



Responsive Grant Fund RFP FAQ Sheet

Q. The RFP timeline explains that “All agencies/organizations intending to submit a proposal must submit a letter of intent by Tuesday, June 2, 2020 in the form of an email with the subject “Responsive Grant Fund Letter of Intent”.

Do we need to provide any details about our proposed project, or simply provide a simple statement that we intend to submit a proposal?

A. No details about the proposal are required in the letter of intent. Please provide the name of your agency if it is not included with your email signature.

Q. For the Proposed Budget with Narrative, it is explained "Include and clearly detail all costs, payment schedules, line items categories and/or other related costs associated with the proposal along with budget narrative."

Can you provide additional explanation of what you would like to see in the budget narrative?

A. The budget narrative should include one to two paragraphs with a simple summary of the expenses in your proposed project. The explanation should cover staff, benefits, operating expenses, and indirect expenses if applicable.

Q. Does the budget narrative need to include explanation of expenses not requested from First 5 Sonoma? (ie: expenses covered by other funding sources)?

A. Yes, the explanation should cover expenses not requested in the proposal, as long as they are covering elements of the service or program that is proposed. The First 5 Sonoma Commission is interested in how proposers might leverage other funding and/or build on existing resources to maximize this funding.

Q. Does the proposed program need to be evidence-based to receive a grant?

A. No. The project proposals do not have to be evidence-based. Although it is not required that the proposed approach be listed on the Upstream Investments Portfolio or have been proven effective through rigorous research, the Commission recognizes the value of data-driven and research-informed approaches. If the proposed service or approach is informed by data (including local evaluation) and/or research on best practice, the proposer should cite that in evidence in the narrative.

Q. Will the allocation of grants be evenly distributed between the 3 areas identified (Concrete Support, Parental Resilience, Support/maintenance systems)?

A. There is not a determination of the allocation of grants at this time. The allocation will be determined based on the proposals received and the impact that can predictably be achieved given the funding available.



Q. The RFP states “Goal 4/5: Engaging the community to support children and families”, but in the Strategic Plan PDF, Goal 4 and 5 have individual definitions that include a myriad of approaches. Can you please provide more details on what counts as “engaging the community to support children and families” and share what types of projects meet “Goals 4/5”?

A. “Engaging the community to support children and families” can include a variety of approaches and/or services. Typically, these approaches target the community in a broad and universal manner through communication campaigns (such as Talk Read Sing), resource sharing (such as First 5’s New Parent Kit) and cross-sector engagement (such as employer-engagement to increase family-friendly workplaces).