting Education initiatives.
19	Can we get a clear definition of allowable incentives?	Allowable incentives are those approved with the budget proposal, and given to participants upon successful completion of the program and in relation to the program objectives. Gift cards and vouchers will not be reimbursed for by First 5 San Bernardino.
20	Will incentives be dependent upon participation in substance abuse, mental health and child abuse programs? If so, is the assumption that the typical First 5 client will be adjudicated either through criminal or CFS court or that the client will have a mental health diagnosis or diagnosable condition?	Allowable incentives are those approved with the budget proposal, and given to participants upon successful completion of the program and in relation to the program objectives. There is no dependency based upon participation in substance abuse, mental health and/or child abuse programs no expectations of adjudication, etc., as First 5 is not funding those programs/services under this RFP.
21	The indications of this proposal are that First 5 San Bernardino is looking for a clinical model of resource center. Is there any statistical data for San Bernardino County that supports that families experiencing financial hardship, (especially in this economy) have substance abuse or mental health as core issues and if so will you please post that reference page?	First 5 San Bernardino is committed to supporting families through Resource Center and Case Management services to improve stability for children 0-5 by helping their parents/caregivers achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Priority will be given to agencies that coordinate, collaborate and demonstrate high-level service delivery related to mental health and substance abuse. Statistical data supporting that families experiencing financial hardship have substance abuse or mental health as core issues were not referenced in the RFP nor do we have data to post.
22	Does First 5 have evidence or statistics reflecting that a clinical model will produce more positive outcomes for families who do not have those issues or who are not ready to deal with them than a social model would achieve?	Evidence or statistics indicating that a clinical model will produce more positive outcomes than a social model were not referenced in this RFP.
23	We were told that First 5 San Bernardino will not approve rental or utility assistance as incentives because other programs are providing them. Those programs named were (1) HPRP. HPRP funding will NOT be renewed and is slated to end no later than September 2012. (2) TAD homeless assistance. The homeless assistance is a "once in a lifetime" provision. Historically, in our program, more than 80% of our clients have already accessed this service and are therefore ineligible to re-apply. (3) Catholic Charities. Our agency is co-located with Catholic Charities. They have limited money allocated for this service and provide assistance approximately 3-5 months out of the year. That being said, will First 5 San Bernardino consider rental or utility assistance	Rental assistance and utility assistance would not be considered an incentive but a provision of emergency assistance which agencies are expected to address through referral and linkage to community resources specializing in those services.

	when no other resource is available?	
24	In that same line, the funding for mental health family stability comes from DBH MHSA, PSSF and CAPIT. Will proven linkage to these services make more fiscal sense than duplication? (i.e. anger management, co-parenting, child abuser parenting, therapy and clinical support. These services can also sometimes be accessed through Victim Services, Probation and Cal-works.	Funded agencies will be expected to identify and develop resources and connect family members with needed and available local resources. First 5 Commission is not funding mental health services or substance abuse services in this RFP outside of 11-02 Health Services under Perinatal Services.
25	Similarly, substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services are provided and funded through DBH, MHSA, CAPIT, PSSF, Probation and First 5 San Bernardino funding through SART and SELPA. Will proven linkages to existing providers make more fiscal sense than duplication of provision?	Funded agencies will be expected to identify and develop resources and connect family members with needed and available local resources.
26	With the new 48-month maximum for CalWORKs eligibility, (12 month reduction) many families are experiencing major crisis. Proven programs of case management and appropriate referral and linkage, including focus on job readiness would seem paramount to successful outcomes for clients. Will First 5 San Bernardino continue to assist families with basic needs (i.e. housing, food, clothing etc.) that are vital to achieving stable and healthy environments for children and families?	Agencies are expected to address basic needs through referral and linkage to community resources specializing in the provision of basic needs.
27	In the previous application process, the strategies for 'Resources Center' and 'Parenting Education' required two separate applications? Is that the case for the current request?	Proposers must submit separate proposals for resource center and parenting education initiatives.
28	Research on the parenting curriculum Nurturing Parents shows that its focus is on families with children 6-12. What is the reasoning for this curriculum being chosen? Can we ONLY use this curriculum, or can we supplement with other types of curriculum as well?	The Nurturing Parenting program has several curricula appropriate for use with families of children 0 to 5. The curriculum was chosen because of its focus on reducing child abuse and neglect and its effective evaluation framework. Funded agencies can only use the Nurturing Parenting curriculum and the curriculum cannot be supplemented by other curricula.
29	Will training be provided by First 5 in the curriculum? Will the agency need to budget for it?	Training will not be provided in the curriculum by First 5 in preparation for the proposal or to launch the program.
30	For the 'Ages and Stages' Questionnaire, do we use the Parent-as-Teacher curriculum?	The Ages and Stages questionnaire is a required tool for the Resource center and case management initiative. Parent-as-Teacher is a literacy program connected to the Home Visitation initiative under the

		Education RFP (RFP 11-03)
31	If an agency is partnered with a school and provides class during school hours, will the licensed child care component be a requirement? What if the training is being provided at a community center that is not licensed?	The licensing must be attached to the person providing the care and not the facility. As long as the person providing the care meets the minimum requirements in the RFP it is allowed.
32	For Resource Center, Exhibit A (page 3 of 5), the ASQ/ASQ-SE screening is identified as a required component. What type of training will be provided by First 5 to complete the screening? What is the cost of the training? Materials?	First 5 will provide training on the ASQ/ASQ-SE tools once contracts have been awarded. The costs associated with the materials can be found on the ASQ website: www.agesandstages.com
33	Does the Mental Health component fall under the 'Resource Services' for this RFP?	There is no mental health component in this RFP. <u>Priority</u> will be given to agencies that coordinate, collaborate and demonstrate high-level service delivery related to mental health and substance abuse under the resource center initiative.
34	Under case management, will basic needs to allow to be offered to the families? As a one-time services or on-going throughout case management?	Basic needs can be offered on a one time basis to families in crisis but the expectation is that these needs would be addressed through linkage and referral to organizations specializing in the provision of basic needs.
35	If food vouchers are being provided as basic needs, what type of information does First 5 require as documentation? Proof of submission to a family?	First 5 will not reimburse for food vouchers.
36	Under parenting (Exhibit A) "Structured Licensed Child Care" is to be provided during the parenting classes; what curriculum? Is this something First 5 is looking to fund as well? What if the children are in school; is it necessary?	Child-care requires structure, by a licensed professional, not a curriculum. If children are in school during the class, child care is not necessary.
	In leveraging funding, are interns acceptable? If so, and a stipend is provided, what is viewed as appropriate? Will First 5 cover the cost of TB and DOJ clearances for interns?	Interns are acceptable to use but agencies would not be reimbursed for a stipend. First 5 will reimburse for DOJ and TB clearance after the contract start date.
38	Are we required to have multiple sites?	No but proposals would have to demonstrate how a large region would be served from a single site.
39	We go to multiple locations like community centers, churches, schools and other sites? Are you considering those as sites?	Community centers, churches, and schools would be considered sites

40	Are meals (Foods and Snacks) provided during each session of our classes considered incentives?	No, meals are not considered incentives, they are program supplies.
41	Will the power point slides be shared? Is so, how?	Yes, the power point slides will be shared via email from the sign-in sheet. The Q&A will be posted to First 5 website.
42	Is it appropriate to use the licensed child care (drop children off) and take parents to class?	Yes, however the individual providing this care to children must meet the minimum requirements to provide child care.
43	Is the 3 years' experience requirement related to the agency submitting the proposal? Or is the 3 years' experience requirement related to the curriculum being taught? Or is the 3 years' experience requirement related be substituted for BA	The agency must have three years' experience providing like services, not necessarily the Nurturing Parenting curriculum. The 3 years' experience will not substitute for a degree.
44	With Nurturing Parents classes, What is the focus? What are the minimum requirements? What is the Curriculum?	A proposer must conduct a minimum of 12 sessions that are 2.5 to 3 hour in length per session. There are many curricula under Nurturing Parenting available and appropriate for the 0-5 population. The general focus of the program is to reduce child abuse and neglect.
45	What incentives will be reimbursed?	Allowable incentives are those approved with the budget proposal, and given to participants upon successful completion of the program and in relation to the program objectives. We will reimburse incentives (deemed appropriate) that are provided at completion of class. Gift cards, vouchers will not be reimbursed by First 5.
46	For licensed child care, does a supervisor need to be present?	The child care provider must meet the minimum requirements as an Associate Teacher. Any assistance to meet the adult/child ratios must also meet standards as outlined in the requirements. A supervisor is not required to meet the minimum requirement.
47	If we have a full-time Program Manager, how many hours of the week does a Supervisor need to be on site?	It is up to the agency to determine the amount of time that is appropriate and to distinguish between the roles. A supervisor would need to be present in order to supervise.
48	Can the weekly 2.5 - 3.0 hour parenting groups be split up into 2 groups for a total of 3.0 hours per week?	You can propose it but we would be concerned with the integrity of the curriculum under that model which is required to be 2 ½ to 3 hours long once a week.
49	To meet the child care requirement can we contract with a Licensed Day Care Center to drop children off while the parents are in group?	As long as the individual providing the child care meets the minimum requirements.
50	What if the site for the Parenting Education is a school setting during the school day, can the	No, sessions are required to be 2 ½ to 3 hours long once a week per the curriculum design.

	sessions be 50 minutes long instead of 2 ½ to 3 hours.	
51	Substance abuse counselors –CASII level do not require a BA degree. Is this certification equivalent to provide services in an Family Resource Center?	In order to provide case management services at a Resource Center the staff member must have a BA degree.
52	Regarding page 15 and verification tools what is meant by “must be approved by the Commission.	When specified by the Commission verification tools must be developed in collaboration with staff or agencies as designed by the Commission.

	Question	Answer
53	In the RFP under Exhibit A -Parent Education: Program Focus in one of the bullets it states that the Facilitators must be Certified in Nurturing Parents, we have always utilized the Nurturing Parents Curriculum in our logic model but they do not certify persons as Facilitators what they do is give Certificates of Completion for a 3 day training Program that they host. Is this what is being referred to in the statement of the Exhibit A? If this 3 day training Certificate is what is being addressed, there will be no classes in the State of California until 2012. Is this certificate a requirement for submission of the proposal or for implementation of the program by July 1, 2012?	<p>Family Services Exhibit A- Parent Education (pg 2) states the requirement that facilitators must be certified in Nurturing Parenting from that organization Certification is obtained via a 3 – 4 day workshop that teaches the philosophy of nurturing parenting and how to implement and facilitate the Nurturing Parenting Programs.</p> <p>Workshops to obtain Nurturing Parent Certification are or will be available throughout the State in the next few months.</p> <p>The actual Nurturing Parenting certification will not be required to submit a proposal; however proposal should include information about how and when the certification will be completed. Actual facilitator certification <u>must be obtained and proof provided</u> prior to a contract being presented to the Commission for approval.</p>
54	The Parenting Education Focus requires structured licensed child care provided during classes; would a license-exempt child care facility meet the requirement for structured licensed child care?	No. All parent education programs MUST offer structured child care during parenting education classes. Child care workers must be licensed and follow the requirements of adult/child ratios. License exempt qualification does not meet the standard for this population of children and cannot operate outside of the exempt providers licensed location.
55	The Parenting Education Focus requires utilizing the Nurturing Parents curriculum. Will First 5 assist in providing the training locally or will each agency need to independently plan/budget for travel and training expenses for this?	First 5 will not assist in providing training or reimbursement for training. Agencies must independently plan/budget for travel and training expenses. It is <u>not</u> permissible under any circumstance to charge costs associated with this preparation to current First 5 contracts.
56	Can children and families be treated under mental health service in a family resource center? Can this service be reimbursed by First 5	Because of the priority recommendation that a resource center address mental health and substance abuse issues through case management, it may be possible that reimbursement will occur for some mental health services provided they are connected to a case management service plan and First 5 is the payer of last resort, which is highly unlikely to occur and not

		funded by this RFP.
57	If a family has Medi-Cal and is referred to MHS for services, however, there is a waiting list and the family is experiencing a crisis. Could First 5 provide services with reimbursement?	Because there are Crisis response options provided throughout the county that accept Medi-Cal, we would not be the payer of last resort in this situation and would not reimburse. However First 5 will reimburse staff time necessary to link the client to that service.
58	What if parents are non-Medi-Cal but children are? Could services be provided and reimbursed by First 5	If the mental health service provided cannot be paid for by any other source and First 5 is the payer of last resort, then the service would be reimbursable.
59	Can mental health services be offered in family resource centers under other funding streams to meet the obligation of substance abuse and mental health services	The RFP lists a priority to agencies that address mental health and substance abuse issues, not necessarily provide treatment for those issues on site. However if your proposal states that you will address the needs through mental health and substance abuse services on site through other funding , it would meet the requirement we seek to give the proposal priority.
60	When Obama-Care is defeated, how will this affect the changes to Medi-Cal?	This is not a question related to the RFP.
61	If we are providing curriculum to the parents that does not include child-interaction, do we need to provide child-care.	It is a requirement in this RFP that, if you are providing Nurturing Parenting curricula, structured child care by a licensed provider must be made available to the participants.
62	For the children, if a program does not offer child-care but a structured intervention, does the intervention have to be using a Nurturing Parenting curriculum?	The Nurturing Parenting curriculum is the only one that will be funded. That includes the components that are to be used with children of participating families. Programs must offer structured child care. Structured Intervention is not a service approach in this RFP and will not be funded.
63	Would First 5 be willing to sponsor a First 5 training in San Bernardino as the next training is in February in Northern California?	There are steps being taken to bring training to the San Bernardino area in time to meet the certification requirements for this initiative.
64	Parenting Education: With Regard to sites for classes, what type of documentation do you need to verify the partnership to provide those classes on site?	Any documentation that shows that the site is willing to host the classes for your agency will suffice.
65	Please clarify that the cost for Nurturing Parenting will not be reimbursed for staff. What if new staff is brought on board? Will that be covered?	The costs of training staff in the Nurturing Parenting Curriculum in preparation for the proposal will not be reimbursed. Reimbursement for training in the curriculum will only be provided for those trained after the contract start date.
66	In leveraging funding, if interns (BA or MS) utilized to provide services with supervisor of a MA or licensed personnel would this be acceptable for case management/parenting services?	The minimum requirement to facilitate parenting classes is that the facilitators have a bachelor degree so an intern with that level of education would be acceptable. The same is true for a case manager. Please remember that parenting education and case management are two separate initiatives and require two separate proposals.
67	If a parent/Family is seeking therapeutic services under resource center and the center	Therapy is not case management but is a service that may be provided in a resource center that a case

	has a LMFT, would that be allowed under case management.	manager may refer to. First 5 Commission is not funding the LMFT position. If a proposer for resource center plans to offer that service it must be paid for by Medi-Cal, MHSA, DBH or other monies as First 5 is always the payer of last resort.
68	Which assessment tools will be required to administer for parenting ed. Aside from the Nurturing Parenting tools?	All selected organizations will receive training in any additional assessment and/or evaluation tools required.
69	Can a proposal be submitted in December with the promise to become certified in Nurturing Parenting curriculum before being awarded? Is there a deadline for certification?	Yes. Proposer should indicate the plan for obtaining the certification for the required number of staff. If awarded a contract, all certification in the curriculum must be obtained and proof provided by the day the contract is approved by the Children and Families Commission.
70	We do parent education but we have not used this model (Nurturing Parenting). Does all staff in our agency have to be trained in advance of our application or just part of us?	Proposer should indicate the plan for obtaining the necessary certification for the required number of staff. If awarded a contract, all certification in the curriculum must be obtained and proof provided by the day the contract is approved by the Children and Families Commission.
71	How many agencies are currently teaching nurturing parenting?	First 5 is unaware of the number of agencies currently teaching Nurturing Parenting.
72	Will not having a "Nurturing Parenting" curriculum upon submission of the proposal on December 16 th mean that the proposal will be rejected or is there a time frame that an agency can get certification before a specific deadline?	Proposer should indicate the plan for obtaining the necessary certification for the required number of staff. If awarded a contract, all certification in the curriculum must be obtained and proof provided by the day the contract is approved by the Children and Families Commission.
73	Under parenting education regarding "duration" of parenting education classes. The RFP indicates a 12-27 week setting. Does that mean that you will not fund the Nurturing Pre-Natal program that runs 9 weeks?	No, that means that in addition to offering the Nurturing Pre Natal program a proposer will have to consider additional supplemental Nurturing Parenting Programs to meet the 12-27 session criteria.
74	Does the parent education strategy include the ability of an organization to specialize its efforts on providing parenting education to families with special needs children? Will this be a strong approach?	Yes. Any form of Nurturing Parenting is a strong approach
75	We currently use 3 different nurturing parenting curriculums. We will be able to use multiple programs.	Yes. Programs may target specific age groups, cultures and needs utilizing the Nurturing Parenting curriculum.
76	What is/are the proposed region(s)/zip codes for priority service?	This RFP does not define a proposed region under family services. Proposers themselves must have a site in the region they are proposing to provide service.
77	Can the case management component of this RFP be a subcontracted service from one of the established Resource Centers?	Case Management must be conducted in a Resource Center and Resource Centers must include a model of structured case management.
78	Must all staff be full-time employees from the	It is not a requirement for staff to be full time at the

	initial program start date? Or can the staff/employee become full-time after the training is completed?	start of the program or after program implementation.
79	Can the case management component of this RFP be provided alone by a proposer?	Through this RFP, F5SB will support resource centers in targeted geographic locations to provide information, referral and linkage and case management.
80	Can an agency with an established administrative office in one area of the County establish a Resource Center in a priority area after the awarded contract?	Through this RFP, F5SB will support resource centers in targeted geographic locations to provide information, referral and linkage and case management.
81	Have you considered a "grandfather clause" for case managers currently employed who will not meet the minimum educational requirement for case-management?	First 5 has not considered a grandfather clause. The requirement is that case managers have a Bachelor degree.
82	Will there be restrictions on serving undocumented families	No, immigration status is not a criterion for First 5 services.
83	Is First 5 requiring licensed child care for every location of services?	The goal of the Commission is to raise the level of outcomes whenever children are gathered for a First 5 funded activity. It is the expectation of the Commission that structured child care will be provided during activities such as parenting education. The child care provider must be licensed, not the facility. The child care provider must possess at a minimum 12 units of early education and an Associate Teacher permit.