

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

FY25 Quality Improvement Network (QIN) Hub Grant

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: May 16, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is soliciting grant applications from organizations, institutions and agencies interested in serving as a hub with the capacity to provide Early Head Start (EHS) supports and services that meet the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), support achieving the QIN program goals and advance OSSE's Start Early strategic priority.

The purpose of the QIN hub grant is to provide services within participating QIN child care partners (CCPs) to include eligibility, recruitment, selection, enrollment and attendance (ERSEA); high-quality and comprehensive services to include early education and child development, health, family engagement, disabilities; and training, technical assistance and professional development. Services are to be delivered to EHS-eligible children, families and CCPs through a District-wide hub responsible for EHS services in all Wards of the District either directly or through contractual agreements with other organizations. Applicants may propose to provide EHS services via one of three hub models:

1. Child development centers and child development homes/expanded child development homes (i.e., family child care);
2. Child development centers only; or
3. Child development homes/expanded child development homes only.

Funds are being made available through District of Columbia local funds and federal funds. Federal funds are made available through and authorized by the Head Start Act, as amended by the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-134; 42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.). Local funds are made available through and authorized by the Early Learning Quality Improvement Network Amendment Act of 2015 (D.C. Code § 4-415) and D.C. Code 38-2602(b)(32).

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: OSSE will make this grant available through a competitive process. Eligible applicants include non-profits, for-profits and faith-based organizations that can demonstrate expertise in: (1) early childhood education; (2) EHS; (3) financial management; (4) quality assurance; (5) ongoing monitoring of program deliverables; as well as (6) previous experience providing supports related to education and child development, health, family engagement, transition services, disability services, program management and quality improvement and human resources, including within the District's mixed delivery early care and education system.

Eligible organizations to serve as the hub(s) must have a track record, experience and capacity to:

- Serve EHS-eligible children, families and CCPs located in Wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

- Leverage community partnerships or other funding sources to deliver program services.
- Establish collaborative relationships and partnerships to facilitate and coordinate access to services that are responsive to the needs and goals of the QIN community, including with other community agencies and community resources to maximize support and avoid duplication of effort.
- Provide technical assistance and training to child development centers and/or child development homes/expanded child development homes.
- Provide supports and services to underserved populations.
- Support OSSE in meeting the Start Early strategic priority.
- Serve as a federal recipient of funds, including current or former status as a recipient or sub-recipient of EHS or HS funds or other federal grants.

Applications that meet all eligibility and application requirements will be evaluated, scored and rated by an OSSE designated review panel. Applications will be scored on the following categories: (1) information about the organization; (2) capacity to implement the QIN program; (3) experience providing professional development using DC observation tools; (4) financial management and proposed budget; (5) workplan; and (6) data collection and evaluation plan.

Length of Award: All grants under this RFA will be five-year awards (total award period), beginning on Oct. 1, 2024 and ending on Sept. 30, 2029, contingent upon availability of funds and successful completion of continuation applications after each budget period. Each budget period will be one year, with the first period beginning Oct. 1, 2024 and ending Sept. 30, 2025. A continuation application must be submitted annually. Receipt of funding for each budget period is contingent upon:

- Availability of funds;
- Recipient's implementation and/or operation of the program as submitted in the application;
- Recipient's demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring and review of the recipient's reports;
- Compliance with District and federal laws, regulations and guidance; and
- Appropriate expenditure of funds throughout the grant award period.

Available Funding for Award: The total funding available for implementing the QIN program is approximately \$2,210,919 in local funding and \$2,145,726 in federal funding per year, for each of the five years of the grant, based on similar amount of funding received for this grant in previous fiscal years. OSSE plans to make one to five awards. Successful applicants may be awarded amounts less than requested.

Application Process OSSE/DEL will use external peer reviewers to review, score and rank the applications received for this RFA. External peer reviewers will be composed of qualified professionals with expertise in the field or the subject matter and may include employees of the DC government who are not employed by OSSE. The application will be scored against a rubric. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for award(s) based on the scoring rubric. The final decision to fund applicant(s) rests solely with OSSE/DEL. After

reviewing the recommendations of the review panel(s) and any other relevant information, OSSE shall decide which applicant to fund.

OSSE will hold a pre-application webinar on May 31, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to answer questions about the RFA and grant competition. To attend the pre-application webinar, please register by email to Samantha Young at Samantha.young1@dc.gov no later than May 17, 2024. Please use the following information to access the webinar: Join on your computer, mobile app or room device [Click here to join the meeting](#). Meeting ID: 279 497 213 731 Passcode: dZv4cq

OSSE will also hold a technical pre-application webinar for EGMS training on May 27, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please use the following information to access the webinar: Join on your computer, mobile app or room device. [Click here to join the meeting](#). Meeting ID: 279 497 213 731 Passcode: dZv4cq

Applications must be submitted by July 1, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. OSSE plans to make awards by September 1, 2024. Applications must be submitted through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS). Late applications will not be accepted. Once an application is submitted, it cannot be revised. Please allow additional time for any issues you may experience, as well as the consistency check to run, prior to submission.

For additional information regarding this grant competition, please contact:

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The RFA will be available on OSSE's website and the Serve D.C. [website](#). Applications will be submitted through the [EGMS](#).