
Questions and Responses #3:
Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration
February 4, 2020

1. In regards to the fiscal agent, I see that a municipality can be your fiscal sponsor. By the municipality, do you mean Board of Education or only the Town? Our BOE and Town share a finance department any way but I am wondering which Board and Budget I would use to attach. **Either the Town or BOE can serve as your fiscal agent.**
 2. Will the proposal be granted or denied as a whole or will certain projects or activities be "accepted or cut"? Our library would LOVE to be trained as a Family Place library to enhance their 0-5 work. It is \$12,000 for the 4-day training for 2 people. I am not sure what the reasonable cost threshold would be. Any guidance would be appreciated! **It will be up to the independent review team to determine whether to fund proposals all or in part based on the number of proposals, available funds and priority for building and expanding local EC collaborative capacity.**
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Questions and Responses #2:
Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration
January 31, 2020

1. Does the fiduciary need to be a 501(c)3 or can it be our municipality, which is the fiduciary for our School Readiness Council? **Yes, your municipality can serve as the fiduciary.**
2. A local RESC assists two to three councils through various roles. Some we are the liaison, some as chairs, etc. Could the RESC apply for this funding and use it to enhance existing structures, organization capacities, etc. In each one of these communities, there is something to be done to create a better system of coordination between 0-5. Our RESC would be the fiscal and spearhead the community level work. **Yes, a RESC could apply on behalf of the three communities. It would have to be clear that each community has a robust local EC collaborative for which the RESC is providing staffing and other support. A letter of support or commitment from the community would be needed. Alternatively, the community could apply and designate the RESC as the fiscal sponsor.**
3. In section 3, Applicant Information, it asks for current LECC budget. If our Cradle to Career collaborative (STRIVE) is writing the application should that be their budget? **Yes, it should be the collaborative's budget.**

4. Can you give an example of "increasing cross-system orientation of existing efforts to better include partners from all critical areas of support?"
This could include coordination with health and childcare providers on home visiting and developmental screening, working with the school system on Kindergarten transition, creating referral networks for parents to needed services, working with Birth to 3 in transitioning students to preschool. The focus of a community's efforts depends on the needs and opportunities for partnerships.
5. Under Project Support it states "Increasing inclusion of historically underserved families in the Birth to Five System." Could the funds be used for "Preschool Scholarships"? Our community currently has a 100% resident funded scholarship program. To date we have awarded 30 scholarships to local families who otherwise could not afford to put their children into preschool. **There is no doubt this is a critical need but funding scholarships is not in and of itself systems change. The available funds could be used to improve parents' awareness and referral services to childcare subsidies or build awareness and market the resident funded scholarship program.**
6. Can you provide a description of the CQI training? **The intent is to provide basic training on CQI methods – starting with the most basic:**
- **SMART Aims: SMART is an acronym for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound. This acronym helps to set goals for CQI projects.**
 - **PDSA cycles: The Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle is a hallmark of nearly all CQI models. Plan-Do-Study-Act is a cycle of activities used to achieve process or system improvement.**
 - **And then possibly progressing to: Key Driver Diagrams: Key Driver Diagrams provide a visual representation of a theory of change, connecting change strategies to drivers to aims.**

Questions and Responses #1:

Strengthening Local Early Childhood Collaboration

January 24, 2020

1. If my proposal includes funds for "additional hours for existing or new staff," will that incremental change in staffing also be an eligible expense in the Spring 2020 RFP? **Yes, we will want to continue to support staffing in the next RFP, if that's important to the collaborative. Increases from this grant won't set a new bar.**
2. If a second RFP is released in the spring, what would be the start date? July 1 or October 1? **July 1 would be the goal start date**
3. Can you provide a description of the CQI training? **More information from OEC to follow.**

4. Is it correct that you are looking for applications which address all 3 operational focus areas? **Yes. Although we recognize that your local collaborative may be addressing one focus area more than others, addressing all three will lead to a more competitive proposal based on the federal grant and associated scoring rubric.**
5. That you want a copy of our Council members and budget and the same from our fiscal sponsors? **Yes.**
6. Under the list of applicant information that is to be provided, an IRS determination letter with tax ID numbers is requested. As we do not have that does the fiscal sponsor's 501c3 info suffice? **Yes**
7. Just wondering if there is a rubric for funds, i.e. increase staff by x amount of hours to get coordinator's hours up? example from 25-35? per week. **No, there is no specific expectation in terms of number of hours. It depends on the needs of each local collaborative.**