

# First 5 California Special Needs Project

## ***Critical Elements of the SNP: A Guide for Program Planning and Self-Assessment***

The following list is intended as a quick guide to assist in program planning and self-assessment for the Special Needs Project Demonstration Sites. If the proposed enhancement, modification, or addition does not meet these indicators, it is likely that it does not support the purpose of this demonstration project. Additional information regarding the specific requirements of the SNP may be found in the attached document, ***SNP Demonstration Site Requirements and Support***, or in the original application information (*Request for Applications*), located on the CCFC website: <http://www.ccfc.ca.gov/>.

**Purpose:** The Special Needs Project is designed to improve systems of support for children with disabilities and other special needs and their families and to promote their school readiness.

1. Does it clearly and directly address the **goals**?
  - Improves school readiness for children with disabilities
  - Promotes early identification and intervention
  - Strengthens the School Readiness Initiative and other First 5 projects
  - Produces evaluation results for evidence-based practices
  
2. Does it clearly and directly address the **outcomes**?
  - Universal access to screening
  - Improved access to services and supports
  - Inclusion in appropriate, typical settings
  - Evaluation to determine effective practices
  
3. Does it clearly and directly support the **target population**?
  - All children, birth to 5, who live in the catchment area and are protected by ADA or are at risk.
  - Particular emphasis on children with behavior or mental health needs
  
4. Does it clearly and directly support the **foundation concepts**?
  - The family is at the center of the model
  - Ongoing outreach and meaningful participation is necessary for family and community members
  - Strong connections to research and practices
  - Strong interdisciplinary and interagency partnerships
  - Ongoing professional and personal development

- Organizational capacity building
  - Strengths-based approach
  - Culturally competent and respectful services and activities
  - Ongoing evaluation and continuous improvement
5. Does it clearly and directly support the **Diversity Principles**?
    - Inclusive governance and participation
    - Legislative and regulatory mandates
    - Access to services
    - Results based accountability
  6. Have the related **budget** items been approved?
  7. Does it enhance or **improve the existing system**, by not providing simply “more of the same”?
  8. Is it **replicable**?
  9. Is it **sustainable** beyond the support offered through the SNP?
  10. Is it **embedded** within the School Readiness Initiative?
  11. Does it **support a required activity** of the SNP?