



**Florida Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS)
Health Integration Prenatal-to-Three Program**



Request for Proposals

#2023-06

Proposal Deadline: August 4, 2023

COVER PAGE

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHY START COALITIONS, INC.

FLORIDA ECCS HEALTH INTEGRATION PRENATAL-TO-THREE PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

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: _____

Printed Name of Authorized Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FLORIDA EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS HEALTH INTEGRATION PRENATAL-TO-THREE PROGRAM (ECCS P-3)

FAHSC is seeking proposals to provide support for Florida’s ECCS P-3 state team by facilitating ECCS P-3 State Advisory Group meetings, strategic planning, and other grant projects, as needed. More information about the ECCS program is provided in Attachment One.

A. Funding

One consultant may be selected. The selected consultant will receive up to \$20,000 for the period of August 2023 to July 2024, to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the Purpose and Activities section below. An additional \$10,000 per year may be available, if approved by FAHSC, with an end date of July 31, 2026. Allowable and unallowable expenditures are delineated in Federal Public Laws, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA), and Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). See also the [HRSA Grants Policy Statement](#).

B. Purpose and Activities

Successful proposals will demonstrate the Responder’s ability to support meetings and planning activities. Coalition awardees will be responsible to:

1. Support ECCS P-3 advisory group preparations and facilitate quarterly meetings.
2. Prepare group meeting summary reports and organize group meeting materials and documentation.
3. Prepare a crosswalk of Florida’s current early childhood system.
4. Support the ECCS P-3 state team with federal report preparation related to ECCS P-3 group meeting activities.

C. Applicant Requirements

To be considered for the ECCS P-3 award, the respondent must clearly demonstrate the following capacities:

1. Strong meeting planning experience.
2. Extensive experience collecting, organizing, and preparing materials for meetings.
3. Demonstrated experience facilitating meetings to ensure all stakeholder input and adherence to agenda topics and timelines.
4. Demonstrated experience preparing meeting summary reports and organizing supporting documentation.
5. Demonstrated experience analyzing information and preparing summary/comparative reports.

D. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

The deadline for submission of proposals is **August 4, 2023**. All proposals should be submitted electronically in pdf format to Monya Newmyer, MNewmyer@fahsc.org. Please include “ECCS RFP RESPONSE” in the subject line of your email submission. Email must be sent with read receipt requested.

E. QUESTIONS SUBMISSION

Written questions may be submitted through **July 28, 2023**. Questions received and answers will be posted on the FAHSC website at <https://www.HealthyStartFlorida.com/>

F. TIMELINE SUMMARY

July 21, 2023	RFP posted at www.HealthyStartFlorida.com
July 28, 2023	Written questions submission deadline
August 4, 2023	Proposals due
August 9, 2023	Award announcement posted at www.HealthyStartFlorida.com
August 15, 2023	Project begins

G. PROPOSAL

The Respondent’s proposal should include the following:

- A. The Cover Page
- B. Proposal narrative that describes the applicant’s experience and ability to meet the requirements and activities specified in Sections B. and C. above.
- C. Resume

H. 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.

- 1. Ability to plan, coordinate with lead agency, prepare materials and facilitate meetings. (20 points)
- 2. Ability to communicate effectively and coordinate group meetings of diverse and committed stakeholders. (40 points)
- 3. Ability to organize meeting documentation, prepare meeting summary reports and support lead agency reporting requirements. (20 points)
- 4. Ability to analyze information and prepare summary/comparative assessment report. (20 points)

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.

ATTACHMENT ONE: ECCS Program Background

The Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Inc. (FAHSC) has received funding from HRSA for the Florida Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS): Health Integration Prenatal-to-Three Program. The purpose of this program is to build integrated maternal and early childhood systems of care that are equitable, sustainable, comprehensive, and inclusive of the health system, and that promote early developmental health and family well-being and increase family-centered access to care and engagement of the prenatal-to-3-year-old (P–3) population. A maternal and early childhood system of care brings together health, early care and education, child welfare, and other human services and family support program partners—as well as community leaders, families, and other stakeholders—to achieve agreed-upon goals for thriving children and families. The P–3 period is a particularly critical period of early child development and parent-driven change. The ECCS program will advance intergenerational health equity and expand state capacity to reach and engage families during this critical period.

The goals for the ECCS program are to:

- 1) Increase state-level infrastructure and capacity to develop and/or strengthen statewide maternal and early childhood systems of care;
- 2) Increase coordination and alignment between maternal and child health (MCH) and other statewide systems that impact young children and families to advance a common vision for early developmental health and family well-being;
- 3) Increase the capacity of health systems to deliver and effectively connect families to a continuum of services that promote early developmental health and family well-being, beginning prenatally;
- 4) Identify and implement policy and financing strategies that support the funding and sustainability of multigenerational, preventive services and systems for the P–3 population; and
- 5) Increase state-level capacity to advance equitable and improved access to services for underserved P–3 populations.

ECCS goals and objectives aim to increase statewide access to integrated, effective, culturally appropriate, evidence-based early developmental health and family well-being promotion, prevention, and early intervention practices and services during the prenatal and early childhood period. Earlier family engagement in high-quality comprehensive services supports long-term family protective factors, reductions in risks to health and development, and improvements in indicators of health and well-being.

The Need

Many families experience significant adversity during the P–3 period or experience significant challenges in providing the safe, nurturing, and engaging environments that young children need to thrive—this contributes to widening disparities and inequities in childhood development, school readiness and achievement, and lifelong health. While multigenerational approaches focus on prevention and coordinated services have proven to be effective, existing infrastructures are often fragmented or lacking the leadership and coordination capacity necessary to reach families equitably and early. Systems leadership, improvement, and coordination capacity are necessary to achieve population level improvements in early developmental health and family well-being. However, these efforts are time-intensive and often not sufficiently funded. ECCS provides funding to strengthen critical systems capacity.

The Florida Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS): Health Integration Prenatal-to-Three Program will align with HRSA MCHB's *Accelerating Upstream Together* strategic agenda, with actions that focus on the following approaches to achieving program goals and objectives.

1. **Accelerate Progress and Impact** by focusing on health systems integration into early childhood systems, equity, policy, and financing strategies, and scaling of family-centered, multigenerational interventions and supports.
2. **Move Upstream** by focusing on the P–3 period, and shifting state systems towards universal, multigenerational promotion of early developmental *and* family health and well-being.
3. **Brings Systems Together** by emphasizing intentional, goal-oriented partnerships, greater coordination among initiatives, and a stronger connection of the health care system to broader early childhood systems. Family and community leadership and partnership are at the foundation of achieving health equity.

In 1991, the Florida Legislature enacted Healthy Start, one of the most comprehensive maternal and child health initiatives in the nation (S. 383.14, F.S.) to improve birth outcomes and support healthy child development. This legislation includes universal risk screening of pregnant women and newborns, care coordination, and wrap-around services including parenting, childbirth education, and smoking cessation. The risk screening criteria for these tools were developed for Healthy Start by a multidisciplinary task force that included epidemiologists, nurses, social workers, and policy and program representatives from key state and local maternal and child health partners.

Universal screening is a primary goal of Healthy Start. Florida statute requires that all Florida prenatal care providers offer the prenatal screen to pregnant women at their first prenatal care visit (S. 383.14, F.S.). Healthy Start is unique in its use of a prenatal risk screen that includes demographic as well as environmental and social factors to identify women at-risk for adverse outcomes.

The Universal Healthy Start prenatal risk screen identifies women who are at increased risk for preterm delivery or for delivering a low-birth-weight infant. A score of four or more on the screen indicates increased risk or a “positive” screen which indicates the need for additional health care and other wrap-around services. Women who do not score four or more on the screen may also be referred to Healthy Start by their health care provider or by self-referral.

Women whose prenatal screen score indicates increased risk are referred to the local Healthy Start Coordinated Intake and Referral (CI&R) CONNECT Program. CONNECT staff in local communities perform an initial assessment and provide information on programs and services available in the community. Women and families can select a home visiting program or referral to other services. Referrals are made directly to the selected programs by CONNECT and tracked through the FAHSC Well Family data system. In 2020, more than 62,000 families statewide were linked to services through CONNECT.