

**OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

**NOTICE OF INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE**

**NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED QUALITY IMPROVEMENT NETWORK (QIN) OF  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER PARTNERS**

**Announcement Date: November 3, 2017**

**Application Release Date: November 17, 2017**

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) of the District of Columbia seeks applications from child development center providers interested in joining the neighborhood-based Quality Improvement Network (QIN), a multi-year effort to improve and expand the quality of infant and toddler care in DC, in order to receive training, technical assistance, and supports to attain and maintain federal Early Head Start (EHS) standards. No financial awards will be directly awarded to successful applicants. However, child development center providers that are selected to join a quality improvement network will benefit from the following:

- Reimbursement at the QIN payment rate for enrolled infants and toddlers in a child development center (*see* 5A District of Columbia Regulations (DCMR) § 203.1(e));
- Full subsidy reimbursement for QIN-eligible children based on enrollment and not daily attendance;
- Job-embedded, continuous, professional learning and technical assistance aligned to DC Early Learning Standards and EHS standards;
- Assistance with recruitment to fill vacancies and support with transitions to pre-Kindergarten; and
- Salary bonuses for teachers (stipends) and prioritization of QIN staff in programs supporting degree attainment.

**Invitation to Participate:** OSSE is seeking applications from licensed child development center providers that want to be considered to join a neighborhood-based QIN. The network is led by a community-based organization that will serve as a Hub. The hub agencies are responsible for providing services and supports to participating child development center partners under the QIN and helping them meet the following goals:

- Implementation of the Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS) for serving infants, toddlers, and their families;
- Provide comprehensive child development services for all children that enhance their physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; and
- Coordinate an array of services to families including parenting education and family support.

OSSE seeks to approve at least one application from a licensed child development center provider. Should the child development center provider fail to achieve the stated goals and objectives described in the individual proposal under this application, the applicant may be subject to penalties that include, but are not limited to, termination of the partnership agreement.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Eligible applicants include child development centers that currently meet the following requirements:

- Provide subsidized child care services to eligible children pursuant to a valid Provider Agreement with OSSE;
- Operate in Wards 7 or 8;
- Have a current Gold rating;
- Licensed to operate a child development facility by OSSE, have not been grandfathered in/as exempt from certain licensing standards, or received a waiver from any licensing requirements;
- Have participated in training or education programming to learn best practices in caring for infants and toddlers in the past two years; and
- Serve children between birth and age 3 whereby:
  - At least 10 percent of the current children enrolled have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP); and
  - At least 50 percent of the current children enrolled are recipients of subsidized child care services.

**Expectations for Center Providers in the QIN:** Child development centers must:

- Partner with the hub agency to develop and implement a quality improvement plan; continuation in the program will depend on demonstrated progress on the quality improvement plan;
- Implement and maintain a high-quality program that meets all HSPPS;
- Provide support to all teaching staff in meeting the new education requirements;
- Support the provision of comprehensive services for children and families by the hub agency, including developing and supporting the implementation of IFSP;
- Participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP);
- Partner with the hub to actively recruit and enroll families and assist them in obtaining child care subsidy;
- Partner with the hub agency staff to develop and implement an enrollment and recruitment strategy that prioritizes families using a selection criteria;
- Consistently maintain a required enrollment number for each month throughout the program period and continuously enroll new children as vacancies become available; and
- Support families in their children's transitions to pre-Kindergarten and follow EHS guidelines for school readiness.

To receive more information on this notice, please contact:

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The Invitation to Participate in a Neighborhood-Based QIN of Child Development Center Partners will be available on OSSE's website at [www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov) on November 17, 2017.