**Orange County Partnership for Young Children**

**FY 2018-2019 Funding Opportunities**

For FY 2018-2019, the Orange County Partnership for Young Children (OCPYC) seeks proposals for implementation of programs to meet the goals and objectives within three major initiatives: Early Engagement: Quality Programs for Infants and Toddlers; Early Language and Literacy: Building Pathways for Success in Schools; and Growing Up Healthy. Additionally, OCPYC seeks proposals for administration of general subsidy/subsidy enhancement programs. Areas of interest include services that affect children and families with low-incomes, infants and toddlers, children living in rural Orange County who are underserved, and children living in the Family Success Alliance and Making Connections service areas.

**I-Initiatives**

**Early Engagement: Quality Programs for Infants and Toddlers**

This initiative seeks to improve the overall quality of care for infants and toddlers within multiple child care settings. First, it is designed to improve the programming and quality of services provided to infants and toddlers, especially those receiving subsidy, enrolled in an Orange County child care center or home. Second, the initiative is designed to enhance the quality of care of toddlers through parent education and supports. OCPYC will consider proposals that provide:

* Training, coaching, and/or technical assistance to infant/toddler programs in order to (1) strengthen positive teacher/child interactions; (2) increase lead teacher education points; (3) improve educational program standards; (4) strengthen administrative leadership; and/or (5) improve the star rating for facilities holding less than a 5 star license and/or maintain their 5 star rating. Services may include training, on-site observation and technical assistance, consultation, mentoring, mock assessments, quality improvement planning, professional development planning, and/or providing linkages to the resources needed for improvement. Measures of effectiveness may include CLASS assessment scoring, NC ECE Professional Certification Scale Worksheet, Program Administration Scale scoring, Infant Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-Revised, or other certified measures of gains in knowledge or program quality assessment.\*
* Parent education to Orange County parents of children 1-3 years of age through the *Incredible Years* *Parent- Toddler Parent Program*. The program will provide parents strategies that build positive parent-child interactions, promote nurturing parenting, increase children’s social and self-control behaviors, and reduce children’s challenging behaviors. Programs in English and Spanish will be considered.

**Early Language and Literacy: Building Pathways for Success in School**

This initiative seeks to ensure that young children build the competencies needed for kindergarten and are prepared for the literacy demands of school through programming that (1) engages families in language and literacy learning and book sharing; (2) increases teacher knowledge and practice of evidence-based strategies for language development and literacy learning in child care centers and/or homes; (3) creates literacy-rich environments for young children; (4) encourages young children and families’ use of library resources; (5) increases young children’s experiences with print and books; and/or (6) increases access to developmentally and culturally appropriate books and other literacy resources. Measures of effectiveness may include measures of gains in knowledge, gains in activity frequency, measures associated with specific programs, etc. OCPYC will consider proposals that provide:

* Training, technical assistance, coaching/mentoring to child care centers and/or homes on effective practices in language and literacy development for children birth to five years of age, using evidence-based programming.\*
* Comprehensive family literacy programming that emphasizes positive child/parent interactions and experiences with language development and literacy learning to ensure school readiness.\*
* Play group experiences centered on enhancing literacy experiences for young children, with special emphasis on children who are not enrolled in licensed child care settings.
* Implementation of other evidence-based programs to support language and literacy development such as Reach Out and Read, Motheread, Fatheread, etc.

**Growing Up Healthy.** This initiative builds on OCPYC’s work with multiple strategies to improve the health and well-being of young children. It seeks to ensure the healthy growth and development of young children through strategies that (1) reduce childhood obesity and help children start school healthy and ready to learn; (2) demonstrate best practices for child care health and safety and improve programming and teacher practice; (3) ensure the identification and service referral of young children who may need early intervention services; (4) increase knowledge and support services to ensure young children are safe from abuse; and/or (5) build positive, healthy child/adult relationships. OCPYC will consider proposals that provide:

* Training, technical assistance, coaching/mentoring to child care professionals, child care centers and/or homes to increase healthy institutional practices and affect healthy child behaviors. Strategies may include Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAP SACC), Be Active Kids; and other evidence-based or evidence-informed strategies.\*
* Education and supports to help parents of children birth to 5 confidently manage their young children’s behavior, prevent problems from developing, and build strong, healthy relationships. Programs strategies may include Triple P—Positive Parenting Programs, Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up, etc.
* Implementation of Assuring Better Child Health and Development.\*
* Implementation of other evidence-based programs that support young children’s healthy growth and development.

*\*Proposals with an asterisk may be considered for a two-year award.*

**II-Other Priorities**

For FY 2018-2019, OCPYC is requesting proposals to administer its subsidy programs for *three years* as follows:

**Child Care Subsidy\*\*** (please see Exception for State-Level Contracts through N.C. Division of Child Development.)

This activity will provide (1) direct service funding to address child care needs among the economically challenged families in Orange County with priority for income based qualifying families living in Orange County working at least 30 hours per week placing their children, birth-5 years old, in a high quality (4- or 5-star) licensed child care facility (PBIS: PLA 50); (2) supplements for quality, including enhancements/incentives for 4- or 5-star facilities, for a qualifying and enrolled Early Head Start child to offset the additional costs of providing quality care, and (3) supplements for quality, including enhancements/incentives for 4- or 5-star facilities, through payments per child to help offset the additional costs of providing quality care.

*\*\*Exception for State-Level Contracts through N.C. Division of Child Development.* “These competitive bidding guidelines do not apply to Subsidy and WAGE$® activities that are contracted through state-level contracts with the Division of Child Development*.” (Source: NCPC-Revised Smart Start Competitive Bidding Memo-August 17, 2004)* Agencies interested in providing services that fall into this category must submit the following: (1) A proposal of how Smart Start dollars will be utilized and how they will meet PBIS goals and Smart Start’s mission of high quality early care education and services; (2) A detailed budget, budget narrative, and match justification.

**III-Other Funding Opportunities**

For FY 2018-2019, the Partnership will consider proposals targeted to meet other identified needs not addressed in the three initiatives outlined above. Proposals must offer evidence-based/informed models in early care and education, child health, early intervention, or family support. Applicants may apply for funding to expand their established model to serve more children and families, to service children and families in a new location, etc., or to ensure full implementation of an established model. Funding is limited for proposals that do not fall within the initiatives specified above.

Other- Production of parent and community educational information for distribution to diverse populations. Strategies may include, but are not limited to, Smart Start website, printed parenting resources, a Smart Start annual report, and agency brochure community outreach. The activity may include educational events and other partnership and collaboration development activities.