



April 18, 2008

Dear Executive Director:

Subject: Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards
(CARES) for the Early Learning Workforce

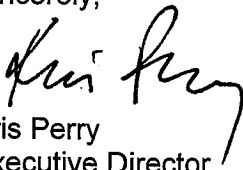
First 5 California is pleased to provide this Round 4 Extension Request for Funds (RFF) for the Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Educational Standards (CARES) for the Early Learning Workforce. This Round 4 Extension covers the time period from July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009 and funds a comprehensive professional development and retention program that builds on the five-year Matching Funds for Retention Incentives Pilot Project. Pilot Project evaluations demonstrated that CARES substantially increased the number of Child Development Permits and college units acquired by participants and significantly improved center-based staff retention.

All counties are invited to submit an application for this Round 4 Extension. **The application deadline is June 5, 2008.** Counties currently participating in Round 4 will complete an Abbreviated Application (Form 1 in the RFF, found on page 32), as well as a budget (see Attachment A: Budget Form, and Attachment B: Instructions for completing the budget). Counties not currently receiving CARES funding that would like to apply must complete the entire application. County commissions eligible for participation must have active programs by September 30, 2008 to respond to the RFF. Matching funds will be awarded on a non-competitive basis in which applicants demonstrate their monetary commitment to the project and agree to the terms and conditions stated in the RFF.

In order to help support the counties in the application process, there will be a **RFF Information Session and Conference Call on May 1st from 10:00 AM -12:00 PM.**

We look forward to working with you as you start up or enhance your local CARES program to improve the qualifications and stability of the early learning workforce. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Cynthia Hearden via email, chearden@ccfc.ca.gov, or by fax, (916) 323-0069.

Sincerely,


Kris Perry
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: State Commissioners