

First 5 LA Early Childhood Policy & Advocacy Fund (EC PAF)

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FLEXIBLE FUND - 2024/2025



What is the Funding For?

The **Community Opportunities Flexible Fund (COFF)** creates funding opportunities for 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 mission** that every child in Los Angeles County reaches their full developmental potential throughout the critical years of prenatal to age 5.

Funds must also advance progress towards **First 5 LA's three goals** that children prenatal to age 5 and their families:

- **Have their basic needs met**
- **Have nurturing relationships and environments**
- **Have a solid foundation for well-being, lifelong learning and success.**

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 is 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



How Can Funds Be Used?

To engage in a variety of activities associated with systems change, including:

- Community engagement
- Grassroots relationship-building
- Building/sustaining coalitions and networks
- Community convening
- Oral histories
- Culturally-affirming narratives and agendas
- Cultural celebrations and gatherings
- Policy and systems education
- Policy implementation and monitoring
- Educating gubernatorial and other candidates for elected office on early care and education and other 0 to 5 issues
- Capacity building, such as learning about the legislative/budgeting process
- Research and data collection to inform public policy, including community-driven research
- Communications campaigns
- Support for workforce development
- Other activities that help build grassroots connections and elevate the voices of people most impacted

Under First 5 LA by laws, no funds may be used for grassroots lobbying

Who Can Apply to the Community Opportunities Flexible Fund (COFF)?

- Los Angeles-serving nonprofit organizations, fiscally sponsored projects, social-benefit businesses, and government or tribal entities.
- Your organization's total annual budget must be under \$6 million.
- Prior experience with applying for grants or prior relationship with First 5 LA is not required.



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



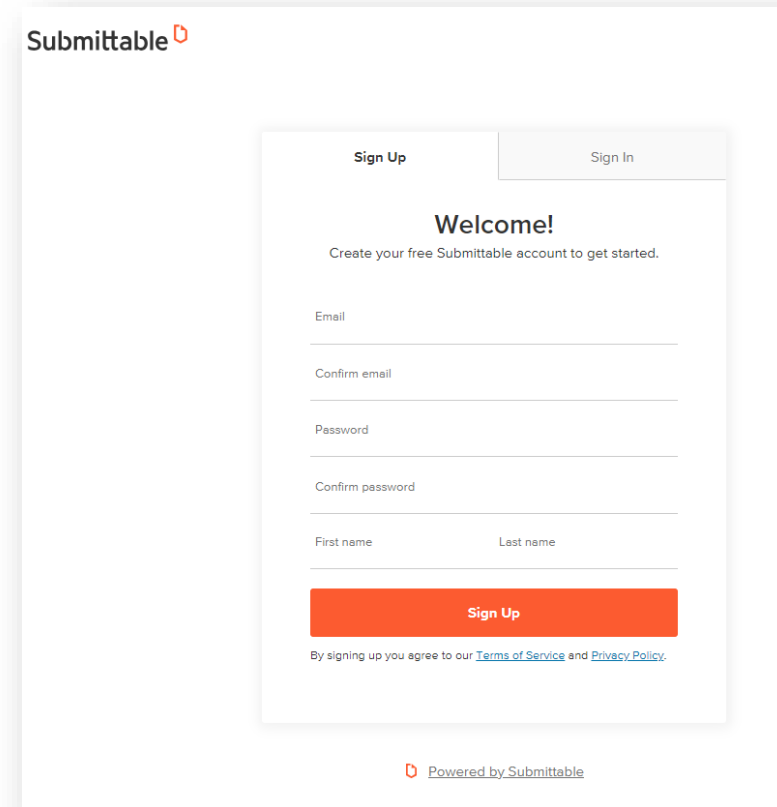
Google Chrome



Mozilla Firefox



Apple Safari



The screenshot shows the Submittable sign-up page. At the top left is the Submittable logo. The page has two tabs: "Sign Up" (active) and "Sign In". Below the tabs is a "Welcome!" heading followed by the text "Create your free Submittable account to get started." The form contains several input fields: "Email", "Confirm email", "Password", "Confirm password", "First name", and "Last name". A prominent orange "Sign Up" button is located below the form. At the bottom of the form, there is a small text line: "By signing up you agree to our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)." Below the form, the text "Powered by Submittable" is displayed with a small logo.

COFF Application Link

Applications may only be submitted through the following link:

<https://communitypartners.submittable.com/submit/c182b777-d8cb-4e91-9a1b-e444c0a2cb55/first-5-la-early-childhood-policy-advocacy-fund-community-opportunities-flexibl>

What is the Timeline?

Round One application due date is **December 20, 2024**
(Awards to be made by the end of February)

Round Two due date is **February 14th, 2025** (Awards to be made by the end of April)

We may reach out to you with questions or for additional information before seeking final approval from First 5 LA



Need help?

- Frequently Asked Questions (regularly updated) at www.CommunityPartners.org/ecpaf
- Join us for office hours via Zoom. These are open Q & A sessions, not presentations. Offered in English and Spanish.
- Register for office hours at www.CommunityPartners.org/ecpaf
- Email Priscilla Romero at promero@CommunityPartners.org



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



THANK YOU!

