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community of parents
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committed to teaching
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through parent
involvement and
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Proposition 10 and Parent Participation Nursery Schools Getting a Share of the Grant Money *by Anne Brown, Sierra Preschool*

Three Placer County co-op preschools have been the recipients of Prop 10 Grants. While the amount of the grants and the use of the monies are varied between the schools, the steps to receiving the grants have been the same. Our schools followed these steps:

- Initial contact was made with the Placer County Children & Families Commission office to obtain the grant application and deadline information.
- Directors and/or parents attended mandatory Prop 10 meetings in the community to meet the decision-makers at the county level, to show their commitment to the program, and to be present to ask/answer any questions or provide information as needed.
- Back in their schools, committees were formed to determine the school's exact goals, research desired outcomes, and clearly define monetary needs.
- The grant writing process was completed and the application was submitted to the county for review in accordance with their deadline requirements.
- Once the positive results are received, the school must carefully review, approve and sign a final contract received from the county.
- The school must then complete the necessary requirements as stipulated in the contract (i.e. providing the county with Certificates of Insurance, etc.)
- Once expenditures have been made, receipts are submitted to the county along with the required Payment Request Form as provided by the county.
- Attendance is required at Outcome Fairs twice annually

The time frame from start to finish can take up to several months. School members should be dedicated in their pursuit of the grant and committed to the process. Fortunately, Placer County is very progressive in their disbursement of Prop 10 funds and in their support of children ages 0-5.

Our schools have received the following grants. Tutor Totter Preschool in Auburn received \$50,000 in 2001 and used it to add on to their existing structure, purchase new learning enhancement materials and provide full and partial scholarships for students. Sierra Preschool, also in Auburn, received \$5,000 in 2002 and is using it to provide a two-year music program for students, purchase new art and science materials and to establish a scholarship program. Loomis Community Nursery School will receive \$46,000 in 2002-2003 to completely replace their playground equipment and groundcover, allowing them to comply with current playground safety requirements.

Each county in California handles their Prop 10 funding program differently. Interested schools or councils need to approach their county to learn their specific requirements. We encourage all interested schools to pursue Prop 10 funding while it lasts!