

# Family Child Care Mini-Grants Program 2011-12

## FUNDING GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

<p>1. FUNDING APPROACH</p>	<p>A small scale funding mechanism aimed at improving the quality of care among licensed family child care providers.</p> <p>Funds are used to purchase supplies and related articles identified as being needed (through environmental assessments and observations) to improve quality in the selected subscales of the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS) and related trainings.</p>
<p>2. INTENT AND SCOPE</p>	<p>Program intent: To support licensed family child care providers through educating, promoting and enhancing the quality of care in their setting.</p> <p>Primary emphasis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers who could benefit from quality improvement within specified FCCERS subscales (Health &amp; Safety and Language &amp; Literacy)</li> <li>• Providers serving infants and toddlers</li> <li>• First time applicants for First 5 mini-grant funds (though all childcare providers may apply)</li> <li>• Returning program participants from the 09/10 fiscal year</li> </ul>
<p>3. FUNDING AVAILABILITY</p>	<p><b><u>Total program funding:</u></b> \$30,000.00</p> <p><b><u>Total available for participant materials:</u></b> \$25,000.00</p> <p>Maximum per award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Up to</u> \$1,000.00 for new participants</li> <li>• <u>Up to</u> \$500.00 for returning participants</li> </ul> <p>Approximately 25-30 applicants total are expected to be funded for the fiscal year. A maximum of 10 returning program participants will be funded.</p>

**FUNDING GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA (continued)**

	<p><b><u>Total available for required contracted training, supplies and materials:</u></b> \$5000.00</p> <p>Approximately three trainings will be required by new prospective awardees.</p> <p>One training and one home visit will be required for returning program participants.</p>
<p>4. FUNDING CYCLE</p>	<p>Applications will be accepted one time for the fiscal year. Anticipated application due date: mid-September</p>
<p>5. APPLICATION PROCESS &amp; REVIEW</p>	<p>1. Release of the Request for Application (RFA). Interested parties apply to Program.</p> <p>2. Application deadline: Interested applicants submit a completed application on or before the application due date.</p> <p>3. Staff Review Committee: Reviews submitted applications. Applicants (scoring above the minimum threshold) are identified for possible participation in the Program.</p> <p>If more applicants are identified than funding will accommodate, recommendations will be forwarded to the Commission based on the intent and priorities for this funding mechanism and the overall balance of needs in the county.</p> <p>4. Staff forwards recommendations for Commission action.</p>
<p>6. REQUIRED APPLICANT INFORMATION</p>	<p>A Request for Applications (RFA) will be developed within the funding guidelines and criteria approved by the Commission for this funding mechanism.</p> <p>Applicants will answer a series of questions in the brief application.</p>

**FUNDING GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA (continued)**

	<p>Review criteria shall include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to providing quality learning environments and experiences -- 20 points max.</li> <li>• Willingness to meet program requirements (participate in trainings, FCCRS assessment, etc.) -- 20 points max.</li> <li>• Children currently in care under 36 months -- 15 points max.</li> <li>• Prior participation in the First 5 Family Child Care Mini-Grant Program -- 15 points max.</li> <li>• Commitment to improving in the specified FCCERS subscale areas (Health &amp; Safety and Language &amp; Literacy) --30 points max.</li> </ul>
<p>7. AGREEMENT TERM</p>	<p>Agreements with funded recipients will be executed with First 5. All services will be completed by June 30 of each fiscal year.</p>
<p>8. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION</p>	<p><b><u>New Mini-grant Program Participants:</u></b></p> <p>Step 1: Mini-grant Program participants that have not previously attended a one 6 - 8 hour Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS) training will be required to attend a training.</p> <p>Step 2: Mini-grant Program participants will be required to attend two pre-selected trainings related to the FCCERS sub-scales (Health &amp; Safety and Language &amp; Literacy).</p> <p>Step 3: Mini-grant Program participants will be required to conduct a mini-FCCERS assessment of their home and turn in the results to First 5 staff.</p> <p>Step 4: First 5 staff will assess providers' FCCERS results and provide pre-selected high quality, age appropriate, durable materials that fall within the selected FCCERS sub-scales.</p> <p>Step 5: All recipients will be required to submit a final Mini-Grant survey along with any other data requirements.</p>

**FUNDING GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA (continued)**

	<p><b><u>Returning Mini-Grant Program Participants:</u></b></p> <p>Step 1: Mini-grant participants will be required to attend a training on creating daily activity plans. The objective of this training is to help child care providers be intentional in their planning of daily activities and routines.</p> <p>Step 2: Mini-grant participants will be required to develop a daily activity plan for their home that aligns with the selected FCCERS sub-scales and reflects knowledge of child development practices. A sample of the plan will be submitted to First 5.</p> <p>Step 3: Mini-grant participants will receive a home visit (up to 4 hours) from a Coach who will observe the implementation of the daily activity plan and provide reflective feedback/strategies based on the observation.</p> <p>Step 4: First 5 staff will provide pre-selected high quality, age appropriate, durable materials that fall within the selected FCCERS sub-scales.</p> <p>Step 5: All recipients will be required to submit a final Mini-Grant survey along with any other data requirements.</p>
9. EVALUATION	Recipients of funding under this program will be required to complete a survey and participate in any program-level evaluation activities as required by the Commission.