

4 R Kids ECI

Preschool Enrichment Project Model

Purpose

The purpose of this handout is to provide an overview of the “model” for which to deliver preschool services for the 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area. This is a comprehensive preschool services model that allows for maximum service flexibility with the utmost utilization of resources.

3 Year Plan for Preschool Services

A request for proposal (RFP) was issued by the 4 R Kids Early Childhood Iowa Area Board for coordination and administration of preschool enrichment services. The 4 R Kids ECI Area Board has a three year funding plan, pending performance, funding, and state requirements.

The RFP for preschool services include but limited to, coordination of preschool tuition scholarships as well as administration and coordination of other supportive services such as dental and lead screenings, quality improvement efforts, and professional development and other services identified by the 4 R Kids ECI Area Board. The chosen contractor for the preschool enrichment services is to provide staffing and the infrastructure to accomplish the preschool service goals of the Board.

Specific Requirements for Service Delivery

The chosen contractor is to have the following capabilities:

- Ability to cash flow preschool enrichment services as this is a draw down system.
- Knowledge of early care best practices, current research, and quality standards.
- Knowledge of current early childhood services and available resources within the Adair, Dallas, Madison and Warren County area.
- Capacity to sub-contract with agencies to provide supportive services, if needed.
- Ability to administer preschool scholarships to multiple vendors.
- Ability to understand and be sensitive to specific needs within each community.
- Knowledge and ability to conduct a comprehensive mapping of preschools.
- Knowledge and ability to collect required state performance measures.
- Ability to provide outreach and marketing efforts for the preschool enrichment project

4 R Kids ECI Area Board

The 4 R Kids ECI Board makes specific funding allocations for preschool tuition and supportive services (dental and lead screenings, quality improvement, and professional development, etc), based on community input as well as subject matter experts such the current contractor of the preschool enrichment project. It is to be noted that preschool tuition is of first priority with other supportive services as a second priority.

The preschool enrichment project administers the supportive services either directly or through subcontracts. The preschool enrichment project may subcontract with other agencies for services such as dental and lead screenings. But, the quality improvement mini grant process may be administered by the staff of the preschool enrichment project. Quality improvement mini grants have quality improvement criteria, expectations of improvement in the early care setting and have written agreements signed with local preschools, it is important to note that written agreements with qualifying preschools can be as many as 70 preschools in the service area. Professional development mini grants may operate similar as to the quality improvement grants.

Collaboration and Communication

The preschool enrichment project collaborates and communicates with the 4 R Kids Executive Director on regular basis. This collaboration and open communication provides for opportunities for flexibility to meet the needs of families. The 4 R Kids ECI Area Board makes the decision on how funds are allocated and/or reallocated among preschool services, the metrics and percentage of funds used is not a reflection of contractor management, rather it is a measurement of funds availability in a category. While the contractor may consult with Executive Director and Board as to reallocation of funds during the year based on their first hand knowledge, the contractor responsibility is to monitor fund allocations appropriately as per board direction. In addition, the percent of funds to budget is not a metric of contractor performance; it is a metric of funds usage.