

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Request for Applications

Information Webinar
August 23, 2022



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Overview

- The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) Division of Early Care and Education (DECE) is awarding funding to build a statewide Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) model to support early care and education programs around the state.
- IECMHC model should:
 - Be culturally responsive
 - Support early care and education programs
 - Include other systems and programs that work to support the mental, social, and emotional health of young children
 - Result in a holistic, sustainable, statewide IECMHC system
- Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) allocated a total amount of \$5,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for IECMHC:
 - \$500,000 will be allocated through separate contracts
 - **\$4,500,000 is allocated for this competitive application**
- Using short term funding to build upon existing infrastructure to create long term, coordinated and comprehensive IECMHC system



Importance of Social and Emotional Development

- Social and emotional skill development during the first five years of life is critical to children's success in K-12 settings and beyond. These skills are developed when social and emotional competencies are intentionally taught during the first five years of life by adults who are nurturing and have formed strong attachments to the children they care for.
- Current studies have revealed an increasing trend in the prevalence of expulsions and suspensions within preschool settings, negatively impacting future educational outcomes and increasing family stress.
- National data from the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (2014) suggests that preschool children who display more challenging behaviors are at greater risk for being suspended or expelled.
- For these reasons, it is necessary that our early childhood workforce is well prepared through high quality training and coaching to utilize evidence-based strategies, promoting social and emotional competencies.



Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC)

IECMHC is an evidence-based professional mental health service that improves outcomes for children by pairing IECMH experts with early care and education professionals to build early educators' capacity to strengthen and support children's social and emotional/mental health and development.



General Application Considerations

- The functions and services performed within the contract support Wisconsin's mission for early care and education-to improve the well-being, healthy development, and school readiness among all children ages birth to 5.
- The activities within the request for application should be implemented with the intentional purposes of:
 - Supporting inclusive climates of belonging for all children, particularly for children of color and children with disabilities
 - Reducing the likelihood of exclusionary practices (including suspension and expulsion) in early childhood settings
- The successful contractor will support and increase the knowledge, skills, and capacity of early childhood educators around social and emotional development by using evidence-based strategies that address behaviors that are challenging to adults and increasing high-quality practices.



Eligible Applicants and Contract Term

- DCF is soliciting applications from either a single organization/company (e.g., counties, non-profits, for-profits, etc.) or from collaborating organizations/companies, to become the administrator(s) of the IECMHC Program.
 - Note that although for-profit entities can apply, the budget may not include expenses paid as profit. Profit is any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect cost.
- Contract term is 12/1/22 through 6/30/24
 - Anticipated start date of Grant Administrator's subcontracts with community IECMH practitioners beginning on or before 7/1/23



Funding Amount and Financial Considerations

- Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) allocated a total amount of \$5,000,000 in ARPA funding for IECMHC:
 - \$500,000 will be allocated through separate contracts to build an IMH consultant workforce registry and build a connection through the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health
 - **\$4,500,000 is allocated for this competitive application**
- Within \$4,500,000, 10-20% should be allocated for a subcontract with a research entity to complete a program evaluation
- Portion of the programmatic funding should be distributed to subcontracted community IECHM practitioners through a regional approach, and may be reallocated among those regions, based on needs
- DCF is exploring alternative funding sources to support the administration of the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Endorsement system in Wisconsin. Responses to this competitive application should not include administration of Endorsement system in the scope or budget.



Application Requirements- *Maximum of 12 pages for first seven components*

- Sustainability Planning (20 points)
- Community Mental Health/Current IECMH Professional Engagement (20 points)
- Equity (20 points)
- IECMHC Model (40 points)
- Collaboration (20 points)
- Organizational Capabilities (20 points)
- Budget Response (20 points)
- Budget Proposal Form (not scored)





Questions?

Contact: dcfprocurement@wisconsin.gov

No submissions received after 2:00 PM CST on September 9, 2022 will be accepted.

