

# Workforce – The Foundation of Quality

Chicago Early Learning
Technical Assistance Project



# **Reaching Our Goals**

RFP Goal #4: Employ a professionally prepared and adequately compensated workforce to achieve the desired outcomes for children and their families.





## **Reaching Our Goals**

### Human Resources

Policies and Systems

# Comprehensive Supports

- Staff well-being
- Retention

# Professional Development

- Individual professional development plans
- Reflective supervision and coaching

### Compensation

- Competitive salary
- Compensation plan promotes increased qualifications





# **New Expectations Staff Qualifications**

#### Birth to Three

- Teacher with IT Level 5
- Teacher Assistant with IT Level 4
- Site-based
   Supervisor with IT
   Level 5

#### Preschool

- Teacher with PEL or ECE Level 5
- Teacher Assistant with ECE Level 4

### Universal

- Level 5 Family Specialist Credential for Family Support and Home Visitors
- Level 2 Director Credential for Site Directors



# **New Expectations Salary Minimums**

- The RFP sets salary minimums for teaching, home visiting and family support roles.
- Example
  - ECE Level 5 Teacher -- \$45,000
  - IT Level 4 Teacher with AA -- \$35,000
  - Family Support Specialist with Level 5 --\$45,000
  - Home Visitor with Level 4 -- \$40,000 (must work towards Level 5)
- How do the RFP salaries compare with your current structure?





# **New Expectations Salary Minimums**

- Operational budgets need to reflect the salary minimums including the support necessary for partners.
- Funding levels for each funding source have increased to support the new minimums.
  - For example:
    - Early Head Start \$13,500/child (center-based)
    - Prevention Initiative \$11,000/child (center-based)
    - Head Start \$11,000/child (full day)
    - Preschool for All \$5,400/child





# **New Expectations Salary Minimums**

Mastery and Retention

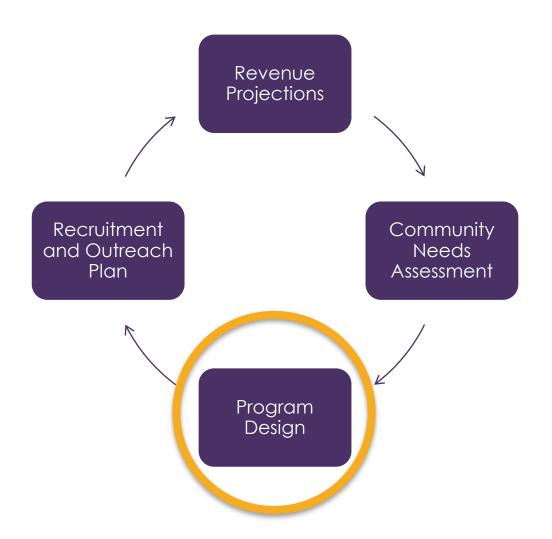
Increased Qualifications

Salary Minimums





# **Holistic Program Planning**





# **Unpacking Program Design**







## **Current State**

- How will your classroom / group plan change?
  - More services to children under three?
  - Increase in home visiting?
  - Adding family support staff to meet new standards?
- Do you have the staff that you need?
  - Current staff have right credentials
  - Enough staff to meet plan
  - Staff currently in school towards needed credentials
- If not do you have a plan to get there?





# Developing a Plan Center Example

#### Current State

- Five classroom center
- All rooms serve preschoolers
- Three teachers have Level 5

#### New Plan

- Need to serve infants and toddlers
- Sub-divide a classroom to serve two groups of 8
- Need all teachers to have Level 5

#### Workforce Needs

- Hire one teacher with PEL or ECE 5
- Hire two teachers with IT 5
- Ensure all ECE 5 teachers are in school towards PFI
- Hire three family support



## Where are the Teachers?



- The teacher shortage affects the entire Pre-K 12 system.
- Nationwide, there was a 23% decline in the number of people completing teacher preparation programs from 2008 2016.
- In Illinois, that decline was 53% from 2010 2016.



# **Growing Our Own**

#### Pathways In

- How does your program bring new people into the profession?
- What opportunities are there to employ parents / family members and students?

#### Pathways Up

- What are the hopes, goals and ambitions of your current staff?
- How can you support them towards those goals?
  - Access to scholarships
  - Time to pursue higher education
  - Support system

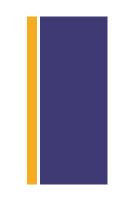
#### Retention

- As staff move through the qualification process, how will you incentivize them to stay?
- What is the role of your salary scale?





# **Higher Education**



- Consider How does your program currently partner with Institutions of Higher Education?
- What are the opportunities to increase and improve your partnerships?
  - Student teachers
  - Practicum experiences
  - Career fairs
  - Internships, shadowing and volunteer opportunities
- When student teachers come to your program, how can you ensure that it is a meaningful experience?





# Chicago Early Learning Workforce Scholarship

- <u>https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/chicagoearlylearning/home/scholarships.html</u>
- Provides "last dollar" to cover what federal grants will not.
- Open to anyone currently working in an EC program or Chicago residents eligible to work in a program.
  - Parents of enrolled children are a priority group!





# **Professional Development Planning**

- Staff will need guidance and support to navigate the higher education system.
  - Goal setting
  - Transcript assessment
  - Discussing program options
  - Applying for scholarships
  - Flexibility
  - Support network of peers and leaders
  - Others?
- Who in your program is responsible for helping staff achieve their educational goals?



## **Action Plans**

Some items permit the program to achieve a staff qualification goal at some point in the future. It is critical that you have a program action plan to demonstrate that you will reach this goal.

#### Clear

- Who is expected to reach the goal?
- •What steps have they taken?
- What step are they taking next?

#### Time Bound

- What is the current status?
- What is the next milestone?
- •When will the plan be completed?

#### Accountable

- •How will progress be monitored?
- Who is responsible for making sure the goal is reached?
- •What will happen if it is not?





## **Considerations for Partners**

- Remember partners are an extension of the delegate agency for HS/EHS funds and are "equal voices as service providers in the community" with the delegate.
- Partners must meet the same qualification and salary requirements as the delegate.
- How will you ensure that your partner is aligned to your agency values on compensation, professional development and human resources systems?
- Does your budgeted support to your partner support their achievement of these expectations?





## Reflection

- What questions do you still have?
- What additional technical assistance would best support you in designing a staffing model and plan for this RFP?
- What challenges do you foresee in meeting the workforce goals of this RFP?
- What opportunities?







# **Contact Information**



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