



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Program Evaluation Support

Issue Date: Monday, April 8, 2024

Due Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024

The Guilford County Partnership for Children (GCPC) is a local non-profit strategically directing over \$17M annually for young children and families in Guilford County. Most of GCPC's funding comes from state and federal funding through contracts with the NC Partnership for Children (NCPC) and the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE). Additional funding comes from local foundations, corporate and individual giving. GCPC is part of North Carolina's nationally recognized, statewide Smart Start network. *Our mission is to ensure that all Guilford County children prenatal to age five are emotionally, intellectually, and physically ready for success in school.*

School readiness investments include:

- **High quality childcare** for vulnerable 4-year-old children. The NC Pre-K program funds over 2,000 high quality preschool slots in child care programs with a quality level of 4 stars or higher
- **Professional development for early childhood educators and caregivers** in quality improvement, family engagement, inclusion, classroom management, and childhood obesity prevention. Training in trauma informed teacher-child interactions is also offered to ensure emotionally responsive, age and culturally appropriate learning environments. Childcare Health Consultants are also available to ensure adherence to health and safety standards. Peer coaching, community learning, and workforce retention support is also offered.
- **Family support services** that include evidence-based home visiting programs such as Parents as Teachers, Healthy Start, and Guilford Family Connects. Some individualized mental health services are available for children participating in NC Pre-K. Neonatal and neonatal intensive care support are also available.
- **Early literacy** programs include Reading Connections' Family Literacy Program and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

More about Smart Start

Smart Start's mission is to advance a high quality, comprehensive, accountable early childhood system that benefits each child in North Carolina beginning with a healthy birth.

What is Smart Start?

Smart Start brings together all the people involved in a young child's life—families, teachers, doctors, caregivers, social workers, and many others—to ensure every child has all they need for healthy growth and development. Experiences during early childhood shape the structure of the

brain. Because today's children are tomorrow's leaders, parents and workers, everyone has a stake in making sure that all children have the experiences they need to thrive.

Smart Start measurably increases the health and well-being of young children birth to 5, building the foundation for future learning, by:

- Improving children's early care and education programs so that they are safe and healthy and provide opportunities for children to learn skills they need for success in school.
- Providing parents with tools that support them in raising healthy, happy, successful children.
- Ensuring that children have access to preventive health care.

Guilford County Partnership for Children- Funded Partners (FY23-24)

- Bringing Out the Best (BOB) – UNCG Center for Youth, Family & Community Partnerships
- Childcare Health Consultation (CCHC)-Guilford County DHHS, Division of Public Health
- Family Connects Guilford – Guilford County DHHS, Division of Public Health
- Childcare Subsidy (Rising Stars)– Guilford County DHHS, Division of Social Services
- Education, Quality Improvement & Professional Development (EQuIPD) – UNCG
- Child Care WAGES - Child Care Services Association
- CDA Apprenticeship – Children and Families First
- Family Literacy/Language Development – Reading Connections
- Healthy Start – Family Service of the Piedmont
- Parents as Teachers Guilford County –YWCA High Point
- NICU Family Support – Family Support Network of Central Carolina
- Adopt-A-Mom Program/Prenatal Care – Every Baby Guilford.

Scope of Services

The Guilford County Partnership for Children (GCPC) is seeking a qualified individual or organization to provide comprehensive evaluation services for the 2024-2025 fiscal year (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025). The purpose of this service is to support GCPC's commitment to use, or find meaningful data that supports high level collaboration, equitable, scalable and sustainable impact for young children and families, to evaluate funded program's efforts to effect change and meet community needs, and to work with the NCPC Learning and Evaluation staff on State level data collection efforts.

The Evaluator must be familiar with local, state, and national early childhood data and funding streams.

Ideal candidates or organizations have experience with creating or maintaining school readiness related dashboards and preparing professional data presentations that delineate disaggregated output or outcome data in the context of Guilford County's early childhood landscape. Candidates must understand the fundamentals of collecting and reporting data ethically while centering equity.

Deliverables

- In coordination with the Director of Smart Start Strategy and Impact and the Executive Director, the Evaluator will facilitate evaluation planning meetings with each Smart Start

March 2024

funded programs (currently 11 Direct Service Providers) by Aug. 31, 2024. GCPC estimates 3 hours for each meeting which includes prep, review and follow up. Workbooks for quarterly data collection should be provided to each DSP within 10 business days after the meeting.

- Facilitate an evaluation planning meeting with GCPC's Program, Planning & Accountability Committee (PP&A Committee).
- Prepare and submit quarterly reports including an Executive Summary by 20th day of April, July, October, and January to the Director of Smart Start Strategy & Impact (5 hours quarterly). Director of Smart Start Strategy and Impact or Executive Director delegates data entry internally into Fabrik
- Lead and complete annual evaluation monitoring for each DSP by June 30, 2025 (up to 60 hours annually)
- Participate in bi-monthly Program, Planning & Accountability meetings (90 minutes each).
- Assist with bi-annual Request for Applications (RFA) process upon request
- Participate in bi-annual RFA proposal review meetings (estimated to be 10-12 hours)
- Provide technical assistance related to evaluation upon the request of GCPC staff or a DSP (up to 30 hours annually)

Progress is evaluated on multiple levels

- Alignment with Smart Start's "Standards of Child Wellbeing"
The Early Childhood Profile for Guilford County is Addendum 1
- Alignment with contract deliverables
- Serving children and families with "highest need"
- Impacting a sizable number of children and/or families (scale/reach) in a meaningful, measurable way
- Achieving operational stability and sustainability
- Adhering to GCPC/NCPC fiscal policies and expectations (including correct level and type of monthly back up documentation)

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

- Describe your background and qualifications, including education and professional experience, to complete the work
- Knowledge of and expertise in early childhood systems in North Carolina or elsewhere
- Experience in the development and execution of comprehensive community needs assessments and/or strategic planning
- Knowledge of early childhood data sources and experience in successfully obtaining requested data from State and local partners
- Describe your process for:
 - providing consultation and support to various service providers for data collection, data analysis, data visualization and reporting
 - developing and executing study designs and surveys
- Working with partners to identify data sources and collect additional data
- Approach to identifying data sharing partnerships and analyzing, visualizing, and reporting data to various audiences
- List processes, tools, apps or software used for quantitative analysis
- Provide samples of prior work experience. This may include reports, infographics, and preferred data collection tools
- Budget (hourly and/or flat rate)
- Provide at least three references for your work as an evaluator

SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

Proposals should be submitted via email to operations@guilfordchildren.org by 5pm **on Tuesday, April 30, 2024.**