



## OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

### NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

#### **Fiscal Year 2015 Hub Agencies for Neighborhood-based Networks of High Quality Infant/Toddler Child Care and Comprehensive Services**

**Request for Applications Release Date: July 3, 2014**

**Registration for Mandatory Pre-Application Conference Date: July 7, 2014**

**Mandatory Pre-Application Conference Date: July 8, 2014**

**Grant Application Submission Deadline: July 17, 2014**

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) is the State Education Agency for the District of Columbia (“District”) and is charged with raising the quality of education for all DC residents. The Division of Early Learning (“DEL”) within OSSE is charged to provide leadership and coordination to ensure that all District of Columbia children, from birth to kindergarten entrance, have access to high quality early childhood development programs and are well prepared for school. OSSE administers a number of federally and locally funded programs for early care, child development and early intervention. OSSE provides funding for child care services (including before and after school care) to children ages birth through thirteen (13) years, including services through age eighteen (18) for children with disabilities.

**Request for Applications:** As part of the Mayor’s proposed \$7.1 million in the fiscal year 2015 (“FY15”) budget for improving and expanding the quality of infant and toddler care, OSSE seeks applications (“RFA”) from child development center and child development home providers interested in joining a neighborhood-based network to provide Early Head Start (“EHS”) early learning and development services to infants, toddlers, and their families. Partner child care providers would receive resources and technical assistance to achieve and maintain federal program performance standards for Early Head Start from neighborhood-based hub agencies.

This new initiative has the potential to leverage an estimated two million dollars (\$2 million) in federal funding that will be available to the District to support EHS and child care partnerships (see <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hs/grants/ehs-ccp>). The federal Partnership grant will fund new or existing Early Head Start grantees to partner with licensed center-based or family child care providers who agree to meet the federal standards. As such, organizations that respond to this RFA must agree to collaborate on this federal grant opportunity in order to ensure that the available federal funds are maximized to support the children and families in high priority neighborhoods, and special populations (dual language learners, homeless, foster, children of teen parents, children with special needs).

This new initiative – Neighborhood-based Networks - will ensure more children and families benefit from early, continuous, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services, including educational, health, nutritional, behavioral, and family support services which enhance the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of participating children.



**Anticipated Number of Awards:** OSSE seeks to fund one (1) or more Grantees to serve as a partner child care provider. Should a grantee fail to achieve the stated goals and objectives described in the individual proposal under this application that grantee may be subject to penalties that include, but are not limited to, loss of funding, suspension or termination.

**Available Funding for Awards:** OSSE plans to utilize \$1.8 million from the Mayor's proposed funding allocation for early learning and existing agency managed dollars, including those available through child care subsidy and early intervention, to partner with qualified agencies responding to this RFA.

**Eligibility Criteria:** OSSE seeks information from organizations willing to join a One City approach to raising the quality of infant and toddler child care by serving as neighborhood-based technical assistance hub. To be eligible, responding agencies must:

- Have the capacity and desire to serve children and families in Wards 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.
- Commit to full support of the strategy, including a non-competition agreement and sharing of data and information necessary to develop a successful federal grant application.
- Have previous experience with and knowledge of federal EHS/Head Start Program Performance Standards.

**Information Requested from Potential Child Care Partners:** Agencies interested in being a Neighborhood-based Quality Improvement Hub may be current Head Start or Early Head Start grantees, and/or organizations with a track record of success in administering federal funds and providing high-quality infant and toddler care. Applicants are required to provide the following information:

Your agency capacity to service as a federal grantee, including current or former status as an Early Head Start or Head Start grantee, other federal grants currently managed by your agency, and date of most recent independent financial audit.

- Current partnerships or collaborations with child care providers, including any technical assistance, or professional development expertise. Or, stated commitment to partner with either child care centers, homes, or both.
- Information about current infant and toddler program, including total licensed capacity by age (0-12, 12-24, 24-36 months) and capacity for subsidized slots, by age.
- Sources of funding for the program (subsidy, private, EHS, philanthropic), if a current EHS grantee, please describe federally funded program options and number of children and families participating in each.
- Information about program services provided to children and families, including information about innovative approaches to working with special populations (homeless, foster, dual language learner, teen parents)
- Data on wait list for services by ward/neighborhood, and any plans or opportunities for expansion of infant/toddler services
- Capacity to work with child care partners to ensure the delivery of comprehensive services, including health, nutritional, behavioral, and family support and engagement.



- Potential approach to meeting the following expectations for a Hub agency. What expertise and resources would your agency bring to the table? What are the gaps? What additional supports would be needed to meet this vision?
  - Develop collaborative, supportive relationships with child care centers, family child care homes, and home visiting programs active in their neighborhood cluster.
  - Conduct outreach to identify eligible high needs children and families in the community and assist in placing them in participating child care programs.
  - Coordinate determination of federal Early Head Start eligibility for families in child care settings, and child care subsidy eligibility for families in the networks, in a manner that simplifies the process as best possible for families.
  - Work with child care partner staff so that they: establish school readiness goals and approaches to providing high quality early learning and development services; select and use a research-based curriculum that addresses the cognitive, social emotional, physical, language and literacy, and approaches to learning domains; implement ongoing assessment practices; and develop and implement professional development plans and include child care staff in orientation and training opportunities provided to their staff as appropriate.
  - Provide comprehensive health, nutrition, family engagement, and social services meeting federal Program Performance Standards to children enrolled at child care sites (homes/centers) in the network, and conduct on-going monitoring consistent with federal requirements.
  - Employ or contract with federally required staff or consultants as needed to support quality provision of early childhood development, family support and engagement, health, mental health, nutrition, and disabilities support services to children and families at child care sites (homes/centers) in the network, including specialists in family child care for those hubs interested in partnerships with family child care home providers.
  - Create parent policy councils or include representatives of parents in child care partners in existing policy councils.

**Important Dates:** The Request for Application (RFA) will be available on July 3, 2014. Applications may be obtained from the Office of Partnerships and Grant Services website, Funding Alert link @ <http://opgs.dc.gov/page/funding-alert> , the DC Register <http://www.dcregs.dc.gov/> or the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) website, <http://osse.dc.gov/>. Applications may also be obtained from Mr. Walter C. Lundy, Jr., Associate Director, please send an email to [Walter.Lundy@dc.gov](mailto:Walter.Lundy@dc.gov) to request an electronic copy of the application.

All parties planning to apply for this grant must attend the Pre-Application Conference and are required to RSVP to Ms. Lilian Tetteh via email to [Lilian.Tetteh@dc.gov](mailto:Lilian.Tetteh@dc.gov) by July 7, 2014. Parties interested in applying for this RFA are **required** to attend the **mandatory** Pre-Application Conference that will be held on July 8, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST at 810 First Street, NE, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room (Side B), Washington, DC 20002. The **deadline for application submission is July 17, 2014, via electronic submission at 3:30 p.m. EST.**