



**Florida Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS)
Impact Project**



Request for Proposals

2020-2021

Application Deadline: September 30, 2020, @ 5 pm EST

COVER PAGE

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHY START COALITIONS, INC.

FLORIDA ECCS IMPACT PROJECT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Community of Focus: _____

Entity's Legal Name: _____

Entity's Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Number(s): (Including area code) _____

Fax Number(s): (Including area code) _____

Email Address: _____

Website Address: _____

Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN): _____

DUNS Number: _____

Amount Requested: _____

Entity's Fiscal Year End Date: _____

Contact Person for Application: _____

Authorized Signature in Blue Ink: _____

Printed Name of Authorized Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FLORIDA EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS (ECCS) IMPACT PROJECT

THE PROBLEM

Early childhood experiences shape future quality of life, including health, economic, emotional, physical and social outcomes. Responsive, nurturing relationships in safe, engaging environments in the earliest years (starting prenatally) are at the foundation of healthy development. Investments, policies and practices that optimize child development are well known, but a gap remains between what we know and what we do. In addition, institutionalized barriers like income, educational inequities, school and neighborhood segregation, and racism, contribute to scores of children not receiving necessary support for achieving their optimal health. This leads to increases in healthcare, education and economic costs for children and families, diminishes parental productivity, and reduces a child's ability to reach full developmental potential.

OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD SYSTEMS CHANGE

In 2016, the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA/MCHB) launched an effort to identify ways to improve early childhood systems, resources and coordination across sectors so that all children can achieve optimal and equitable early childhood developmental health outcomes. From this, the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network (ECCS CoIIN) was created. This multiyear initiative has been informing and contributing to this national effort, as well as advancing state and local early childhood system coordination efforts. We are currently in the final year of a 5-year project. We anticipate (based on a forecast on Grants.gov), but cannot guarantee, future funding for ongoing implementation.

Florida is one of 12 states participating in the ECCS CoIIN, led by the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ). The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc. (FAHSC), the nonprofit organization administering the Florida Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Initiative for the state, is responsible for the oversight and successful implementation of the ECCS Impact Project grant. The other ECCS state grantees include Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma and Utah. Using NICHQ's change approach, which leverages collaboration, innovation and quality improvement methodology, these states and their communities are implementing a series of evidence-based solutions and use data to track results.

The goal of the CoIIN is to improve the developmental skills of young children through the coordination of available services in order to build a system of care that involves health care providers, agencies

servicing families with children ages 0-3, early childhood care providers, and families who reside in the participating communities.

In addition, Florida has chosen to adopt a racial/ethnic equity lens in its ECCS Impact Project work because we cannot improve developmental health outcomes for children, without also addressing the barriers that families and communities face due to institutional and systemic racism. Families of color often face inequities in childcare, housing, health care, and education and it is our responsibility to promote change in systems that perpetuate disparities. An equitable community is one in which the distribution of resources, opportunities, and burdens is not determined or predictable by race/ethnicity and every child receives what they need to live, grow, and thrive.

INVITATION TO APPLY

FAHSC is seeking a new lead entity in Miami to oversee the established Liberty City/Overtown place-based community (PBC) in the implementation of the Florida ECCS Impact Project and participation in the National ECCS CoIIN. This community is one of two implementation sites for the Florida ECCS Impact Project. The lead entity will be responsible for hiring, or contracting with a local, full-time ECCS Impact Community Project Coordinator and facilitating an established ECCS Impact Project Community Improvement Team in the Liberty City and Overtown communities. It is expected that lead entity's leadership staff will have primary responsibility for ensuring that a collaborative approach is used for all ECCS Impact Project activities, for encouraging investigation of barriers and challenges, as well as for acknowledging success and progress.

Applicant Requirements

In order for a lead entity to be considered for the ECCS Impact Project grant, the implementing agency must clearly demonstrate the following capacities:

1. **A “place-based” approach.** This is defined by the following:
 - a. A history of employing strategies that weave together resources in a clearly defined "place" to collectively improve outcomes for children, youth, families, and communities.
 - b. Experience in engaging neighborhood residents as leaders, “owners” and implementers of neighborhood transformation efforts.
 - c. Success in creating strategic and accountable partnerships that engage multiple sectors and share accountability for results.
 - d. Experience in collecting, analyzing and using data for learning and accountability.
 - e. Experience in designing, testing and implementing strategies based on the best available evidence of what works.
 - f. A history of addressing policy and regulatory issues.
 - g. Success in using sophisticated communications strategies to build public and political will.
 - h. Strong organizational and leadership capacity.
2. **A clear focus on the education, health, and development of children between the ages of 0-3.** Priority will be given to place-based communities with a capacity to address social-emotional development issues in young children.

3. **A two-generational model.** The agency must focus on creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both children and the adults in their lives together. This includes a specific focus on perinatal mental health, depression and stress.
4. **A focus on systems change.** The ECCS Impact Project is not about implementing a new program but enhancing the programs and services that already exist within the early childhood system. The implementing agency must have the capacity to focus on changes in organizational culture, policies and procedures across organizations that enhance or streamline access and reduce or eliminate barriers to needed services by children and families.
5. **Established relationships with local early childhood providers who are located within or serve the PBC.** Agency must demonstrate established, collaborative relationships with at least three of the following providers. Please note this is more than a letter of support but rather should be a commitment to *participating* in the FL ECCS Impact Project on multiple levels.
 - a. Home Visiting Programs (with a priority on FL MIECHV-funded sites);
 - b. Healthy Start Coalition and federal Healthy Start program, if available;
 - c. Early Learning Coalition;
 - d. Children’s Services Council, if available, or other local funders;
 - e. Early Steps and, if available, other early intervention programs;
 - f. Maternal and Child Health Care Providers (OBs, Pediatricians, Clinics, FQHC);
 - g. Infant Mental Health Providers;
 - h. Help Me Grow, if available; and,
 - i. Local Childcare Providers.
6. **Knowledge of continuous quality improvement (CQI) and/or the collaborative learning process.** A hybrid model of collective impact and the Breakthrough Series Learning Collaborative model, including the Model for Improvement will be used.
7. **Adoption of a racial equity lens.** In order to adopt a racial equity lens, the agency must be willing to do the following:
 - a. Understand how their organizational culture may further or impede racial equity efforts.
 - b. Realize that the work of inclusion, diversity, and equality are different and unique from equity.
 - c. Be willing to address equity in an actionable manner.
 - d. Identify and address racial disparities.
 - e. Be prepared to talk explicitly about race and implicit bias.
 - f. Understand their community and be willing to challenge systems.

Activities

The leadership of the lead entity, local ECCS Impact Community Project Coordinator, and ECCS Impact Project Community CoIIN Team shall work with the FAHSC Chief Program Officer and ECCS Impact Manager to implement the following activities:

1. Hire and provide organizational support to a local ECCS Impact Community Project Coordinator

2. Maintain the established ECCS Community CoIIN Team to participate in CoIIN activities, which includes the ECCS coordinator, parents/caregivers of children ages 0-3 who reside in the Liberty City and Overtown communities, and local early childhood partners such as Help Me Grow, early intervention/Part C, early learning coalition, maternal and child health providers, local childcare providers, and home visiting.
3. Hold monthly meetings of the ECCS Community CoIIN Team.
4. Ensure local ECCS Impact Community Project Coordinator and CoIIN team members are knowledgeable about the science of CQI and CoIIN (i.e., the Model for Improvement and Breakthrough Series Model).
5. Participate in National ECCS CoIIN activities to test and implement a two-generation approach to improving children's developmental health and family well-being.
6. Attend (as a team) all virtual CoIIN learning sessions.
7. Identify systemic gaps and barriers to improving developmental skills in young children (0-3) including state and community policies and procedures that require long-term attention to address.
8. Adopt the ECCS Impact Project aim and develop SMART goals for two-generation approaches to children's developmental health promotion and family well-being.
9. Submit required bimonthly narrative reports
10. Participate in peer-to-peer mentoring and sharing of ideas via conference calls and other web-based communication.
11. Explore new innovative improvement approaches.
12. Participate in required training, webinars, conference calls and on-site technical assistance opportunities provided by FAHSC/the Florida MIECHV Initiative and NICHQ.
13. Participate in bimonthly ECCS Impact Project State Advisory Group conference calls/meetings.

Funding Amount

Funding of up to \$75,000 will be provided to the successful applicant based on cost-reimbursement agreement tied to required deliverables. The funding period is from October 19, 2020 – July 31, 2021.

Use of Grant Funds

Allowable and unallowable expenditures are delineated in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars A-110-General Administrative Requirements, A-133-Federal Single Audit, A-122-Cost Principles for Not-For-Profits, A-21-Cost Principles for Universities, Federal Public Laws, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA), and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

No more than 10 percent of the grant amount may be spent on costs associated with administering the grant (indirect costs).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To assess an agency's readiness and capacity to successfully implement the Florida ECCS Impact Project in their community, the applicant must provide a thorough, comprehensive and succinct proposal that describes their organization capacity/experience, partner commitments, budget, and plans to sustain

and scale work. The proposal should be no more than five (5) single-spaced pages, excluding the budget and letters of commitment from partners.

1. ***Organizational Experience and Early Childhood Focus*** - Clearly describe the agency's mission, history, and structure.
2. ***“Place-Based” Approach*** - Describe the agency's experience in implementing a “place-based” approach and any experience providing services in or working with the Liberty City and/or Overtown communities.
3. ***Early Childhood Focus*** - Describe past and current efforts to implement initiatives with a focus on families with children ages 0-3.
4. ***Two-Generation Model*** - Describe how the agency has created opportunities to address the needs of both children and the adults in their lives together.
5. ***ECCS Impact Project Improvement Team*** - Document current knowledge of/experience with the ECCS Impact Project Improvement Team. Include your willingness to continue supporting the current team and any other partners you would add.
6. ***Letters of Commitment*** - Attach a letter from early childhood partners clearly outlining their commitment to be an active participant in your local ECCS Impact Project Improvement Team.
7. ***Systems Change*** - Describe your agency's capacity to make macro-level systemic change. Give examples of past work that focused on systems change.
8. ***Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) or Collaborative Learning Experience*** - Identify any relevant experience participating in a Learning Collaborative or use of the Model for Improvement (Plan-Do-Study-Act), including focus and achievements.
9. ***Racial/Ethnic Equity Lens*** - Describe in detail your agency's commitment to adopting a racial/ethnic equity lens and any specific work you have done related to equity, racial justice, racial disparities, implicit bias, or systemic/institutional racism. Describe how a focus on racial equity benefits your community.
10. ***Budget*** - Provide a line item budget (key expenses) and budget narrative, including how proposed line items align with ECCS Impact Project activities. For staff, specify if the position is new or existing and how much time will be allocated to working on the ECCS Impact Project. Also identify any in-kind contributions that will be provided by the agency or its community partners.
11. ***Scale and Sustainability*** - Discuss plans for scaling and sustaining the ECCS Impact Project beyond the grant period.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

The deadline for submission of proposals is **September 30, 2020, at 5 pm EST**. All proposals should be submitted electronically in .pdf format to Ghia Kelly, ECCS Impact Manager at ECCSProgramManager@fahsc.org. Please include “ECCS RFP RESPONSE” in the subject line of your email submission. Email must be sent with read receipt requested.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBINAR

A Technical Assistance webinar will be held on **September 17, 2020, at 11 am EST** to review this proposal and respond to questions. A Q&A document will be posted on the ECCS Website after the webinar.

To join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81634881026?pwd=R2ZkcFR5YW5wYVlEOWlyQzJxemNiQT09>

Meeting ID: 816 3488 1026

Passcode: 919296

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81634881026# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,81634881026# US (New York)

APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

All submissions will be reviewed and scored by an independent panel of reviewers with expertise in early childhood and place-based initiatives. Review criteria and points are summarized below.

Criteria	Maximum Points
Organizational Capacity	10
Early Childhood Focus	10
Key Partnerships/ Letters of Support	5
Two-Generation Model	5
Continuous Quality Improvement Experience	5
Racial Equity Lens	10
Budget	5
Scale and Sustainability	5
	55

The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions reserves the right to reject any and all submissions, and to request changes based on the expert reviewers’ recommendations prior to final selection.