

**FIRST 5 COMMISSION OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY
RESPONSIVE FUNDS REQUEST SUMMARY**

Item 4-2

Proposed Grantee	San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE)
Project to be Funded	The Preschool Learning Foundations Project
Organization Profile	The San Diego County Board of Education provides the highest quality education for students in County Office operated programs and supports local school boards in providing the same for their students while acknowledging each board's responsibility to represent and serve their community. (SDCOE) provides quality services, effective and efficient use of resources, and innovative leadership to school districts and works collaboratively to meet the educational needs of students, providers and expectations of the public so that each student in San Diego County has access to the highest academic preparation and the means to meet expectations for success. SDCOE is the California Instructional Network (CPIN) lead for San Diego County and is coordinating the training for San Diego area state-funded preschool providers.
Project Description	<p>The majority of children ages 3-5 in San Diego County are served in private preschools and family child care homes. These center-based and family child care providers typically have less access to ongoing professional development than their colleagues working in state-funded centers. In comparison to state-funded preschool teachers, the non state funded providers typically possess fewer community college units in early childhood education, participate less frequently in professional development activities, and are more likely to speak Spanish as their primary language. Research indicates that the quality of programming is the most important factor in achieving the social and cognitive benefits of preschool and that the program standards need to be rigorous.</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to provide California Departments of Education's <i>Preschool Learning Foundations</i> materials, training and professional coaching to local center-based and family child care providers who offer preschool services to children ages 3-5 and who are non-state funded. <i>Preschool Learning Foundation training</i> will be provided to state-funded preschool providers through the CPIN via state funding. This responsive fund request expects to serve approximately 200 early education providers in a series of group trainings each year for a total of 600 over three years. Sixty of the 200 providers who complete at least 2 workshops will also benefit from follow-up coaching sessions each year for a total of 180 providers.</p> <p>The first 4 of 9 proposed California <i>Preschool Learning Foundations</i> were developed over a 3-year period and formally released on January 22, 2008. The purpose of California's <i>Preschool Learning Foundations</i> is to provide Early Care and Education (ECE) teachers and providers learning and development guidelines that are used to plan and facilitate preschool curriculum. The <i>Foundations</i> have been developed on researched and evidence based standards in conjunction with ECE experts across California. The materials address domains in critical areas of learning and development including: social-emotional development, language and literacy, English-language development (for English learners) mathematics, visual & performing arts, history & social sciences, physical development, health and science. The domains follow well established standards that most children can be expected to exhibit as they complete their first or second year of preschool. A series of trainings for state-funded preschool administrators and teachers started in 2008 with full program implementation projected in 2010.</p>
Funding Rationale	<p>This is a three year request for \$1,105,598. The funding will create a long-lasting, impact on children 0-5 through training ECE providers who will have learned meaningful skills to support the development of high-quality preschool experiences that impact not only children's school readiness but also other long-term positive outcomes such as later school achievement and high school graduation. The level of sustainability that will result from training these non-state funded ECE providers is the ongoing impact on potentially thousands of their future students, children ages 0-5.</p> <p>The goals of the project are: 1) to increase provider's knowledge about the preschool Learning Foundations, and 2) to improve provider's ability to adapt the Foundations to their setting through appropriate examples of connections to everyday learning experiences. No similar professional development model currently exists for family childcare providers and teachers in non-state funded programs. (NOTE: This SDCOE project is in collaboration with Project Quality Consortium and the San Diego County Family Child Care Association).</p>
Grant Amount & Disbursement	Not to exceed \$1,076,858 for the 3 year project. (Revised original request of \$1,105,598.)
Grant Period	Three Years: FY2008-2009, FY2009-2010, FY2010-2011
Funding Requirements	Submit quarterly progress and fiscal reports