

NARRATIVE

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is applying for supplemental funding in order to further support the goals and objectives of the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). OSSE will use the supplemental funds for: 1) training and technical assistance; 2) increasing capacity for research initiatives; and 3) increasing resources for public awareness campaigns.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Development of Action Plan: The ECAC makes annual recommendations to the Mayor about the direction of early childhood education. OSSE will use supplemental funds to contract with a consultant who will facilitate the development of a realistic action plan based on ECAC's annual recommendations.

Stakeholder Working Group Meetings: The ECAC will hold a series of meetings designed to engage early care and education providers, business/philanthropic communities, and the general community including parents. Meetings will be used to review lessons learned from studies and activities and to develop pathways for on-going collaboration and coordination. OSSE will use supplemental funds for training and technical assistance that will maximize the effectiveness of these working groups.

Development of Early Childhood Web Portal Proposal: The ECAC will develop a comprehensive proposal for a user-friendly District government web portal that will provide parents, providers, policy-makers and the general public with a single point of entry for all relevant early childhood

services within the District. The ECAC will contract with an IT consultant to provide technical assistance in the development of this proposal.

INCREASED FUNDING FOR RESEARCH INITIATIVES: The ECAC will conduct research studies for each of the following four priority areas: (1) Children with Special Needs, (2) Infants & Toddlers, (3) Workforce & Professional Development, and (4) Capacity Building. Supplemental funding will be used to increase funding for these research initiatives, allowing for more robust information which will result in more comprehensive ECAC recommendations. Supplemental funding will also be used to increase funding for the development of the final summative report that will be released in the third year of the grant. This report will incorporate research and recommendations from all three years of the grant and will be released broadly to increase public engagement in the ECAC's activities.

PUBLIC AWARENESS: The ECAC will utilize supplemental funds to expand its public awareness efforts to include the design and execution of a coordinated, community-wide public education campaign that will promote: (1) awareness of the ECAC's vision and action agenda for early childhood education in the District; (2) public knowledge about the importance of high-quality early education and child development; and, (3) increased collaboration between early childhood programs of the District through the coordination of divergent early childhood campaigns to boost message resonance among citizens and foster widespread support for action on early care and education initiatives.