

Request to Place an Item on the AgendaName: Sarah EvansAddress: North Todd FRCTelephone number: 270 277 6800

Name of school children attend, if applicable: _____

Group represented: Community Early Childhood CouncilCheck if request was submitted to: ☐ Superintendent ☐ Board ChairpersonConferred with following administrators (names): Camille Dillingham

Description of Issue: The CECC's goal is to build innovative and collaborative partnerships that promote school readiness for children and families using Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards

Specific Action Requested: Apply for 2019-20 Community Early Childhood Council Grant. The maximum for Todd County is \$5500.00.

Check if you are: ☐ Board Member ☒ District Employee ☐ Community Member

All requests for items to be placed on the agenda must be submitted to the Superintendent prior to the Board meeting as specified in Board Policy 01.45. Items submitted shall require prior approval of the Superintendent.

Review/Revised: 3/13/06

Call for Applications

As authorized under KRS 200.707(1), the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) is issuing a Request for Applications (RFA) from Community Early Childhood Councils (CECCs) to encourage partnerships of licensed child care centers, certified family child care homes, and/or public preschool providers that provide high quality learning environments for children who reside in a service area covered by the CECC; increase the number of childcare providers that participate in Kentucky ALL STARS, Kentucky's Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System, through program and parent education; provide information, education, and support to families through partnerships with schools and community organizations; increase the number of children, particularly those at risk, participating in high quality early care and education programs; and increase school readiness for children birth to school entry.

History and Funding

During the 2000 legislative session, House Bill 706 was unanimously passed in both chambers of the Kentucky Legislature. At that time, it was the most comprehensive package of early childhood legislation in the nation addressing the needs of the whole child, which include: health care, family assistance, high quality education, and community involvement. In addition, it committed 25% of the Kentucky Tobacco Settlement Fund annually to support early childhood programs.

To ensure the best early care and education for our youngest citizens and to reach the long-term goals set forth by the KIDS NOW Initiative, local communities must take action. One of the strategies identified by the Early Childhood Task Force (1999) to help support this outcome was the creation of state and local partnerships to support services designed to meet the locally identified needs of children and families. This strategy became the foundation for the creation of the CECCs.

In 2009, The Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) was established. The task force made eight recommendations, including establishing the ECAC and the Kentucky Governor's Office of Early Childhood (GOEC), that would promote an early childhood framework and partner with Kentucky's state agencies, community partners and families to improve early learning experiences and opportunities, helping to ensure school readiness for our children, schools and communities.

Among the eight recommendations, the ECAC is required to strengthen and support CECCs as early childhood leaders in their communities. CECCs address the unique needs and strengths of the local community related to early childhood. CECCs were designed to encourage local communities to establish and strengthen relationships, promote collaboration and coordination between early care and education providers, schools and the community as a whole, and involve individuals from a cross-section of the community who can foster efforts to improve outcomes for young children and families. CECCs use new

and existing relationships within communities to build and sustain supports for early childhood development and learning.

In December 2013, Kentucky received the third round of Race to The Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) funds through the US Department of Education and the US Department of Health and Human Services. These funds are being utilized for the purpose of increasing access to high quality early learning programs for children at risk, supporting families through strength-based initiatives, providing meaningful data to communities, and aligning professional development systems.

In December 2018, Kentucky received a Preschool Development Grant (PDG) from the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Care. These funds are focused on building upon RTT-ELC efforts and strengthening Kentucky's early childhood mixed delivery system's alignment, coordination and efficiency. Strategies that will be implemented include capacity building across the system; use and improvement of data systems; improved engagement of families, caregivers, and communities; and alignment and leveraging of existing resources to meet the needs of vulnerable children. CECCs are key partners in realizing planned outcomes.

Kentucky's Early Childhood System

All of these early childhood system-building efforts in Kentucky are most effective when all the system components work together. The GOEC, working in partnership with the ECAC and RTT-ELC and PDG efforts, has established a strong statewide focus on school readiness, ensuring each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success and ability to be **Ready to Grow, Ready to Learn, and Ready to Succeed**.

CECCs are an integral part of Kentucky's early care and education system and have the crucial role of mobilizing local community members to build innovative, collaborative partnerships to help Kentucky meet its school readiness goal. The focus of this RFA is to assist CECCs in ***impacting and realizing Kentucky's school readiness goals in local communities***. Utilizing the Early Childhood Profile for each county, CECCs are asked to develop a proposal to impact school readiness based on local needs, strengths, and partnerships and to focus on the following ***School Readiness Goals***:

1. Increasing awareness and participation in Kentucky ALL STARS;
2. Increasing family engagement and support opportunities;
3. Increasing awareness of school readiness;
4. Increasing the number of children, particularly those at risk, participating in high quality early care and education programs.