



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 9, 2004

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**First 5 Inyo County to Distribute \$12,000 to Programs
for Area's Youngest Children**

(BISHOP, CA) -- Continuing its commitment to the healthy futures of children ages 0 to 5, First 5 Inyo County announced today \$10,000 in mini-grants and \$2,000 in sponsorship grants to local programs and organizations that support and promote activities that improve the lives of Inyo County children.

“First 5 Inyo County encourages the development of community-based creative programs to address the needs and enrich the lives of all Inyo County children,” said Michele Dossey, chair of First 5 Inyo County. “These grants offer an opportunity for programs that benefit our children to be enhanced.”

Funding requests should address First 5 Inyo County’s priority areas of early childhood education, child care, health and safety. For example, requests for equipment or learning tools that directly benefit the healthy development of young children and their families, or which assist providers in meeting child care or foster care licensing requirements would be considered. One-time mini-grants of up to \$1,999 are available for short-term projects with a single, straightforward benefit to young children and their families. The sponsorship grants support community events consistent with First 5 Inyo County’s *Strategic Plan* for children ages 0-5 and their families

“This funding is a direct investment in our future,” said Jean Dickinson, First 5 Inyo Commissioner and Director of Inyo County Health and Human Services. “By providing dollars to local programs for young children, First 5 Inyo County is helping parents prepare their children for success in school and life.”

(more)

Applications for mini-grants and sponsorship grants can be downloaded from the First 5 Inyo County website at www.cffc.ca.gov/inyo. Mini-grant applications are due in the First 5 Inyo County office on August 12 by 5 p.m. Requests for sponsorship applications are evaluated individually and accepted on an ongoing basis. For more information call 872-0925 or e-mail ccfc@schat.net.

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 Inyo County distributes approximately \$200,000 a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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