Early Childhood Policy in Institutions of Higher Education (ECPIHE)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE WEB-BASED NETWORK RFP

FINANCES

1. What is the total budget allowed by this RFP? Up to $40,000 each year or $40,000 total, spread over two years?

   RESPONSE 1: 40,000 is presently allocated in the budget for both years, not for each year.

2. Why is the project funded for only two years?

   RESPONSE 2: It is hoped that the Web-based Network will continue for far more than two years, but presently our funds will only cover the effort for two years.

3. The bid indicates that "Priority will be given to proposals that are under $40,000s." Does this represent $40,000 per year or for the two-year funded period?

   RESPONSE 3: As noted above, the 40,000 is for both years, not one year. Priority will be given to applicants whose bid comes at 40,000 or less from the ECPIHE funding. This does not preclude an applicant from contributing more funds to the effort, if the proposal demands it.

4. Do you anticipate having more resources for the Web-based Network?

   RESPONSE 4: Not at this time; however once a successful bidder is funded from ECPIHE, we are willing to work to support their efforts to procure additional funding.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

5. What platforms are you using right now, if any, to perform the functions outlined in the RFP?

   Response 5: The current platform for the ECPIHE-developed materials is WordPress software. The materials are currently housed on the National Center for Children and Families website at Teachers College, Columbia University, but there is presently no platform for interactive engagement. Through this RFP, we will provide the materials to the awardee with the expectation of expanding opportunities for interactive engagement.

GOALS/AIMS OF THE EFFORT

6. How many users are expected to be engaged in the network created as a result of this RFP from the overall initiative? Approximately how many faculty members are expected to participate? What does the universe look like for this?

   Response 6: It is difficult to estimate, but we are hoping that over time users will grow to include a large and expansive network of IHE faculty and professional development providers across the country---perhaps hundreds or even thousands! The appetite for ECP work is growing and we expect that the Network would reflect and chronicle that growth by being fully inclusive.

SCOPE OF THE EFFORT

7. Is the awardee solely responsible for recruiting the IHE faculty to participate in the web-based network?

   RESPONSE 7: The awardee is responsible for making ECP highly visible throughout the USA. It is responsible for assuring that those working on ECP will be part of the Network. By dint of the ECPIHE Initiative, there will be a number of institutions already involved and interested. In addition, we will encourage the ECPIHE Advisory Board members to promote the site.

8. Understanding those involved in this work to date, what types of network processes does the funder have in mind? For example, on the COiiN model there is the Plan, Do, Study and Act. Is there an expectation that a particular theory of a network model be used or is the proposal free to recommend a particular model?

   RESPONSE 8: No particular network process is mandated. The applicant is free to propose a model/approach.

9. Would the awardee be able to share their own content about policy and advocacy on the site?

   RESPONSE 9: Yes, the awardee will be able to share their own content; it is expected that the content of many others will be shared and regularly updated as well.

10. What are the expectations for vetting the content that's posted and shared (by both the awardee or participants)?

    RESPONSE 10: The awardee will develop the protocols for vetting content.

11. What are the opportunities and expectations that the awardee would/could contribute to the development of the ECP Certification program?

RESPONSE 11: The certificate program is being developed. It is expected that the awardee will have an opportunity to participate in that process. It is expected that the awardee will make the existence of the certificate widely known.

NON-FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE EFFORT

12. Are there additional resources/projects within the overall initiative to support the community management of the platform/network that will be created as a result of this RFP?

RESPONSE 12: Although there are no additional financial resources to support the Web-based Network, the selected bidder will work closely with the Alliance, Consortium, Teachers College, and the University of Missouri. It is estimated that information from these sources will be made available to the Web-based Network so that the Network will be able to make information available publicly. It is anticipated that the selected bidder will work closely with these entities and others.

LINKAGES WITH TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

13. What is the status of the current National Center for Children and Families housed at Teachers College at Columbia University?

RESPONSE 13: The National Center for Children and Families at Teachers College, Columbia University, along with the University of Missouri are the host institutions for the ECPIHE Initiative. The Initiative's Principal Investigators, Sharon Lynn Kagan and Kathy Thornburg have appointments at these IHEs respectively. Presently, the ECPIHE website is being temporarily hosted by the NCCF until a successful Network bidder is selected.

14. How will the work of the current Center intersect with the proposed network in this RFP?

RESPONSE 14: It is anticipated that the funded Web-based Network will collaborate with the NCCF and with the emerging ALLIANCE, other centers, and with the Consortium. It will have fiscal accountability to Teachers College, Columbia University.

15. In what ways will the goals of the current Center overlap with the proposed network in this RFP?

    RESPONSE 15: *As a part of its work, Teachers College established the first ECP masters and doctoral degrees in the country. NCCF co-director, Sharon Lynn Kagan, was instrumental in this. It is anticipated that Teachers College will play some on-going role in supporting the implementation and monitoring of ECP efforts nationally. It will link with the Network, much as any other ECP center would.*

INFORMATION AVAILABILITY

16. Will we have an opportunity to see responses to the questions that others submit in this process? Will there be a FAQ?

    RESPONSE 16: *Yes, all those invited to apply, whether or not they have submitted questions, will have access to this FAQ via the ECPIHE website: http://policyforchildren.org/ecpihe/network-rfp/*

Sharon Lynn Kagan and Kathy Thornburg
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