

## PARENT ACTION PROGRAM SUMMARY

### Program Goals

The Parent ACTION (Achieving Change Together In Our Neighborhood) program is the centerpiece of the Commission's parent empowerment goal under the result area of Improved Family Functioning. Since 2001, First 5 San Francisco Parent ACTION program has been issuing small grants to organizations and parent groups with the intention of supporting parent leadership development.

All Parent ACTION grant activities must fall under one of the below three outcome areas:

- Providing opportunities for parents to help their children become Kindergarten ready
- Providing opportunities for parents to develop their leadership and/or advocacy skills
- Providing opportunities for parents to create lasting community assets

### Program Tracks

- **Starter Grant (\$2500):** This track builds staff capacity around parent engagement and leadership within an organizational setting. The grant supports a parent led activity within the agency, where staff takes on the role of fostering parent leadership and engagement.
- **Regular Grant (\$3000-\$3500):** This track supports groups of parents (groups do not have to be associated with an organization) to design and implement their own projects. Grantees may choose to apply for a second year grant upon completion of the first year.

### Grant Process

Each grantee group negotiates and adjusts its scope of work during the three months planning phase of the grant. First 5 San Francisco staff provides feedback and recommendation to each group during this process. Grantees may start their nine months implementation phase once they complete their grant negotiation process. The overall grant duration is one year.

### Program Accountability

Parent ACTION grantees are required to submit two reporting forms per grant cycle which include financial backups, grantee narratives, participant quotes, planning meeting notes and sign-in sheets. Parent ACTION grantees also participate in ongoing evaluation efforts after each learning circle as well as year end surveys.

### Evaluation and Findings

A recent survey conducted in July, 2010 to the 09-10 grantees indicates the following for each grantee track:

#### **Starter Grant:**

- 76% of surveyed agency staff indicated they are more likely to involve parents in the decision making process for their program/agency. ( 10 out of 13 responses)
- 71% of surveyed agency staff indicated they are considering making modifications to my program so that it is more parent driven (10 out of 14 responses).
- 87% of surveyed agency staff indicated there is an increase in their knowledge and confidence around parent engagement & empowerment work as a result of Parent ACTION (13 out of 15 responses).

### Regular Grant (First Year):

- 97% of surveyed parents indicated they feel they have a better sense of programs, services and resources available to help their family and other families as a result of Parent ACTION (30 out of 31 responses).
- 97% of surveyed parents indicated they feel more comfortable taking leadership roles at least for some activities as a result of Parent ACTION (29 out of 30 responses).
- 90% of surveyed parents indicated they feel they are more likely to join other parent groups or community activities, e.g. volunteering, PTA, etc. as a result of Parent ACTION. (28 out of 31 responses).

### Regular Grant (Second Year):

- 73% of surveyed parents indicated they feel more confident about advocating for their own family and/or other families to public officials (such as school board, board of supervisors, park & rec., etc.) as a result of Parent ACTION (38 out of 52 responses).
- 69% of surveyed parents indicated they feel their Parent ACTION grant has made a concrete change to their community (36 out of 52 responses).
- 77% of surveyed parents indicated they feel that the legacy/asset developed from their Parent ACTION project will continue beyond the grant duration (40 out of 52 responses).

### Parent ACTION 2010-2011 Grant Awards

- Awarded a total of 16 Starter, 12 First Year and 12 Second Year grants.
- Grantees come from all San Francisco neighborhoods with slightly higher representation in Mission and Chinatown.

Check out the new Parent ACTION video on YouTube!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVWUud2z1E8>

