

Executive Summary

Durham's Partnership for Children (DPfC) and Child Care Services Association (CCSA) submit this bid to coordinate, facilitate, and support Durham's preschool expansion. Our application is unique in that we plan to deliver the services specified in the Durham County Preschool Expansion RFP jointly through a formal collaborative structure. As the two leading early childhood organizations in Durham County, CCSA and DPfC bring a wealth of history and leadership to the planning and delivery of preschool-related services for Durham children and families. Forming a collaborative between the two agencies will leverage the expertise and experience in engaging and serving families, operating classroom services for children, improving quality in early childhood settings, supporting the early childhood workforce, and maximizing/distributing available funding for early childhood services for children and families. By building upon the work already being conducted by CCSA and DPfC, the County will create efficiencies in the expenditure of resources and prevent duplication of processes and services in how preschool is expanded across the county in the short-term, and how a comprehensive system for providing preschool opportunities for all Durham children is crafted across the long-term.

The scope of work will be divided into functional areas or components, a portion of which will be led and implemented by CCSA and a portion of which will be led and implemented by DPfC. Division of responsibilities and tasks between the two agencies will be based on pre-existing systems and past service experience within each agency in particular content areas. DPfC will oversee the areas of 1) Child and Family Enrollment, 2) Family Engagement, 3) Public Engagement, and 4) PreK Center Contracting. CCSA will oversee the areas of 1) PreK Center Development, 2) PreK Center Payment, 3) Teacher and Director Quality Support, 4) Professional Development, and 5) Workforce Development.

Furthermore, certain elements of the scope of work will be addressed jointly by both agencies through a Management Collaborative team. This body will be comprised of designated leadership and management staff of both agencies and will be tasked with working collectively to conduct strategic planning, guide the development of standards and policies, and provide general oversight. Areas of responsibility for the Management Collaborative will include: 1) General Management Functions, 2) Quality Standards, 3) Funding/Sustainability, 4) Program Evaluation, and 5) PreK Center Identification.

A Community Steering or Advisory Committee will be created by the Management Collaborative to provide vision and direction to the Durham Preschool expansion effort. The Steering/Advisory Committee will be involved in advising and/or approving plans, strategies, standards and policies for Durham preschool expansion and systems development. CCSA and DPfC will provide cohesive, collaborative leadership to establish an inclusive, community-driven initiative that will enhance public will and engagement and strengthen the resulting system of preschool services in Durham.