

BUILDING BLOCKS MINI-GRANTS 2025-2026 RFA
Questions and Answers Response
Date Posted: September 22, 2025

The following questions were received during the Building Blocks Mini-Grants RFA Informational Webinar on September 9, 2025, along with additional questions submitted by the deadline of September 15, 2025.

Submission Reminder: Applications must be completed and uploaded through the First 5 Online Application Portal no later than **Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 12:00 PM PT.**

For any questions about using the portal, please contact:
Lisa R. Johnson, Grants & Contracts Manager — grantsandcontracts@first5coco.org.

Eligibility Clarification

Many of the questions we received were about who is eligible. To avoid confusion, here is one clear summary:

Who Can Apply:

- Nonprofit organizations located in Contra Costa County and serving Contra Costa families with children from prenatal to age 5.
*(Clarification: Nonprofit organizations do **not** have to be physically located in Contra Costa County, but they must serve Contra Costa families with children from prenatal to age 5.)*
- Community groups in Contra Costa County that apply through a qualified nonprofit fiscal sponsor (administrative/processing costs capped at 10%)

Who Cannot Apply:

- Individuals
- Individual child care providers or family daycares (with or without employees)
- Private preschools and child care centers that are not part of a nonprofit or a fiscal-sponsored collaborative
- For-profit businesses or corporations
- Political candidates, parties, or organizations
- Organizations that engage in prohibited lobbying or that fail to comply with state/federal requirements

Q: Do nonprofits have to be based in Contra Costa County to apply?

A: No. Nonprofit organizations do not have to be physically located in Contra Costa County, but they must serve Contra Costa families with children from prenatal to age 5.

Q: Can nonprofit child care programs apply for this funding?

A: Yes. Single nonprofit child care centers can apply, as long as they meet all other eligibility requirements and their proposed project focuses on community advocacy (not direct services).

Important to Note:

These mini-grants are intended to support **community advocacy projects** — activities that build awareness, strengthen community voice, and advance policies and systems benefiting children ages 0–5 and their families. They are **not for direct services, operational expenses, or individual financial support.**

Project Focus Questions**Q: Is the grant only for families already connected to First 5 Contra Costa?**

A: No. The grant is open to projects serving *any families with children ages 0–5 who live in Contra Costa County.*

Q: What types of projects can be funded?

A: Projects should focus on community advocacy — for example, building awareness, strengthening parent or community voice, or advancing policies and systems that support young children and families. For full details and examples, please review the **RFA (Request for Applications)** on the First 5 Contra Costa Funding Opportunities page.

Q: Is this grant for direct services or for individual family support?

A: No. This grant is not for direct services or individual financial assistance. It is for policy and advocacy projects that make a broader community impact.

Application Process Questions**Q: Where do we send our applications?**

A: Applications must be submitted online through the First 5 Online Application Portal. Email or paper submissions will not be accepted. Click here to access the [Building Blocks Mini-Grant Online Application](#).

Q: If our organization is headquartered outside of Contra Costa but serves families here, are we eligible?

A: Yes, as long as your proposed project directly benefits Contra Costa children from prenatal to age 5 and their families.

Q: Would a program like the Abundant Birth Project, applying through its fiscal sponsor, be eligible?

A: Yes, if the fiscal sponsor is a qualified nonprofit and the project serves Contra Costa families with children from prenatal to age 5, the program may apply.

Q: I tried to find the application link, but couldn't. Where is it?

A: The link to the application portal is posted on the First 5 Contra Costa Funding Opportunities webpage. From there, you can create an account, complete your application, and upload required documents. [Building Blocks Mini-Grant Online Application](#)

General Questions

Q: I'm a parent. Can I apply for this funding for my child?

A: No. Families and individuals cannot apply. Only nonprofits and community groups with a fiscal sponsor are eligible.

Q: I'm interested in learning more about the grant before applying. Where can I get information?

A: You can review the full RFA packet and watch the recording of the Informational Webinar (available in English and Spanish) on our Funding Opportunities page. [Building Blocks Mini-Grants](#)

Q: Who can I contact if I have more questions?

A: For questions about the application or process, please email: grantsandcontracts@first5coco.org.