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**Orange County Partnership for Young Children**

 **FY 2021-2022 Funding Opportunities**

For FY 2021-2022, the Orange County Partnership for Young Children (OCPYC) seeks proposals for implementation of programs to meet the goals and objectives within three major categories: Early Engagement: Ensuring Quality Programs for Young Children; Early Language and Literacy: Building Pathways for Success in School; and Growing Up Healthy. Areas of interest include services that affect under-resourced children and families, children who do not attend licensed child care programs, children living in rural Orange County who are underserved, and children living in the Family Success Alliance and Making Connections service areas.

**Categories**

Early Engagement: Ensuring Quality Programs for Young Children

This category of programming seeks to improve the overall quality of care for young children who attend or do not attend licensed child care programs. First, it is designed to improve the programming and quality of services provided to children birth through three years of age, especially those receiving subsidy, enrolled in an Orange County child care center or home. Second, the category is designed to enhance the quality of care for children attending the NC Pre-K programs throughout Orange County. Third, the category seeks to explore services for children who do not attend licensed child care programs and who would benefit from other structured early childhood experiences. OCPYC will consider proposals that provide:

* Training, coaching, and/or technical assistance to programs serving infants through the age of three in order to (1) strengthen positive teacher/child interactions; (2) increase lead teacher education points; (3) improve educational program standards; (4) strengthen administrative leadership; (5) improve the star rating for facilities holding less than a 5 star license and/or maintain their 5 star rating; and/or (6) create seamless transitions from infant/toddler classrooms to classrooms serving three-year olds. 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, Environmental Rating Scale-Revised, or other certified measures of gains in knowledge or program quality assessment.
* Training, coaching, and/or technical assistance to enhance the quality of care provided to children in the NC Pre-K program through (1) improving site-based administration of the NC Pre-K program to meet requirements; (2) developing provider skills, knowledge, and goal-setting to meet children’s needs; (3) linking NC Pre-K program improvements to whole-site improvements; and/or (4) providing assistance to potential sites.
* Implementation of facilitated play groups to provide children who do not attend licensed child care programs with structured early childhood experiences that develop the skills necessary for future success, including social-emotional skills, early learning, early literacy skills, etc. The core of the play groups must be an evidence-based strategy, such as Kaleidoscope or Mother Goose. Measures of effectiveness would link to the individual strategy chosen. Provider must develop strategies to recruit and serve underserved and under-resourced children and families.

Early Language and Literacy: Building Pathways for Success in School

This category 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:

* Implementation of strategies that include evidence-based programs to support language and literacy development, including Reach Out and Read, Motheread, Fatheread, and/or Raising a Reader.

Growing Up Healthy

This category 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 neglect; and/or (5) build positive, healthy child/adult relationships. 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 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/caregivers of children birth to 5 confidently manage young children’s behavior, prevent problems from developing that may lead to abuse and neglect, and/or build strong, healthy relationships. Program strategies may include Triple P—Positive Parenting Programs, Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up, etc.
* Implementation of the Assuring Better Child Health and Development program.

Child Care Subsidy

Subsidy activities will provide (1) direct service funding to address child care needs among the economically challenged families in Orange County with priority for TANF-eligible families served in a high quality (4- or 5-star) licensed child care facility; (2) supplements for quality, including enhancements for 4- or 5-star facilities, with priority for those facilities participating in Smart Start programming, through payments per child to help offset the additional costs of providing quality care; and (3) supplements for quality for NC Pre-K sites through payments per child to help offset the additional costs of providing quality early care and education supports.\*

*\*Proposals for these strategies may apply for multiple fiscal years up to three years.*