Questions & Answers

Theme 1: Training Hours, Time Commitment, and Participation Requirements:	
Questions	**Answers**
1. Training Hours/Staff Commitment The RFA references approximately 300 hours of participation and a three-member team consisting of an administrator/supervisor, frontline provider, and lived expert. Is the 300-hour requirement per team member (approximately 900 total agency person-hours), or is it 300 hours collectively across the three-member team?	The RFA requires **each team member**—administrator/supervisor, frontline provider, and lived expert—to individually complete approximately **300 hours** of learning collaborative participation. This is stated in the Introduction ("each Agency whose staff member participates for 300 hours") and in Project Requirements ("participants will complete approximately 300 hours of training"). Therefore, the requirement is **per participant**, totaling about **900 hours per agency**. (**RFA citations:** Introduction Section I, p.1; Project Requirements Section IV.B, p.6)
2. Attendance Requirements Are all three team members expected to attend every training, learning collaborative session, cross-system meeting, and convening, or may participation vary among the three representatives depending on the subject matter?	The RFA **does not require** all three team members to attend every session. It only requires each representative to complete the training curricula specified in the RFA. In addition, all three team members are expected to attend all project-related meetings and convenings. (**RFA citations:** Project Requirements Section IV.C, p.7)
3. What is the total expected time commitment for the three-person team, and how is the required 300 hours divided among the administrator or supervisor, frontline staff member, and lived-experience expert? This will help us assess staff capacity, workload, scheduling, and the feasibility of sustained participation across the project period.	The total expected time commitment for the three-person team is approximately **900 hours** (300 hours × 3). The RFA does **not** specify how the 300 hours must be divided among training types or roles; it only requires that each of the three designated participants complete approximately 300 hours over the 12-month project period. Agencies may allocate duties internally to meet this requirement. **(RFA citations:** Project Requirements Section IV.A, p.6)
4. Please confirm the approximately 300-hour commitment per participant, anticipated in-person attendance requirements, reimbursement caps, and whether the clinical director's time is reimbursable when the director is also an owner/officer.	The RFA confirms an approximate **300-hour requirement per participant**, but does **not specify** in-person attendance requirements, leaving participation modality flexible. Reimbursement is **based on completed training hours**, and certain costs (e.g., PAT affiliation fees, travel & mileage) are fully reimbursable. The RFA does **not prohibit** reimbursement for a clinical director who is also an owner/officer, provided costs are allowable, hours are completed, and conflict-of-interest requirements are met. **(RFA citations:** Introduction Section I, p.1; Fiscal Provisions Section X.C, p.26)
5. How would an applicant's existing ZERO TO THREE training credentials factor into the required learning collaborative participation?	It does not factor into the required learning collaborative participation. **(RFA citations**: Project Requirements Section IV p. 6-7)

Questions & Answers

6. Will those trained in the various components (listed on page 36-37) be directly delivering these modalities to parents/caregivers/families (for example: Parents as Teachers) or are they going to be trained as trainers for our organization?	The RFA does not specify who is responsible for delivering the service, and implementation may involve a combination of direct service provision and training, depending on curriculum fidelity requirements. (**RFA citations**: Attachment A – Application Narrative p. 36-37)

Theme 2: Stipend, Funding Amounts, Payment Structure, and Reimbursement:	
Questions	**Answers**
1. Stipend Amount What is the maximum funding/stipend amount available to each selected agency? Is there a predetermined maximum allocation per agency?	The RFA does not define a set stipend amount or maximum per-agency allocation; instead, it states that funding is participation-based and tied to completed training hours, and the only total funding reference is the overall **$1.6 million** project cost for curriculum, trainings, and participant supports, meaning stipends vary by agency based on actual hours completed. **(RFA citations:** Introduction Section I, p.1**)**
2. Calculation of Reimbursement The RFA states that funding is based on completed training hours and is intended to offset staff time. How will the reimbursement amount be calculated? Will agencies be reimbursed based on each participant's actual salary and benefit costs, a standardized hourly rate established by First 5 San Bernardino, or another methodology?	Reimbursement is calculated based on all hours dedicated to the project over the project timeline, including training, cross-system collaboration meetings, planning, and convenings. Agencies must calculate their own hourly wages, fringe, and cost-per-hour in Attachment B, indicating reimbursement aligns with the agency's documented and approved personnel cost structure rather than a uniform rate set by First 5 San Bernardino. **(RFA citations:** Payment Structure Section IV. D, p.7 and Amendment No. 1 p.1)
3. We understand funding follows completed training hours (participation-based). Could you confirm how the stipend allocation is calculated and whether it is paid to the agency or to individual team members?	The stipend is issued directly to the **agency**, not individual staff, because funding is structured as agency-level reimbursement for staff time and processed through the Commission's reimbursement payment system, which is described as offsetting staff costs rather than providing individual compensation. **(RFA citations:** Payment Structure Section IV. D, p.7 and Amendment No. 1 p.1; Fiscal Provision Section X.A, p.26)
4. Is there any cost share or match requirement for applicant agencies?	The RFA contains **no cost-share or match requirement** for applicant agencies, and no section references any expectation of agency financial contribution beyond normal reimbursement documentation and compliance. **(RFA citations:** Project Requirement Sections IV, No match requirement stated anywhere in RFA p.5-7)

Questions & Answers

5. What is the stipend amount provided to participating organizations, and how is it intended to offset staff time associated with participation? Understanding the funding structure will help us determine how much of the required staff participation is covered and whether additional program or organizational resources would be needed.	The stipend is intended to **offset staff time** required for training and learning collaborative participation, and it may also cover reimbursable costs such as PAT fees and travel; however, no language permits the use of stipend funds for operational or program expenses unrelated to required participation. **(RFA citations:** Project Requirement Sections Section IV.D – Payment Structure, Amendment No. 1 p. 1 and Attachment B p.2**)**
6. Funding Availability: What is the total amount of funding available through this initiative, and is there a set stipend amount or maximum award per participating agency?	The initiative's total estimated funding is **$1.6 million**, but no per-agency stipend amount or award maximum is established, as funding is tied wholly to participant hour completion and each agency's approved budget, resulting in variable award amounts by agency. **(RFA citations:** Introduction Section I, p.1**)**
7. Payment Structure: Is the stipend calculated based on completed training hours for the three participating team members, and are there specific payment milestones or other requirements agencies should be aware of?	Payments are tied directly to each participant's completed project hours, including training, cross-system collaboration meetings, planning, and convenings, and are processed through a reimbursement system, with the Commission able to withhold payment for incomplete, late, or inaccurate reporting. The RFA does not define additional payment milestones or schedules beyond standard reimbursement procedures. **(RFA citations:** Project Requirement Sections Section IV.D – Payment Structure, Amendment No. 1 p. 1)
8. Use of Funds: Is the stipend intended solely to offset staff time associated with the required training and learning collaborative, or can it also support other costs associated with participation?	Payments are tied directly to each participant's completed project hours, including training, cross-system collaboration meetings, planning, and convenings, and are processed through a reimbursement system, with the Commission able to withhold payment for incomplete, late, or inaccurate reporting. The RFA does not define additional payment milestones or schedules beyond standard reimbursement procedures. **(RFA citations:** Project Requirement Sections Section IV.D – Payment Structure, Amendment No. 1 p. 1)

Theme 3: Travel Costs and Participation Supports:	
Questions	**Answers**

Questions & Answers

1. Travel Costs For organizations serving geographically remote communities within San Bernardino County, are mileage, lodging, meals, or other travel expenses associated with required in-person trainings allowable/reimbursable expenses in addition to the staff-time stipend, or must these costs be absorbed within the agency's allocation?	Yes—travel expenses associated with required in-person participation are allowable and reimbursable. The RFA explicitly states that **travel and mileage for program-related participation are reimbursable**, subject to County policy restrictions. **(RFA citations**: Amendment No. 1 p. 1 and Amendment No. 1 Attachment B p.2**)**
2. How is the lived-experience expert expected to be compensated, and can funds support participation needs such as childcare, transportation, mileage, technology, accessibility accommodations, or other related costs? HSE-SB prioritizes meaningful community participation, and we want to ensure that a lived-experience representative can participate equitably without assuming an undue financial or logistical burden.	The RFA requires that each participating agency include a **lived-experience expert** as one of the three required team members and that funding is intended to "offset staff time costs" and reimburse participation-related expenses, with allowable reimbursements including travel and participation supports; while the RFA does not prescribe a specific compensation structure for lived-experience experts, it permits agencies to classify them as employees or independent contractors and includes notes on tax status for lived experts, indicating that stipend funds may be used to compensate them and support their participation needs. Thus, agencies may use reimbursable funds to cover participation-related costs such as transportation and mileage. This RFA will not reimburse childcare or technology. **(RFA citations**: Section IV.A – Minimum Applicant Agency Requirements, p.6; Amendment No. 1 p. 1 and Amendment No. 1 Attachment B p.2)

Theme 4: Parents as Teachers (PAT) Requirements and Expectations:	
Questions	**Answers**
1. Parents as Teachers Affiliate Requirement For an organization that is not currently a Parents as Teachers affiliate, will First 5 San Bernardino support the agency through the affiliation process? Which costs associated with establishing and maintaining PAT affiliation will be reimbursed under the contract?	The RFA states that agencies must "establish and maintain good standing as an affiliate site with Parents as Teachers," and that **PAT affiliation costs are reimbursable**, as shown in Attachment B, which lists **PAT fees as 100% cost-reimbursable** under the stipend pool; although the RFA does not explicitly describe technical assistance for the affiliation process, it does confirm that all PAT-related costs required for participation—including affiliation fees—will be covered through reimbursement. **(RFA citations**: Project Requirements Section IV.C – Other Applicant Agency Expectations, p.7; Amendment No. 1 Attachment B p.2 & Budget Example, p.42)

Questions & Answers

2. Parents as Teachers Beyond the Contract Is the expectation that selected organizations will maintain Parents as Teachers affiliate status after the FFPS-CFPP contract ends, or is the requirement limited to the contract period?	The RFA does **not** require agencies to maintain Parents as Teachers affiliate status beyond the contract term; the requirement is tied specifically to participation in the FFPS-CFPP initiative, stating that agencies "will establish and maintain good standing… through the term of the Contract," indicating that obligations end when the contract period ends unless the agency voluntarily chooses to continue affiliation. **(RFA citations**: Project Requirement Section IV.C – Other Applicant Agency Expectations, p.7)
3. Existing Home Visiting Programs If an applicant currently operates another evidence-based home visiting model, may the Parents as Teachers capacity developed through this initiative complement the organization's existing home visiting services, or is First 5 anticipating implementation of PAT as a distinct program/service?	The RFA does not restrict agencies already operating another evidence-based home visiting model from using PAT as a curriculum. **(RFA citations**: Project Requirements Section IV. p.5-7).
4. Does participation require implementing Parents as Teachers home visits, meeting minimum family-service targets, or maintaining affiliation after funding ends? Which associated costs are reimbursable?	The RFA does **not** require agencies to implement PAT home visits, meet minimum family-service targets, or maintain PAT affiliation after funding ends; the requirement is limited to participation in training and maintaining affiliate standing **during the contract term** only. **(RFA citations**: Project Requirements Section IV.C – Other Expectations, p.7; Amendment No. 1 Attachment B p.2 & Budget Example, p.42)

Theme 5: Team Composition and Role Requirements:	
Questions	**Answers**
1. Regarding the required three-person team (administrator/supervisor, frontline provider, lived expert): may one individual cover two roles in a small organization, and may the team be named at contract rather than at application?	The RFA requires that agencies "must… commit a team of three,". **(RFA citations**: Project Requirements Section IV.A p.5; Attachment A – Application Narrative, p.34–40)

Questions & Answers

2. May our team consist of a PMHNP/LMFT clinical director, an employed associate clinician, and a contracted lived expert? What experience and documentation are required for the lived-expert role?	Yes, the RFA defines the **lived expert** as an individual with firsthand experience in child-serving systems whose perspective informs system improvement, and agencies must provide brief descriptions of each participant's relevant experience within Attachment A, which serves as the documentation of qualifications for all three roles, including contracted individuals. **(RFA citations:** Section VII – Definitions: Lived Expert, p.15; Section IV.A – Minimum Requirements, p.6; Attachment A – Application Narrative, pp.36–38)
3. Should the Administrator directly supervise the frontline staff?	The RFA does not require the administrator to directly supervise the frontline staff. (**RFA citations:** Section VII – Definitions p. 12)
4. Should the lived expert have lived expertise in child welfare or are there other child serving systems that would apply (for example, behavioral health or another system)?	In the context of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPS/FFPSA) and child welfare, a lived expert is an individual who has firsthand, personal involvement with child-serving systems and uses that unique perspective to influence policy, programs, and system-wide improvement. (**RFA citations:** Definitions Section VII p. 14)

Theme 6: Organizational Eligibility:	
Questions	**Answers**
1. Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside primarily serves youth ages 4–18 across Riverside and San Bernardino counties. We also operate a food assistance program providing free weekly groceries to approximately 160 families, primarily residing in the Redlands area, representing roughly 850 individuals. Some of these households may include children ages 0–5. Given that our primary programs serve school-age youth, but our food assistance efforts reach families in San Bernardino County, would our organization meet the eligibility requirements for the Champion for Primary Prevention initiative?	To be eligible, Applicant Agencies must serve expectant parents, children prenatal–age 5, and their families **in San Bernardino County**, and must be a community-based or child-serving organization as defined in Section IV.A. **(RFA citations:** Project Requirements Section IV.A p.5-6)

Questions & Answers

2. Although Children's Fund are not a good fit for the Champion for Primary Prevention Grant Initiative, we are a strong fit as a supports partner to help meet the families' emergency/basic needs. Could Children's Fund be included as a concrete-supports partner in the referral network that the cohort agencies will build?	This RFA project does not fund concrete-supports.
3. Applicant Eligibility: Would a public school district be eligible to apply if it operates a resource center providing mental health, case management, nursing oversight, and family support services? Specifically, would HWS qualify as a resource center within a public school district, or are there additional eligibility requirements we would need to meet?	A public school district may be eligible if its resource center qualifies as a **child-serving or community-based organization** that provides direct services to expectant parents and families with children ages 0–5 in San Bernardino County. **(RFA citations**: Project Requirements Section IV.A, p.5-6; Section I – Introduction, p.1)
4. May Malibu qualify as a community-based or child-serving agency under Section IV.A despite being a for-profit organization located in Riverside?	Eligibility requires that Applicant Agencies be **multi-sector agencies or Community-Based Organizations serving the target population in San Bernardino County**, and although the RFA does not explicitly exclude for-profit organizations, it does require the agency to currently provide—or be able to provide—services to expectant parents and families with children ages 0–5 in San Bernardino County. **(RFA citations:** Project Requirements Section IV.A, p.5-6)
5. Must Malibu already serve San Bernardino County expectant parents and families with children ages 0–5 when applying, or may these services be established before the contract begins? Would telehealth or services delivered in Riverside to San Bernardino residents qualify?	Applicant Agencies must "**provide services to the target population… in San Bernardino County**" at the time of application, meaning services must either be currently in place or clearly established and functioning by the contract start date, but the RFA does not restrict service modality, so telehealth or services delivered from Riverside **may qualify** as long as they serve San Bernardino County families with children prenatal–age 5. **(RFA citations:** Project Requirements Section IV.A, p.5-6; Attachment A – Application Narrative, p.36-40**)**
6. Would a community-based nonprofit providing family food access, essential resources, and family support services qualify if it can demonstrate that its work includes families with children prenatal through age five in San Bernardino County?	Yes, the agency as described would qualify. (**RFA citations**: Project Requirements Section IV.A, p.5-6)

Questions & Answers

Theme 7: Program Scope, Alignment, and Expectations for Services:	
Questions	**Answers**
1. Do preventive services that center the well-being of expectant parents, mothers, and caregivers of children prenatal through age 5 — delivered through group cohorts, writing-as-healing and well-being workshops, and connection events — fall within the scope of services this RFA seeks to fund?	Yes, the services described in the question falls within the scope of services this RFA seeks to fund. **(RFA citations:** Introduction Section I p.1; Project Requirements Section IV.B, p.6-7)
2. What specific benefits should participating organizations expect from the learning collaborative, and how might participation strengthen an existing program such as HSE-SB and its community consortium? Understanding the intended organizational and programmatic benefits will help us determine how the opportunity could strengthen our existing maternal and infant health work, partnerships, and community-driven activities.	Participating organizations can expect expanded workforce capacity through evidence-based training (e.g., IECMH foundations, The Growing Brain, PAT, home visiting competencies, reflective supervision), strengthened cross-sector collaboration, enhanced ability to address social determinants of health, and improved integration of protective-factor and trauma-informed frameworks into their program models; these benefits can strengthen existing programs—such as maternal and infant health initiatives—by deepening clinical and community practice competencies, improving cross-system referrals, increasing prevention alignment with FFPSA efforts, and elevating relationship-based, community-driven service approaches within consortium structures. **(RFA citations:** Introduction Section I, p.1; Project Requirements Section IV.B, p.6-7; Project Requirements Section IV C, p.7**)**
3. Beyond the required participation hours, what additional financial, staffing, administrative, reporting, implementation, or other resources will the participating organization be expected to contribute during or after the learning collaborative? Clarification will allow our leadership and program team to understand the full organizational commitment and determine whether adequate resources are available to support successful participation.	The FFPS-CFPP contract term is 12 months. During this time, the project costs will be reimbursed under the contract terms. After the term ends, participating agencies will incur all associated costs. **(RFA citations:** Project Timeline Section II p.2; Term Section XII p.28)

Theme 8: Community Pathways and Geographic Considerations:	
Questions	**Answers**

Questions & Answers

1. Community Pathways Does First 5 anticipate that selected CFPP organizations may eventually serve as formal Community Pathway access points or providers within San Bernardino County's Family First Prevention Services infrastructure?	While the RFA does not mandate that CFPP participants become Community Pathway access points, it describes the initiative as expanding prevention capacity aligned with Comprehensive Prevention Planning and FFPSA efforts, and includes training on "Collaborative system of closed-loop referrals for Community Pathways," indicating that selected agencies may eventually contribute to or function within Community Pathways infrastructure as their capacity grows, though this is not a contractual requirement of the CFPP cohort. **(RFA citations:** Project Requirements Section IV.B p.6-7; Introduction Section I, p.1)
2. Rural Representation Because the RFA anticipates selecting two organizations from each Supervisorial District, will consideration be given to geographic diversity within a district, including organizations serving rural, mountain, or geographically isolated communities?	Yes—although the RFA specifies selecting two agencies per Supervisorial District, it does not restrict consideration to urban or centralized areas, and because the initiative aims to increase reach and provider capacity throughout San Bernardino County, agencies serving rural, mountain, or geographically isolated communities may strengthen the cohort's geographic coverage. Nothing in the RFA limits selection to high-density areas; applicants must identify the district(s) they serve, allowing the Commission to consider geographic diversity within each district. **(RFA citations:** Project Requirements Section IV.A, p.5-6; Attachment A – Application Narrative, p.34-40)
3. For an Ontario-based applicant, which Supervisorial District should we identify, and are applications from any single district given preference?	Ontario is in San Bernardino County's Fourth Supervisorial District, and applicants must identify the district they serve in the application narrative; the RFA does not give preference to any specific district. **(RFA citations:** Attachment A – Application Narrative, p.34-40; Introduction Section I, p.1)

Theme 9: RFA Process and Information Sessions:	
Questions	**Answers**
1. We would also welcome the opportunity to attend any informational session related to this RFA.	No informational sessions are scheduled or anticipated under the RFA as written.