

**SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE AWARD AND CRITERIA**

History

The first Spotlight on Excellence Award (Award) and Selection Criteria was presented to the First 5 San Mateo County Commission and the public at the June 28, 2010 Commission meeting Commission meeting. First 5 San Mateo County (F5SMC) staff will select the award recipient(s) based on the Selection Criteria below.

Spotlight On Excellence Award- General Description

The Spotlight on Excellence Award will be presented for exceptional contributions made to San Mateo County children prenatal to age 5 and their families, by a group, nonprofit organization, service agency, school district, colleges or university, business or industry, club or individual. Organizations do not need to be 501(c) 3 nonprofit.

Selection Criteria

Only nominees meeting the requirements listed below will be considered for the Spotlight on Excellence Award.

1. Nominees must achieve one or more of the *Strategies & Activities* listed in the F5SMC 2015-2020 Strategic Plan Focus Areas of:

Early Learning Strategies & Activities

1. **Support formal quality improvement in early learning settings**
2. **Expand access to early learning settings/environments for children with special needs and for infants and toddlers**
3. **Strengthen parents’ understanding of high quality early learning**
4. **Partner with San Mateo County’s Big Lift Initiative**

Child Health and Development Strategies & Activities

1. **Promote health care access and utilization**
2. **Integrate systems for children with special needs and their families**
3. **Promote equitable access to safe and healthy communities**

Family Support and Engagement Strategies & Activities

1. **Provide intensive support for families with multiple risk factors**
2. **Create effective parent partnerships**
3. **Promote parent connectivity and support networks**
4. **Strengthen service providers’ early childhood understanding**

1. Nominees must display one or more of thefollowing *Core Values and Guiding Principles* in the F5SMC 2015-2020 Strategic Plan:

**Core Values**

* Support the whole child within the whole family
* Build connections between the many systems that serve young children and their parents and caregivers
* Embrace the importance of fathers and male role models in the healthy development of children
* Promote positive early development and focus on prevention and early intervention
* Include children of diverse abilities
* Respect and engage parents and families
* Honor cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity
* Appreciate strengths
* Enlarge community capacity

**Guiding Principles**

* Create Value
* Promote equity
* Foster excellence
* Demonstrate effectiveness
* Achieve sustainable change

**Nominations**

Nominations are submitted by First 5 San Mateo County grantees/stakeholders. Nominator is encouraged to nominate a group, nonprofit organization, service agency, school district, colleges or university, business or industry, club or individual that meets the Selection Criteria listed above.

1. All F5SMC funded partners are encouraged to participate in the nomination process and may submit individually or jointly with other F5SMC funded partners.
2. To make a nomination, fill out the Spotlight on Excellence Nomination Form. Submit no more than three pages (single space, 12 font size, Arial font, 1 inch margin).

Selection Process

1. F5SMC staff shall review each nomination and will recommend the award recipient based on the Selection Criteria.
2. The award recipient will be notified by F5SMC Staff.
3. A suitable plaque or citation will be awarded to the recipient on the December 17, 2018, F5SMC’s 20 Years of Community Investment Celebration.
4. Spotlight on Excellence Award recipients will be included in the F5SMC Annual Report to the community.

2018 Submittal criteria

1. All nominations will be submitted to the ecruz@smcgov.org no later than November 30, 2018 at 5:00 pm.
2. Award recipients(s) will be notified on December 7, 2018.
3. Submit nominations to Myra Cruz, Administrative Secretary by email ecruz@smcgov.org or by fax (650) 372-9588.
4. Questions about the Spotlight on Excellence Award should be directed to Myra Cruz by e-mail at ecruz@smcgov.org