

Community Participants

Lee Lesser, Parents Services Project
Yensing Sihapanya, Our Family Coalition
Amy Weiss, Parents Place – Jewish Family and Children Services
Gail O'Malley, Jewish Family and Children Services
Monique Gudry, Family Child Care Association

Introduction

This was the first bidders' conference for RFP 2007 / 04, Services for LGBTQ Families. Copies of RFP 2007 / 04, Services for LGBTQ Families, were made available. Comments were limited to the structure of the response and forms. For clarity and fairness purposes, the RFP language was left as is and no interpretations were made.

RFP Corrections

On page 10 of the RFP under the *Copying* section, a correction needs to be made. It should read "nine" copies rather than "ten" copies. There should be a total of ten proposals including the original.

Questions

1. Can you share information about what lead to this proposal, such as the planning process? Just the recent history.

Answer: First 5 San Francisco has a focus area funding called Family Support and Parent Education under the goal of Improved Family Functioning. There was an early round of funding that including funding to serve LGBTQ families but it was not renewed. Existing grants are grouped mainly by geography and some are grouped by communities of experience, such as homeless and immigrant families. During the course of devising the latest strategic plan, First 5 San Francisco wanted to reach out to other communities of experience that might not have the capacity to deliver services similar to the way family resource centers can.

First 5 San Francisco came up with the idea to support the targeted groups of families, develop communities with support and activities, and to address families that have unique needs; so in that context, we have homeless, LGBTQ, and new immigrant Southeast Asian families. Through this process, a thinking group was formed to help conceptualize the services to LGBTQ families, conduct a needs assessment and exercise, and discussed an area of gaps and needs that led to the scope of work for this RFP.

The thinking group met for approximately two months and had representatives from agencies that currently served LGBTQ families.

2. Is the thinking group still involved in the process?

Answer: Their work was completed with the start of this RFP.

The group also included the Executive Director of Family Builders by Adoption who received a grant from the Human Service Agency (HSA) to facilitate adoptions in the LGBTQ community.

3. Are the groups involved in the process open to apply to the RFP?

Answer: Yes, they can apply to this RFP. In full disclosure, the representatives included Judy Appel from Our Family's Coalition and Kenny Altman from Jewish Families and Children's Services.

4. Are you interested in having a collaborative approach to this work?

Answer: It is a possibility that the work can be achieved by a collaboration or a partnership of different agencies. If this was the case, we would look for a truly integrated program that made sense and not a piecemeal program which would be a concern for a collaborative approach.

5. Can you describe what you envision as a truly integrated program?

Answer: Rather than commenting on that, an example of our concern would be that one contractor would provide the parent education, one would provide case management, and another would provide the space but who would oversee this in an integrated sense.

There is language in the RFP on page 8 under the *Scope of Work* section that states "Through the development of these services, First 5 San Francisco seeks to support the development of a funded partner agency that will begin to build internal capacity, expertise, and specialization delivering direct services to LGBTQ headed families." That is one of the values.

6. The language of the RFP is always referring to LGBTQ headed families. What about a child that is identified as such?

Answer: For children 0-5, it is specifically just the LGBTQ headed families.

7. Will there be any support from First 5 San Francisco in terms of referrals?

Answer: First 5 San Francisco is just a funding agency that does not provide any direct services. First 5 San Francisco does run one direct program called Parent ACTION, but otherwise, we do not see clients through our offices. We would help to facilitate your connection to our family resource center grants and other partners, but we don't get direct calls.

8. What are the expectations regarding reporting and evaluation?

Answer: The evaluation plan for this grant has not been defined yet. There would be execution of data collection and evaluation. Generally the area that this funding is set in, it would involve program updates, collection of demographic information, transmission on the activities that families participate in, and activities such as follow-ups, surveys, and focus groups.

9. Is the \$100,000 for just one agency? It is not going to be divided among multiply agencies?

Answer: Our intent is to work with one grant.

10. Is it up to the agency to propose whether or not to provide a specific neighborhood or citywide services?

Answer: Yes.

11. So the \$100,000 could be theoretically for one neighborhood as oppose to citywide?

Answer: Yes.

12. Is there anything for language capacity that you are interested in, in terms of serving families?

Answer: There is language in the RFP on page 8 under the *Planning and Program Development* section that asks the agency to “Assess the needs of LGBTQ families to determine what supports they would like to access. Assessment should recognize the diversity that exists within the community of LGBTQ families with children – e.g., families formed through adoption, single parents/moms/dads, communities of color, families of mixed cultural heritage, etc.”

13. Will the scores for the proposals be made available for viewing?

Answer: Yes.

14. Are there any other projects like this in the country that you know of?

Answer: No. We did not do a wide search of comparable programs. There is some activities going on at the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families surrounding LGBTQ families, but otherwise, no.

Notes to Remember

A non-mandatory letter of intent is due on September 6, 2007. Agencies are encouraged to submit a letter which is non-binding but will help First 5 San Francisco design an appropriate review panel.

Proposals are due on September 26, 2007.