First 5 LA Early Childhood Policy Advocacy Fund

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES
FLEXIBLE FUND
What is the Funding For?

The **Community Opportunities Flexible Fund (COFF)** creates funding opportunities for emerging groups, volunteer efforts, and/or nonprofit and fiscally sponsored organizations that are working to advance systems change for Los Angeles children, prenatal to 5, and their families.
What is the Funding For?

Funds must support First 5 LA’s overarching systems change goal: that public systems most critical to children’s development prenatal to 5 advance belonging and justice for communities that experience significant inequities.
What is Systems Change?

“Systems change is the process of addressing the root causes of social issues. Unlike direct service work that provides immediate relief to individuals, systems change aims to create long-lasting change by shifting the structures, policies, processes, and power dynamics that perpetuate these problems. It takes into account the intricate political, social, and economic factors contributing to these issues and actively seeks to change them.”
## What’s the Difference between Direct Services and Systems Change?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISSUE AREA</th>
<th>DIRECT SERVICES APPROACH</th>
<th>SYSTEMS CHANGE APPROACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increased Access to Preschool</strong></td>
<td>Provide scholarships for preschool</td>
<td>Work to change the way the preschool system is funded so everyone can afford it</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Increased Consumption of Healthy Foods</strong></td>
<td>Offer nutrition classes to parents</td>
<td>Remove barriers to getting CalFresh so more people can get access to nutritious foods</td>
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</table>
What Can Funds Be Used For?

- To engage in a variety of activities associated with systems change:
  - Community engagement
  - Grassroots relationship-building
  - Community-driven research
  - Building/sustaining coalitions and networks
  - Community convening
  - Oral histories
  - Culturally-affirming narratives and agendas
  - Cultural celebrations and gatherings
  - Artmaking that advances systems change
  - Community care
  - Policy and systems education and knowledge exchange
  - Policy implementation and monitoring
  - And other activities
Who Can Apply to the Community Opportunities Flexible Fund (COFF)?

- Volunteer groups, individual consultants, LLCs, nonprofits, fiscally sponsored organizations, and others rooted in community and working to advance systems change for Los Angeles children prenatal to 5 and their families.

- Prior experience with applying for grants or prior relationship with First 5 LA is not required.
# Which Application Should I Use?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATIONS</th>
<th>NON-ORGANIZATIONS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Nonprofits</td>
<td>• Volunteer groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fiscally-sponsored organizations</td>
<td>• Individual consultants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• LLCs/businesses</td>
<td>• Unincorporated entities</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other incorporated entities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What Are You Looking For When You Review Our Application?

**Systems Connected:** The proposed activities clearly support system change efforts benefitting children prenatal to 5 and their families in LA County.

**Community Driven Involvement:** The proposed activity attempts to build community connections and voice of people most impacted by inequities. Led by community members with lived experience of systems impacting children prenatal to 5 and their families.

**Actionable:** The proposal seems feasible within the described timeframe and budget. The applicant appears to have the capacity, capability, and knowledge to execute the work.
How Do I Apply?

1. Create free account in Submittable: https://manager.submittable.com/signup

Compatible Web Browsers

- Google Chrome
- Mozilla Firefox
- Apple Safari
How Do I Apply?

2. Choose your application at [https://CommunityPartners.org/ecpaf](https://CommunityPartners.org/ecpaf)

- **ORGANIZATIONS**

- **OR**

- **NON-ORGANIZATIONS**
How Do I Apply?

First 5 LA Early Childhood Policy Advocacy Fund - Community Opportunities Flexible Fund: Organizations and Incorporated Entities

Thank you for your interest in the Community Opportunities Flexible Fund. This application is for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) organizations, fiscally sponsored projects, or LLCs/businesses involved in systems change initiatives affecting children ages prenatal to 5 and their families.

Applications for all-volunteer community groups, individual consultants, and other unincorporated initiatives can be found [here].

OVERVIEW
The Community Opportunities Flexible Fund (COFF) provides a broad range of grants, stipends, contracts, and other unincorporated initiatives.

First 5 LA Early Childhood Policy Advocacy Fund - Communities Opportunity Flexible Fund: Volunteer Groups and Unincorporated Entities

Thank you for your interest in the Community Opportunities Flexible Fund (COFF). This application is for all-volunteer community groups, individual consultants, and other unincorporated initiatives.

Applications for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) organizations, fiscally sponsored projects, LLCs/businesses, or other incorporated organizations, can be found [here].

OVERVIEW
The Community Opportunities Flexible Fund (COFF) provides a broad range of stipends, contracts, and other unincorporated initiatives.

Click to other application
What is the Timeline?

Applications accepted on a rolling basis, starting July 10, 2023

Funding decisions may take up to 12 weeks following receipt of application

Depending on nature and size of request, additional information may be required before seeking final approval from First 5 LA
Need help?

• Join us for office hours via Zoom, every month on the fourth Thursday at 12 noon.

• Open to everyone, offered in English and Spanish.

• Register at www.CommunityPartners.org/ecpaf
Resources

- **Funding Guidelines:** [https://CommunityPartners.org/ecpaf/](https://CommunityPartners.org/ecpaf/)

- **Understanding Systems Change:**
  [https://www.sjpla.org/news/is-your-initiative-systems-change-focused](https://www.sjpla.org/news/is-your-initiative-systems-change-focused)

- **Information on Grassroots Lobbying:**
  [https://bolderadvocacy.org/2021/02/10/lobbying-series-part-3-grassroots-lobbying](https://bolderadvocacy.org/2021/02/10/lobbying-series-part-3-grassroots-lobbying)

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