

2024 Early Childhood Mental Health Collective

Request for Proposals

Statement of Purpose

With the goal of improving life outcomes for children, caregivers, and staff, the Early Childhood Mental Health Collective (ECMHC) seeks an organization or group of organizations to provide systems coordination and comprehensive mental health services to five early childhood providers in the Kansas City Metro.

Introduction and Background

The Hall Family Foundation (HFF) is dedicated to enhancing the quality of human life in the Greater Kansas City area. We believe that ensuring all children and families have a strong foundation for life-long learning and success is a way to increase economic opportunity, *for all*. Through our focused work around increasing access to high-quality early education opportunities, mental health for students, staff, and caregivers has been elevated by early childhood providers as a critical gap.

In late 2022, HFF staff convened a group of community stakeholders to learn more about mental health needs within local early childhood programs and the barriers in place which hinder positive child development and a high-quality early education experience. Subsequently, the leaders of five local early childhood programs (EarlystART, Emmanuel Family & Child Development Center, Educare Kansas City, El Centro, and Operation Breakthrough) continued to participate in facilitated conversations around developing a model of supports that could benefit their programs directly. These sessions culminated in the idea to initiate a collective involving the five programs and one or more expert mental health agencies to coordinate an array of services and reduce administrative burden of the early education providers.

Scope of Work

HFF is seeking one or more partners to lead the work of the ECMHC, addressing the following key activities:

- 1) Individual and group sessions: work to establish a network of vetted clinicians that can offer onsite mental health services (individual and group therapy) for children, family, and staff within the five early childhood sites. Specific attention should be given to recruiting clinicians that are representative of the populations served at each individual center and those with trauma-informed backgrounds.
- 2) Interns: explore an internship pipeline as a means of developing future workforce participants and providing services at a lower rate. Relationships should be established and maintained with respective higher education partners providing internship opportunities. This component should also include a plan for utilization of intern supervisors.
- 3) Onsite clinical directors/coordinators: each early childhood site should have a full-time position dedicated to managing onsite mental health services provided through the ECMHC to ensure seamless integration and on-the-ground coordination. This position will be co-managed by early

childhood site leadership in conjunction with the lead agency of the ECMHC , as to be mutually determined.

- 4) Intake and Referrals: manage a process around the intake for onsite services and referral to offsite supports and resources for services outside the scope of the ECMHC, ensuring a closed-loop referral system.
- 5) Training: outline and coordinate a training plan for early childhood center staff and clinicians to ensure a streamlined philosophy, approach, and foundational knowledge of mental health in early childhood settings. Additionally, create a plan for providing in-classroom supports for early childhood center instructional staff to strengthen trauma-informed and developmentally appropriate practices.
- 6) Governance: convene lead stakeholders, including leaders of the five early childhood sites, on a regular basis to gauge progress against milestones, adjust services and processes, and allow for collaboration.
- 7) Financing: facilitate the payment process between network clinicians, contractors, and other vendors. Explore longer-term project sustainability, including how Medicaid and insurance can be tapped to offset contributions from private sources.
- 8) Outcomes: co-develop annual, measurable outcomes along with leaders of the five early childhood sites, ensuring there are common metrics across partners. Collect and analyze appropriate data across the five centers.

Project Duration and Funding

HFF seeks proposals which outline a three-year project period beginning in mid-2024. Requests should not exceed \$8,000,000 over three years.

Application Requirements

Application submissions are due no later than March 19, 2024, at 11:59 PM CT. Successful applications will include the following components:

- A. Project Design and Implementation Plan: include an outline of proposed activities which will be used to carry out the items described in the “scope of work” section above. Include a timeline indicating when key project activities will take place and who will be responsible for the work.
- B. Partners/Collaboration Opportunities: describe partners outside of your organization that will participate in the project and include any additional opportunities for collaboration.
- C. About Your Organization: include a description of your organization, what skills or experience the organization/staff have that align with this work, and why your organization is best situated to lead this project.
- D. Evaluation Plan: describe the process you will use to evaluate the project’s success along with methods of data collection and feedback for continuous learning and improvement. Include outcomes you would aim to accomplish within the three-year grant period.
- E. Stakeholder engagement: discuss how your organization will incorporate the voice of the five early childhood centers (leadership, families, staff) and additional project partners in decision-making, planning, and implementation.
- F. Budget: prepare a budget outlining anticipated expenses over the three-year pilot period.

Eligibility

All applicants must be a 501c3 public charity, a governmental or religious institution, or otherwise tax-exempt in accordance with the IRS.

Application Process

Applications for the 2024 Early Childhood Mental Health Collective will open February 20, 2024, and the deadline to apply is March 19, 2024, at 11:59pm CT. The online application can be found [here](#).

Selection Criteria and Evaluation Process

Proposals will be evaluated by the five early childhood partners and the HFF team. The rubric used to facilitate the decision-making process can be viewed [here](#). As-needed application follow-up discussions will take place between April 10 and April 19. Notifications about the status of your application are anticipated by the end of April 2024.

If you have questions regarding this RFP or the application process, please reach out to Halley French at Halley.french@hallfamilyfoundation.org.