



LAUP, First 5 LA, YWCA and Families In Schools are excited to announce their partnership and commitment to strengthening and building stronger families in Southeast Los Angeles County.

Through the support of LAUP, Families In School (FIS) is honored to bring their 15 years of parent engagement expertise to community partners in the Best Start SELA community that includes Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood and Walnut Park. **FIS will provide a series of five FREE, capacity-building trainings** to organizational staff members so that they are better able to partner with and serve families in the Best Start SELA community. Working with organizations that serve families with children between the ages of 0-5, Families In Schools trainings will cover:

- **Parent Engagement Strategies:** this module focuses on research-based strategies and best practices that engage parents in authentic and meaningful ways to: support academic milestones, encourage communication between parents and staff specific to student success, and create an environment for effective parent engagement to thrive.
- **Creating a Welcoming Environment:** this module focuses on best practices for enhancing and supporting a welcoming environment for families through an exploration of the four domains of a welcoming environment and an opportunity to assess one's current environment.
- **Outreach, Recruitment and Retention:** this module focuses on best practices for encouraging and increasing parent engagement, including: the importance of building a team, planning and implementing strategies, developing communication tools, tracking results, and debriefing/reflecting.
- **Other Topics:** Families In Schools will host two additional modules based on topics desired by the community. See the attached survey or visit [familiesinschools.org/StrongerSELA](http://familiesinschools.org/StrongerSELA) to provide your input on topics you and your organization would like to see additional training support around.

Families In Schools will offer each module twice, beginning in the late summer/early fall of 2016. Training modules will only be offered to community partners who meet the following criteria:

- Located in Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood and /or Walnut Park
- Works with families with children 0-5 years old
- Willing to commit 2-4 staff members to participate in each of the five training modules
- Can designate a staff member/coordinator to oversee the partnership and participation in the program
- Will commit to participating in bridging activities that bring together residents, parents and organizations in the Best Start SELA community
- Agrees to provide feedback throughout the duration of the project

If your organization would benefit from these FREE trainings, meets the criteria above, and would like to participate, please fill out the attached application and email to [communications@familiesinschools.org](mailto:communications@familiesinschools.org) with the subject line: SELA Community Partner. The deadline to apply is June 1, 2016 with room for 15 total organizations. Spaces will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

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#### **About Families In Schools**

Families In Schools (FIS) is a nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles whose mission is to involve parents and communities in their children's education to achieve lifelong success. For fifteen years, FIS has provided capacity building to schools and organizations to effectively empower and engage parents in supporting their child's education. Currently, FIS partners with over 400 schools and organizations state and nationwide to help families fulfill their role as their child's first teacher. For more information, please visit: [www.familiesinschools.org](http://www.familiesinschools.org).