



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

STATEWIDE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATION

RFGA # FTF-STATE-09-INOV-0003-00

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THE STATEWIDE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM?

There is a great deal of consensus nationally as well as in Arizona that high quality early childhood development and health programs have substantial long term results for children. The Board of First Things First approved the first Statewide Needs & Assets Report in December of 2007. This report, which can be found on our website, http://azftf.gov/ecdh/News/FTF_Fina_TEXT20.pdf, highlights many of the gaps in early childhood development and health in Arizona.

First Things First recognizes that there are many projects, programs and initiatives that are already serving young children and families in Arizona. Many of these are comprehensive in nature and can demonstrate they have had a positive impact in preparing children for school and life. Many may be only partially funded, receive sporadic financial support, have never been brought to scale or lack the infrastructure necessary to efficiently serve the entire state.

In addition to existing programs and services, there are many people looking to determine new and innovative ways to improve young children's development and/or health. While these innovations may not yet have proven results, they may be found to be highly promising if afforded the opportunity to be piloted.

First Things First recognizes the importance of exploring funding opportunities for these programs that can provide a significant impact on children birth through five.

WHAT WILL THE REQUEST FOR GRANT APPLICATION (RFGA) FUND?

First Things First will consider either of the following for award under this grant program:

- Programs/Initiatives that are innovative and have positive potential outcomes in improving early childhood development and/or health, but which require an infrastructure to deliver their services statewide so that children throughout the state can benefit from their strategy.

- Existing Programs/Initiatives that can demonstrate positive outcomes for children, but which lack infrastructure or whose infrastructure is inadequate to deliver their services statewide and can demonstrate they have the ability to create statewide capacity.

Applicants must describe the service delivery model being used or proposed for statewide reach. Applicants must also describe the infrastructure in place or that needs to be expanded or developed to ensure a statewide reach for program delivery. In addition, applicants must also demonstrate that statewide service delivery will be efficient and effective through the development or enhancement of a statewide infrastructure.

Another important element applicants must provide in their application is a description of the critical linkages to the First Things First infrastructure that includes Regional Partnership Councils. The applicants must describe how the proposed statewide program will be meaningfully communicated and coordinated with Regional Partnership Councils related to the implementation of the proposed service delivery and regional planning.

First Things First is committed to ensuring that all funding has a positive impact on outcomes for young children and their families. The successful applicant(s) must demonstrate the intended positive outcomes for their program.

Like all funded programs within the First Things First model, the successful applicant(s) will be required to work closely with the First Things First evaluation team to determine the added value their program/service provides for children 0-5 and their families.

WHAT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE?

This is a sixteen (16) month contract with an option for renewal for two (2) additional twelve (12) month periods. Total funds available will not exceed \$1,200,000 for the first funding period and \$900,000 for each of the remaining two years (\$3,000,000 total for the entire term of this project which is expected to include multiple awards but may include a single award). Renewal will be contingent upon satisfactory contract performance, evaluation and availability of funds.

The anticipated contract period for any resultant grant award will be March 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THESE FUNDS?

First Things First awards grants to:

- Non-profit 501 (c) (3) organizations providing services in Arizona (both secular and faith-based)
- Units of Arizona government (local, county and state entities as well as schools and school districts)
- Federally recognized Tribal governments or entities providing services within Arizona
- Arizona institutions of higher learning (colleges and universities)
- Private organizations providing services in Arizona

All potential applicants must demonstrate organizational, fiscal and programmatic capacity to meet the requirements described in the scopes of work listed in Requests for Grant Applications.

PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR THE GRANT MAKING PROCESS

October 31, 2008	Notice of Intent/Fact Sheet available to the public
November 7, 2008	RFGA available on-line
November 20, 2008	Pre-application Conference First Things First, 8 th floor board room, 1:30 p.m. -3:30 p.m. at 4000 N. Central Ave., Ste. 800, Phoenix, AZ 85012
January 7, 2009	Applications due to the First Things First office by 3:00 p.m.
March 1, 2009	Anticipated grant awards made

HOW TO GET A COPY OF THE RFGA.

Please visit the First Things First web site on or after November 7, 2008: <http://www.azftf.gov>

QUESTIONS?

All questions must be submitted in writing to the Grants and Contracts Procurement Specialist via fax (602) 265-0009 or grants@azftf.gov.