

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.”



Social Justice Partners LA



What's the Difference between Direct Services and Systems Change?

ISSUE AREA	DIRECT SERVICES APPROACH	SYSTEMS CHANGE APPROACH
Increased Access to Preschool	Provide scholarships for preschool	Work to change the way the preschool system is funded so everyone can afford it
Increased Consumption of Healthy Foods	Offer nutrition classes to parents	Remove barriers to getting CalFresh so more people can get access to nutritious foods

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?

ORGANIZATIONS

- Nonprofits
- Fiscally-sponsored organizations
- LLCs/businesses
- Other incorporated entities



NON-ORGANIZATIONS

- Volunteer groups
- Individual consultants
- Unincorporated entities



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

Submittable

Sign Up

Sign In

Welcome!

Create your free Submittable account to get started.

Email

Confirm email

Password

Confirm password

First name

Last name

Sign Up

By signing up you agree to our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

Powered by Submittable

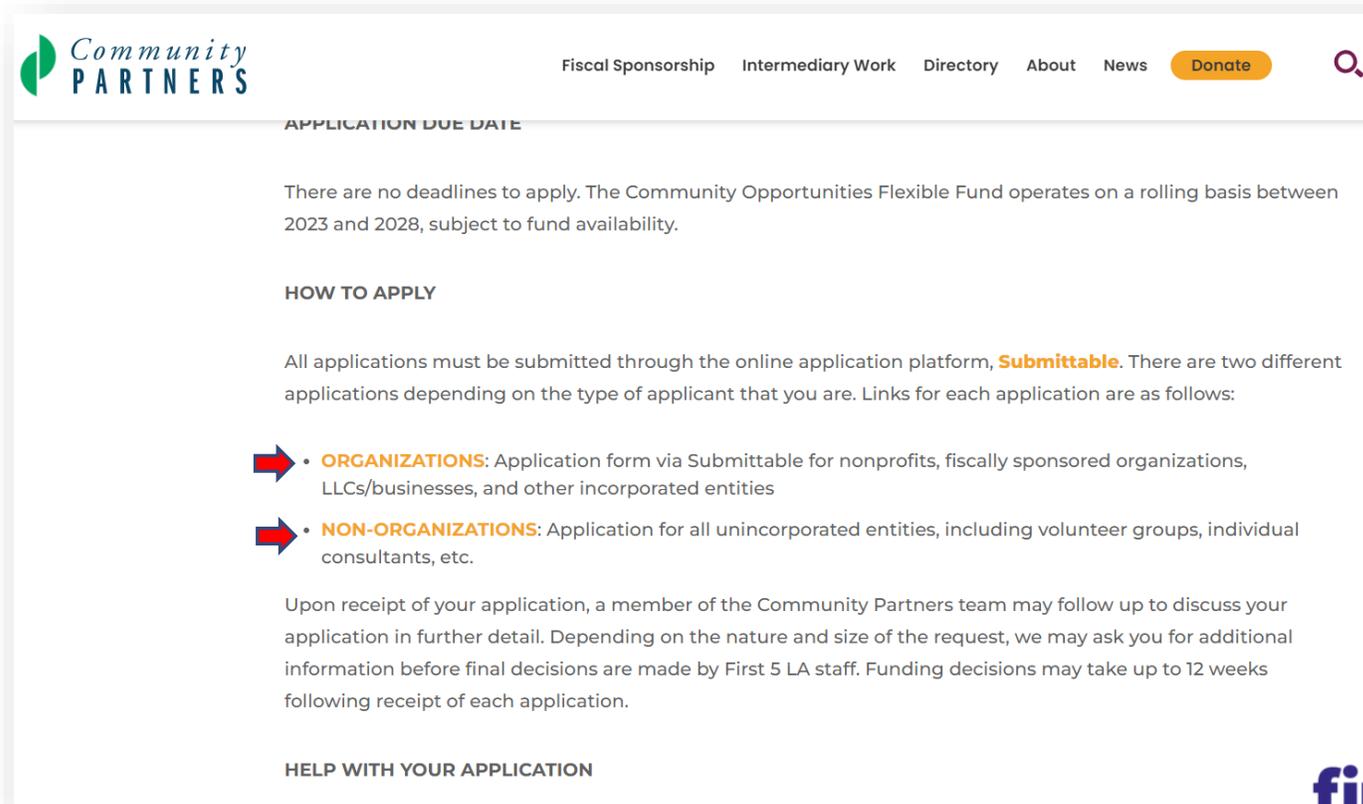
How Do I Apply?

2. Choose your application at <https://CommunityPartners.org/ecpaf>

➔ ORGANIZATIONS

OR

➔ NON-ORGANIZATIONS



The screenshot shows the Community Partners website page for the ECPAF application process. The page features a navigation bar with links for Fiscal Sponsorship, Intermediary Work, Directory, About, News, and a prominent orange 'Donate' button. The main content area is titled 'APPLICATION DUE DATE' and states that there are no deadlines to apply as the fund operates on a rolling basis from 2023 to 2028. Under the 'HOW TO APPLY' section, it explains that applications must be submitted through the 'Submittable' platform and lists two application types: 'ORGANIZATIONS' (for nonprofits, fiscally sponsored orgs, LLCs, and businesses) and 'NON-ORGANIZATIONS' (for unincorporated entities like volunteer groups and consultants). A note mentions that funding decisions may take up to 12 weeks. The page also includes a 'HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION' section.

How Do I Apply?



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

Application Name

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](#).

Click to other application

OVERVIEW

The Community Opportunities Flexible Fund (COFF) provides a broad range of grants, stipends,



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,



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/>
- **Understanding Systems Change:**
<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>
- **Contact: Priscilla Romero at** promero@communitypartners.org

