



Strategic Grant Applications



So easy you'll applaud!

What is Inyo County First 5?



- Organization dedicated to the early development of children 0 to 5.
- Funded by 50 cent CA State Tobacco Tax.
- Local Commission decides how money is spent.
- Just completed a county-wide needs assessment including meetings and surveys to update our Strategic Plan.
- Our Strategic Plan for 2009-2014 is available on our website:

www.inyocounty.us/first5

Our Mission?

Research shows that a child's brain develops in rapid and unique ways during the first 5 years of life. Early experiences set the stage for future growth and gifts. The environment in which a child lives, plays, and learns has the potential to impact the rest of his or her life.

First 5 Inyo County is dedicated to funding outcomes that help shape the trajectory of a child's life to yield ongoing benefits and rewards.

We do this by enhancing communities to support and ensure child health, child development, school readiness, and family functioning.



Why Strategic Grants?

Strategic Grants are the first tier of our funding structure and they are designed to help community groups accomplish small efforts of limited scope. Strategic Grants do not exceed one year and may be funded up to \$2,500. The areas Strategic Grants focus on include: Child Health, Child Development and Family Functioning.



Focus of our Grants?

The Commission is looking for creative ideas that address:

CHILD HEALTH

Nutrition & Fitness of Children 0 to 5
Oral Health of Children 0 to 5
Health Care of Children 0 to 5

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Parent & Caretaker Knowledge of Child Development
Quality Care & Early Education Programs for Children

FAMILY FUNCTIONING

Support for Programs to Meet Basic Family Needs
Support for Programs to Sustain Child Health & Development

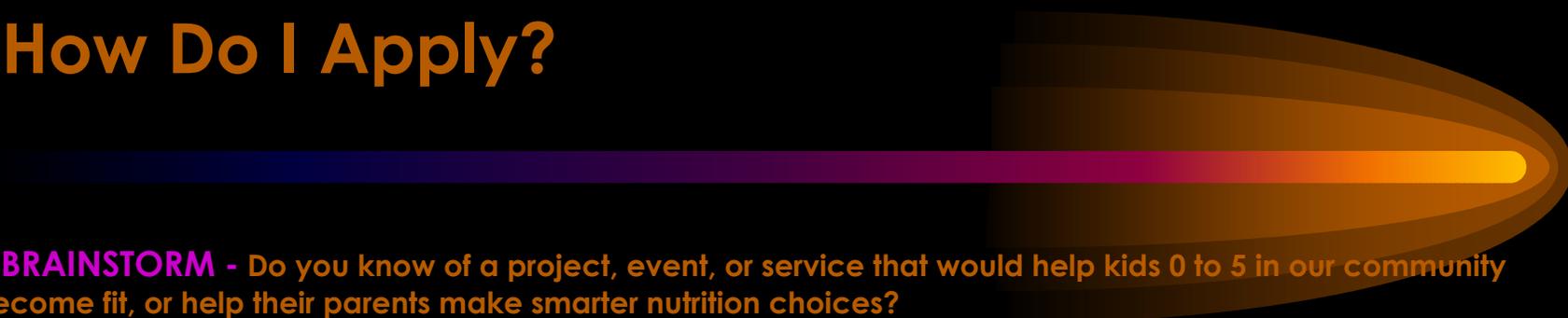


What Qualifies?

- A new idea
- Enhancement – a new addition or extension to an existing service or project
- Group project in need of matching funds



How Do I Apply?



1. BRAINSTORM - Do you know of a project, event, or service that would help kids 0 to 5 in our community become fit, or help their parents make smarter nutrition choices?

2. ASK QUESTIONS – Attend one of our strategic grant workshops or call Jody at the First 5 Office at 873-6453. We can help you develop a plan, locate willing partners, and much more.

3. PLAN – Put your ideas on paper. Calculate how much time, manpower, and money it will take to bring your idea to life. A concrete plan of action should emerge with a specific budget and timetable. Also, think about what measures you could use to show effective your plan was.

4. APPLY - Download an application at www.inyocounty.us/first5 or drop by the First 5 office at 568 W. Line Street to pick one up. Fill it out and return it to Jody in the office. She can tell you when the Commission will next be meeting to review Strategic Grant applications, and when you can expect an answer in writing to your application.

5. MEASURE & REPORT – If your grant request is awarded in writing, you will receive further instructions clarifying the types of items the commission needs you to track and measure. The Commission is committed to evaluating programs for effectiveness in achieving measurable goals, so take steps to document your project and its outcome(s) with pictures, data, testimonials, etc.

How is my Application Judged?



Preference may be given to projects that:

- Demonstrate a clear goal and present a practical way to measure progress toward achieving it.
- Reduce barriers or improve access to services.
- Focus on reducing disparities for children
- Will be accomplished by members living within the community the project plans to serve.
- Realistically address 2 or more of the Commission's goal areas at the same time.

Heart of the Matter:

Blow our socks off! Demonstrate a local need you've uncovered, and way you plan to meet that need to the benefit of children 0 to 5 and their families. - The more specific the better.

We want you to have this money to benefit local kids. Please just understand that with the money comes the responsibility to tell us whether your idea pans out or not.

It's this simple: pick a specific target and a way to track whether your project makes a bulls eye, hits a ring, or misses the mark entirely.



Making a Difference?

The reason we are so committed to measuring your success, is that we want the community to know how they can most effectively benefit children 0 to 5.

First 5 monies are not meant to last forever. They decrease every year as the number of smokers decreases.

Figuring out the most cost effective ways to make local children healthier, smarter, and happier before they even start Kindergarten directs future spending and investment.

Studies show children who receive early education and developmental experiences are more likely to succeed in school, attend college, and hold a higher paying job. Every dollar invested in early health and development sees an \$8 -\$10 return in reduced welfare costs, lifelong health spending, and less crime.



What Happens Next?

1. Turn in your Strategic Grant application to Jody at the First 5 Office at 568 W. Line Street in Bishop.
2. You will receive a letter in writing from the Commission within 60 days of receipt of your application informing you of whether your grant request is accepted or denied.
3. If accepted, there will also be some accompanying paperwork clarifying the agreement you are entering into with the First 5 Commission for your signature.
4. Proceed with the agreed upon plan, keeping receipts and invoices to turn into First 5 for reimbursement.
5. All your reimbursement documentation must be turned in by May 31, 2010.
6. All the agreed upon measures, whether data, pictures, or testimonials, must also be given to the director prior to May 31, 2010.



Am I Alone Out Here?



We are not just handing you money and running. Our staff is able to help with any difficulties you may encounter, and can help point the way to likeminded community partners and resources.

Feel free to call or email us at any stage of the process with any questions or concerns:

Jody Veenker
760-873-6453
jveenker@inyocounty.us

Making the Most of Every Opportunity

Frederick Douglass said,

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”

Let's give the children of Inyo County the best possible start toward a bright, bright future!

