

CARES Plus Conference Call – May 24, 2011

GENERAL INFORMATION

Web Posting of CARES Plus Implementation Information

First 5 California will continue to post current CARES Plus implementation information, including the summary notes from all of the CARES Plus conference calls, on the CARES Plus Implementation page of our Web site. We will send you an email alert with the link to this Web page when any new items are posted.

CARES Plus Questions

You can submit questions to the CARES Plus inbox at any time at:

CARESPLUS@ccfc.ca.gov.

Schedule of CARES Plus Implementation Conference Calls

CARES Plus conference calls will take place every other Tuesday from 10 – 11 a.m. on the following dates:

- June 7, 2011, **for Component D Counties only**
- June 21, 2011, **for all participating counties**

First 5 California may add to this schedule of calls – or even cancel them – as necessary.

CORE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Introduction to the CLASS Training

All CARES Plus participants are required to complete the 2-hour online *Introduction to the CLASS* training. Each participant will need a computer and Internet access to complete this training. The training will go live in late August 2011 in both English and Spanish. Ideally, any preschool teacher chosen to receive a CLASS assessment would not begin any CARES Plus training prior to receiving this assessment. The log-on process is under development. Once this process is in place, you will be notified and we will post this information on the CARES Plus Implementation Web page.

Looking at CLASSrooms (LAC) Training

All CARES Plus participants are required to complete this online course, and each participant will need access to a computer and the Internet. The LAC is a self-paced review and analysis of video-recorded classroom interactions between actual teachers and children. The LAC will go live in September 2011. Currently, both the *Introduction to the CLASS* and LAC trainings are designed primarily for preschool teachers. However, during FY 2012-2013, both the *Introduction to the CLASS - Toddler* and *Looking at CLASSrooms - Toddler* are scheduled to be launched. Since the “Toddler” version of LAC will not be available until 2012, toddler teachers can complete LAC and *Introduction to the CLASS* in year 1, or they can wait for the “Toddler” versions to be available in year 2.

Since the LAC “Infant” version will not be available during the current CARES Plus program period, all infant teachers are required to complete the LAC “Toddler” version and either version of the *Introduction to the CLASS* (preschool or Toddler version). Teachers of infants will not be selected to be part of the sample group chosen for a

CLASS assessment in either year 1 or year 2. The year 1 sample will include only preschool teachers. The year 2 sample will include both preschool and toddler teachers.

We are requiring teachers of infants to complete both the *Introduction to the CLASS* and LAC so they can become familiar with these tools. However, infant teachers are not required to choose two CLASS dimensions to focus on as part of their professional development plan.

TOBACCO CESSATION AND SECONDHAND SMOKE TRAINING

Early learning care providers are well-positioned to educate parents about the effects of secondhand smoke on the health of young children and provide them with smoking cessation resources. In July 2011, training on Tobacco Cessation and Secondhand Smoke will be available in English and Spanish for all CARES Plus participants. The training will include information and strategies for addressing tobacco use and exposure. The self-paced training is estimated to take an hour to complete and is divided into four sections:

- Kids & Smoke Don't Mix
- Where Is Smoking Not Allowed?
- Why Are We So Concerned About Kids and Smoke?
- What Can You Do?

If participants begin the training and are unable to complete it in one sitting, they can save what they've completed and resume where they left off at a later date. Once all sections have been completed, a participant will be able to print out a "Certificate of Completion." In July, CARES Plus counties will receive an email with the information necessary for participants to access the training, along with all the details necessary to access county-specific information regarding participants who have completed the training.

COMPONENT A TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

As stated in the CARES Plus RFA, Component A requires participants to complete a minimum of 21 hours of CDE-sponsored training within a fiscal year. During year 1, we anticipate that approximately 1,800 early learning teachers will participate in this component.

During the May 24th conference call, Laura Bridges and Tom Cole, Child Development Consultants from CDE's Child Development Division, provided an overview of the CDE sponsored trainings included in Component A. Listed below are the Web sites for those CDE sponsored trainings.

1. Beginning Together: <http://www.wested.org/cs/we/view/pj/514>
 - **Project Contact: Linda Brault, WestEd (760) 682-0200**
2. California Collaborative for Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (CSEFEL): <http://www.cainclusivechildcare.org/camap/cacsefel.html>
 - **Project Contact: Linda Brault, WestEd (760) 682-0200**
3. California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN): <http://www.wested.org/cs/we/view/pj/514>

- **Project Contact: Nancy Herota, Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), (916) 228-2441**
4. Desired Results Field Training: <http://www.wested.org/desiredresults/training/>
 - **Project Contact: Mindy Brookshire, WestEd, (805) 484-8027**
 5. Family Child Care at Its Best: <http://humanservices.ucdavis.edu/childdev>
 - **Project Contact: Diane Harkins, Project Manager, UCD, (530) 757-8643**
 6. Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) Institutes: <http://www.wested.org/cs/we/view/serv/97>
 - **Project Contact: Alicia Tuesta, WestEd, (415) 289-2300**
 7. PITC Regional Partners for Quality: <http://www.wested.org/cs/we/view/pj/249>
 - **Project Contact: Arlene Paxton, WestEd, (415) 289-2300**
 - **Project Contact: Janet Poole, WestEd, (916) 543-6697**

First 5 California will administer a survey to the CARES Plus program lead agency administrators to determine the projected training needs within the Component A menu. It will include questions such as:

- What Component A course(s) is your top priority?
- How many local participants do you anticipate will take this course(s)?
- When and where would it be best to schedule the trainings?

Once we have completed the survey, we will analyze responses to determine whether the existing schedule of classes is adequate to meet the needs of the CARES Plus program and its participants. It is the goal of First 5 CA to increase the number of offerings of those courses most in demand as necessary.

COMPONENT B TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

As stated in the RFA, participants who add on Component B must complete a minimum of 6 academic units within a 12-month period (during the CARES Plus program in either year 1 or 2).

All units must either be applicable to obtaining a degree and/or child development permit/CDA, or help a participant gain the necessary skills needed to obtain the degree or permit. This includes:

- ESL, linked, study skills classes, or unit-based ECE and GE classes.
- Courses that allow for participants to build skills needed to take degree/Permit applicable courses.
- Non-unit-based ESL courses taken through adult education programs that are based on comparable hours. (Example: 54 hours in a non-unit based course would be equivalent to a 3-unit-based course).
- Degree related to ECE/Child Development and can have a focus on ECE special needs.

Courses must be taken in the following priority order:

- Lower Division 8, Core Classes
- Courses covering content related to improving children's outcomes and areas highlighted by research as key to children's later academic and life success (i.e., Infant/Toddler, Language and Literacy, Dual Language, Numeracy, and Social/Emotional Development)
- Courses that contain content that covers areas as designated for improvement on participants' CLASS scores, subsequent conversations, and plan development with CARES Plus Advisors
- Courses as required to achieve an AA or AS degree
- Courses as required to achieve a BA degree
- And, although not specified in the RFA, other courses as required to achieve a MA degree

We understand that there are circumstances in which a participant has tried to register for the one remaining class needed to complete a degree or permit, and that class is full or closed. In that case, it is acceptable for the participant to register for another class as long as they make sure they register for the needed class the next semester.

COMPONENT C TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Component C training includes a special version of the *Introduction to the CLASS*. First 5 California is offering this training, free of charge, to all interested Component C participants in an effort to help build local advising capacity. This version of the *Introduction to the CLASS* training will be a live, in-person course that will take approximately 6 hours to complete. Our goal is for all Component C participants to become well informed about the CLASS assessment tool and effective advisors as they guide early learning teachers in the creation of professional development plans that focuses on two CLASS dimensions. Component C trainings will be offered regionally and are scheduled for late July and early August 2011. This live version of the *Introduction to the CLASS* is offered for Component C participants; all other CARES Plus participants will take the online version of the *Introduction to the CLASS*.

COMPONENT D TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

As you know, CARES Plus participants from those counties selected for Component D participation will take part in a 10-month video-based coaching model training called *My Teaching Partner*, or MTP. Component D implementation and training roll-out will be the topic of the next CARES Plus conference call on June 7, 2011. A call-in number and pass code will be sent via email to all Component D participating counties.

PROOF—CARES PLUS DATABASE

As mentioned during both the May 10th and May 24th conference calls, First 5 California is offering CARES Plus lead agencies an early chance to view and test the PROOF system and become familiar with it before the go-live scheduled for this summer. We have adjusted the dates slightly. The dates will be July 11, 2011, through July 22, 2011. That's two weeks, and not up against the holiday weekend. The commitment of hours is two full days on July 11 and 12 (10:00 AM to 4:00 PM), plus 1-2 hours each morning (10:00 AM to 12:00 noon) for the rest of those 10 days, for a total of about 20-30 hours. The invitation email will be coming in the next day or so. Please reply to the email if you

would like to join your colleagues from other counties and the state in this final testing stage.

As you recall from the RFA and the conference calls, counties will enter 16 “minimum data elements” for CLASS assessment selection. First 5 California will provide training for this effort. The training will be in the latter part of July. Details are forthcoming on this training.

As a reminder, we have created and sent a CARES Plus survey to help us best serve you with the PROOF system and plan for program implementation. The survey was sent on May 25th. It should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete, so please respond as soon as possible. We would appreciate all responses by Tuesday, May 31, 2011.