

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

**QUALITY FACILITATORS FOR THE ENHANCED QUALITY RATING AND
IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS)**

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: August 10, 2016

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) shall issue a Request for Applications to support the Quality Facilitators for the enhanced Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) in the District of Columbia (the District). OSSE's enhanced QRIS is a systematic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. Similar to rating systems for other service-related industries, QRIS provides quality improvement supports and publishes quality indicators of early care and education programs that meet a set of defined program standards: effective learning environment, attendance, curriculum, and child progress monitoring. Licensed child development facilities and DC Public Schools will participate in OSSE's QRIS and embark on a path of continuous quality improvement (CQI), moving from four levels of quality ratings: Licensed/Elementary School, Progressing, Quality, and High-Quality.

The purpose of funds provided is to support the enhanced QRIS by providing Quality Facilitators to the QRIS sites. The Quality Facilitators will provide support and implement a research-based coaching model to promote high-quality early care and education in the District. The Quality Facilitator assigned to the program or school will work alongside the program director, principal, curriculum specialist, or designated on-site administrator (OSA) to offer ongoing guidance and support through regular visits, communication, and assistance. While the OSA ultimately manages the program's improvement and progress in the QRIS, the Quality Facilitator will bring additional expertise to the program practice and support the work of meeting quality goals. Unless specified, all funds will be awarded through competitive grant competitions.

Eligible applicants include public agencies, not-for-profit, for-profit, and faith-based organizations that have experienced and accomplished early childhood coaches (Quality Facilitators) who utilize a research-based coaching model. Applicants must use funds to carry out the following: work alongside child development center and school leadership to develop and implement an annual CQI Plan that includes measurable goals, strategies, and timelines to benchmark progress, and will be involved in in-depth and on-going analyses of programs; assist the OSA with improving the overall learning environment of the program; and provide technical assistance, professional development, consultation, and coaching to program leadership on how to use program data and implement high-quality evidence-based early childhood practices. Up to \$900,000 is expected to be available.

The funds are being made available solely through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) through the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, effective November 19, 2014 ((P.L. 113-186; 42 U.S.C. 9858 *et seq.*) (2012 Repl. and 2015

Supp.)). Grantees will be subject to requirements set forth in federal statutes and any accompanying regulations.

OSSE maintains the right to adjust the grant award and amount based on funding availability. Determinations regarding the number of competitive grant to be awarded will be based on the quality and number of applications received and available funding. Successful applicants may be awarded amounts less than requested.

A review panel or panels will be convened to review, score, and rank each application for a competitive grant. The review panel(s) will be composed of external neutral, qualified, and professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge or related experiences. Each application will be scored against a rubric and applications will have multiple reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). The State Superintendent or her designee will make all final award decisions.

To receive more information on these grants, please contact:

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The Requests for Applications (RFAs) for the competitive grant programs as well as the instructions for completing the Quality Facilitators for the Enhanced QRIS grant application will be available on OSSE's website at www.osse.dc.gov. All applications will be submitted through the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) at grants.osse.dc.gov.