



Courtney Hotchkiss

Outreach Coordinator

707.GO CHILD 462.4453

www.mendochildren.org



FIRST 5 Mendocino Grants Available for Projects Serving Children 0-5

Three cycles of competitive grants will be awarded

(Mendocino, CA) – The first funding cycle for FIRST 5 Mendocino small grants are due October 28, 2011. Non-profit or government agencies are eligible to apply for these special funding requests grants for less than \$10,000 which will be available on a competitive basis.

Grants will be awarded to projects that serve local children, ages 5 and younger, that focus on one or more of the following service areas: children’s health; social-emotional support for children and parents; school readiness; and community-based services and family resources centers. During these difficult financial times, FIRST 5 will give priority to requests that address a family’s basic needs. Funds cannot be used to start a new organization, as it is almost always more efficient to provide a service through an existing agency.

“FIRST 5 Mendocino County is dedicated to helping parents raise children who are healthy, happy, and ready to learn,” said Anne Molgaard, executive director of FIRST 5 Mendocino County. “Supporting local programs that share this critical goal helps ensure that Mendocino’s children have every resource available to help them thrive in their first five years of life.”

Awards have been given to a variety of organizations, but priority is given to programs that meet a family’s immediate needs. Examples of previous grants include a hot lunch program, child care enrichment programs, and car seats and required installation training. Grants for start-ups will not be considered.

To learn more about the grants and application guidelines, visit www.mendochildren.org/grants.htm. For more information on FIRST 5 Mendocino's programs and services, please call (707) 462-4453 or visit www.mendochildren.org.

About FIRST 5 Mendocino

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 Mendocino invests approximately \$800,000 a year in Prop. 10 revenues in programs and services that meet local families' needs.