



Request for Proposals

TITLE: NC Initiative for Young Children’s Social-Emotional Health—Racial Equity Consultant

ISSUE DATE: May 22, 2020

ISSUING AGENCY: NC Early Childhood Foundation

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For consideration, proposals must be emailed to mableidinger@buildthefoundation.org by June 19, 2020 at 5 PM EST.

Introduction to the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation and NC Child:

The vision of the **North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation (NCECF)** is that each North Carolina child has a strong foundation for lifelong success and reading proficiency, supported by the nation’s best birth-to-eight system. To drive policies and strategies that unleash the potential of each North Carolina child, the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation brings together those working to promote children’s health and development, to support families and communities and to advance high quality birth-to-eight learning. Our work includes:

- Promoting public understanding of and support for policies that promote children’s birth-to-eight years for academic and lifelong success.
- Convening and spearheading collaboration to bridge North Carolina’s birth-to-five and kindergarten-to-third grade systems.
- Advancing policies that create a stronger NC today and tomorrow by supporting each child’s birth-to-eight development.

NC Child works to eliminate the barriers that stand in kids’ way. Lasting change requires meaningful collaboration from a diverse group of individuals and organizations, especially those who are most directly impacted by policy solutions. NC Child advances public policies to ensure that every child in North Carolina has the opportunity to thrive – whatever their race, ethnicity, or place of birth. Alongside our partners across the state, we create campaigns and build power so children and their families’ voices are heard, through:

- A comprehensive policy agenda that covers key children’s issues including early childhood education, children’s health, foster care, juvenile justice, family economic security, and more.
- Research, policy, communications, and network-building expertise
- Statewide network of advocates



Introduction to the NC Initiative for Young Children's Social-Emotional Health:

Young children's social-emotional development is critical to their long-term health and well-being, and significantly impacts their ability to learn, establish healthy connections with others, manage their emotions, and grow into capable adults. Unfortunately, for many North Carolina children, significant adversity in early childhood – family and community violence, maltreatment, living with a parent with a substance abuse disorder, growing up in poverty, racism, and other social drivers of health – disrupts their healthy social-emotional growth. Early identification and appropriate intervention with young children who demonstrate signs of social-emotional challenges, such as inability to connect and dysregulation, can improve developmental trajectories. To achieve this for every child, North Carolina must develop a robust system of promotion/family support, prevention, intervention, and treatment services to support children's social-emotional well-being.

NC Child, in partnership with the NC Early Childhood Foundation, the ABCD State Advisory Group, and in collaboration with multiple early childhood leaders, launched the NC Initiative on Young Children's Social Emotional Health ("the initiative") in Fall 2019. The initiative strives to operationalize recommendations from the [Pathways to Grade-Level Reading Action Framework](#), and build a robust, evidence-based, and accessible early childhood social-emotional health system in North Carolina over the next four years.

Purpose of Request for Proposals:

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to acquire the services of a qualified contractor to facilitate the use of a racial equity framework in the work of the initiative from July 2020-July 2021. There may be continued opportunity for partnership in future years of the initiative.



SCOPE OF WORK

For a not-to-exceed cost of \$10k, the contractor will help ensure that a racial equity framework is applied to the work of the initiative, including:

- Providing training(s) to build the capacity of the initiative's Steering Committee (80+ members) to use a racial equity framework.
- Providing input into the development of a toolkit to gather family input on the current social-emotional health system, including interview questions and survey questions. (Other consultants would be gathering the actual input.)
- Providing input into the development of NC's aspirational children's social-emotional health system by advising on how racial equity should be considered in the conception of an ideal system.
- Providing input into the development of a toolkit to train facilitators on how to facilitate a 4-6 meeting process to develop recommendations to move from the current children's social-emotional health system to the aspirational children's social-emotional health system conceived of by the Steering Committee and Leadership Team.
- Participating in virtual or in-person (in RTP) Leadership Team and Steering Committee meetings, including:
 - Monthly Leadership Team meetings that take place on the third Thursday of the month from 10AM-Noon.
 - Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings from 10AM-1PM in 2020 on June 5, September 4, Dec 4. In 2021 on March 5, June 4.

DELIVERABLES

- A workplan and timeline for accomplishing the work.
- Regular meetings with NCECF, NC Child and other contractors, as needed, during the process.
- Materials needed to support what is outlined in the scope of work.
- Participation in meetings listed in scope of work.
- Final report documenting work and accomplishments.

Deliverables are considered final when they are completed to NCECF's satisfaction.



QUALIFICATIONS

The Contractor must have demonstrated competency in performing services defined in the Scope of Work Section of this RFP. Contractor should provide the name, address, and telephone number for a reference for one to three projects completed within the last three years.

The Contractor must provide details of any pertinent judgment, criminal conviction, investigation or litigation pending against the Contractor or any of its officers, directors, employees, agents or subcontractors of which the vendor has knowledge, or a statement that there is none. NCECF reserves the right to reject a proposal based on this information.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Responses to the RFP must include:

- **Cover letter** – The proposal must include a cover letter signed by the individual authorized to legally bind the contractor. The cover letter must also contain a statement that the person signing the proposal is a legal representative of the contractor and is authorized to bind the contract.
- **Background and experience of the applicant** – Information and examples of work that show the experience and skills of the applicant to complete Scope of Work.
- **Project staffing** – This section must include the proposed staffing to be assigned to this project, including resumes citing experience with similar projects and the responsibilities to be assigned to each person.
- **Technical approach** – The proposal should describe the approach the contractor will take to complete work, including a timeline.
- **References** – One to three references of clients including name and contact information and the nature of the project.
- **Cost** – Total not-to-exceed cost, representing the maximum of all work to be performed must be clearly indicated. Max amount for the contract is \$10k.