American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 2-Year Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort

Pre-K Priority Provider

Application

<u>Application Deadline</u>
Completed applications must be submitted and received by the SSFC Pre-K Priority Selection Committee no later than:

05/1/2023
_____

Completed applications must be received (not postmarked) by 5:00 PM. You may submit the completed and signed application with supporting documents by email or hand-delivery. Applications received after the deadline may not be accepted for review.

QUESTIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Please contact Glynnise Highsmith, SSFC Pre-K Initiative Director at 336.341.7386

Section A. Introduction

In September 2022, Forsyth County awarded American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Smart Start of Forsyth County (SSFC) on behalf of the Pre-K Priority (PKP) coalition. The aim of the ARPA funding is to implement a range of high-quality services and supports in collaboration with key partners for two years, to a model cohort of 30 Pre-K classrooms located in settings from across the current Pre-K system, including:

- 4 Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS) classrooms;
- 4 Family Services' Head Start classrooms;
- 8 North Carolina Pre-K (Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort) Program classrooms located in community child care centers; and
- 14 classrooms in licensed, Private/Independent Child Care Businesses

The two-year period will cover the school years of 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Section B. Eligibility

Fourteen of the 30 classrooms in the two-year model cohort will be placed in Forsyth County licensed centers that meet the following criteria:

- An independent, privately-owned, community, or franchise child care center
- Holds a 3-, 4-, or 5-star North Carolina QRIS rating
- Currently has a classroom or multiple classroom(s) serving four-year-olds
- Has a classroom that does not receive public funding from Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort or Head Start
- Note that the classroom may have children enrolled that receive individualized subsidy payments

For centers to participate, they must be willing to partner and agree to the following:

- Work collaboratively with Smart Start of Forsyth County (and other partners streamlined into the process) who will administer the resources and supports.
- Share information related to the demographics of the children in the four-year-old classroom(s). Note that all personal information will be de-identified.
- Share information related to the teaching staff in the four-year-old classroom(s) that includes, professional credentialing level, salary, years' experience, and the amount/type of professional development and/or training that is provided to staff annually
- Share information related to the current curricula in use for four-year-old classrooms and be willing to incorporate the Creative Curriculum with financial support and training.
- Visits and consultation with Forsyth Futures (partner performing data collection), an independent evaluator, and possibly other related partners to support gathering data for the evaluation process throughout the two-year cohort.

_____

Site Administrator Signature (Print and Sign)   **Date**

Section C. High-Quality Supports & Resources

The high-quality services and resources that will be supplied to this cohort are documented by the respected institutions including the National Association of Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and National Education for Early Education Research (NIEER). These essential components of high-quality Pre-K will better prepare the children in those classrooms (along with their families) to experience a smooth transition into kindergarten and, based on the current research, will result in significant gains in their reading and math proficiency in third grade.

The key partners and the services they will provide to this collaborative effort are briefly outlined below

1. **Coaching Support & Resources**
2. **Retention Bonus for Teachers**
3. **Salary Equity for Teachers**
4. **Tuition support/scholarship opportunities and stipends**
5. **Family Engagement via Advocates/Specialists**
6. **Professional Development**
7. **Translation Services**
8. **Evaluation of the Model Cohort**

SITE INFORMATION
Name of Site
DCDEE Facility ID Number: Facility License Type:
Administrator Name:
Email Address:
Street address:
City: State: Zip Code:
Mailing address:
City: State: Zip Code:
Phone Number: Fax Number:
Site Classification (Check One):   Private For-Profit Child Care Center   Private Non-Profit Child Care Center   Franchise Child Care Center   Community Child Care Center
Federal Tax ID #:
Elementary School District in which the site is located:

PROGRAM STANDARDS

Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort sites must operate within facilities holding at least 3, 4- or 5- star license from the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education. Please mark which license applies to this site.

        Three -Star   Four-Star License   Five-Star License

Has your site been issued an Administrative Action from DCDEE within the last 18 months?
            Yes   No

If yes, explain.

Has your site had a substantiated child maltreatment complaint in the last 18 months?
            Yes   No

If yes, explain.

Has your site had a substantiated licensing complaint in the last 18 months?
            Yes   No

If yes, explain.

EDUCATION STANDARDS		

Site Administrator

Administrator Name:

Highest Degree Earned: Major:

Number of Semester Hours in Early Childhood: Number of Years' Experience as an Administrator:

Administrator Credential:

    NC Early Childhood Administrator Credential Level l   NC Early Childhood Administrator Credential Level II

    NC Early Childhood Administrator Credential Level III   Working toward NC Early Childhood Administrator
                                             Credential

    NC Principal License

                                      If working toward, Specify Level: I   II   III

    BA/BS any field and has completed the following:18 semester hours in
        ECE/CD

                AND
           6 semester hours in Child CareAdministration or
           9 semester hours in BusinessAdministration or
           Combination of Child Care Administrationand Business
            Administration

LEAD TEACHERS ONLY

Names	Years of Experience with preschoolers	Education/Licensure *(see chart below)*	Points from column below *(to be completed by Site Selection Sub-Committee only – review documentation)*
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Continuing (Standard Professional II) B-K, B-K Add-On or Pre-K/K Add-On License	**5**
Initial (Standard Professional I) B-K, B-K Add-On or Pre-K/K Add-On License	**4**
NC K-6 License *or* other NC Educator's License (Special Ed., K-6, etc.) *or* another state's license (Elementary EducationSpecial Education, etc.) *and* eligible for a NC Provisional B-K or Pre-K/K Add-On License.	**3**
BA/BS Degree in Early Childhood Education, Child Development, *or* related field* *and* working toward BK License (Plan of Study on file) *or* hold NC Lateral Entry (LE) BK License *or* hold a Residency B-K License *or* hold an Emergency B-K License	**2**
BA/BS Degree in Related Field* and no Plan of Study for Birth-Kindergarten (BK) licensure	**1**
No teacher or teacher does not meet educational standards	**0**
Related Fields: Child and Family Studies, Human Development and Family Studies, Human Growth and Development, Human Growth and Family Studies, Psychology	

TEACHER ASSISTANTS ONLY			
Names	Years of Experience with preschoolers	Education/Licensure *(see chart below)*	Points from column below *(to be completed by Site Selection Sub-Committee only – review documentation)*
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Have completed BA/BS Degree in BK/ECE/CD *or* related field*	**5**
Have completed AA Degree in BK/ECE/CD *or* related field* *or* Child Development Associate (CDA) **and** additional ECE semester credit hours *(SCH)* toward a BA/BS Degree in a related field*	**4**
Have completed AA Degree in BK/ECE/CD *or* related field* *or* Child Development Associate (CDA)	**3**
Completed at least 6 *(SCH)* of ECE coursework *or* meet Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) exception *and* completed 6 *(SCH)* of ECE coursework *or* 2 years ECE experience if employed by a public school	**2**
Working towards AA in Birth-Kindergarten (BK), Early Childhood Education (ECE), Child Development (CD), *or* related field**or* Child Development Associate (CDA)	**1**
No Teacher Assistant or Teacher Assistant does not meet education standards	**0**

Additional Program Information

"Does your site currently operate/offer care for children during holidays, teacher workdays, etc. when the WS/FCS are typically closed?"?   Yes   No

Will your site offer summer care?   Yes   No

Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort sites must provide a Pre-K program for a minimum of 6.5 hours per day for 10 months (36 weeks) of instructional days per school calendar year. **Do you meet this requirement?**

☐ Currently Meet   ☐ Do Not Meet   ☐ Plan to Meet

What hours will your site operate for the Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort classroom?

Start Time: End Time:

Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort instructional staff shall work in direct contact with children in the Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort program for at least a 32.5-hour work week. The remaining 7.5 hours each week are for instructional staff to complete related instructional activities for the Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort classroom. Lead teachers and teacher assistants are not to exceed working 40 hours per week. **Can you meet this requirement?**

☐ Currently Meet   ☐ Do Not Meet   ☐ Plan to Meet

Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort classrooms will not exceed a maximum staff-to-child ratio of 1 to 9 with a maximum class size of 18 children, with one lead teacher and one teacher assistant per classroom. **Can you meet this requirement?**

☐ Currently Meet   ☐ Do Not Meet   ☐ Plan to Meet

Does your site have a dedicated, age appropriate, fenced playground space for Pre-K children? ☐ Yes   ☐ No

List resources used to cover expenses (subsidy vouchers for before/after school care, grants, in-kind from facility, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), etc.):

Please provide the number of 4-year-old children currently enrolled in your 4-year-old classroom that are **NOT** in a NC Pre-K or Head Start funded classroom._____

What is the general ethnicity of the 4-year-olds in your classroom that are **NOT** in a NC Pre-k or Head Start classroom.
- Hispanic/Latino _____%
- Non-Hispanic/Latino _____%

What is the general racial demographic of the 4-year-olds (by percentage) in your classroom that are **NOT** in a NC Pre-K or Head Start classroom.
- Asian _____%
- Black/African American _____%
- Native American/Alaskan _____%
- White _____%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander _____%

What is the payment type being used for 4-year-old children who are **NOT** in a NC Pre-K or Head Start classroom.
- Private pay _____%
- DSS Child Care Subsidy _____%
- Smart Start of Forsyth County Child Care Scholarship _____%

Do you have 4-year-old children at your site that are enrolled through one of the following programs:
    Head Start   NC Pre-K Program

If so, what is the general racial demographic of the 4-year-olds (by percentage) in your classroom that ARE in a NC Pre-K or Head Start classroom.
- i.   Asian _____%
- ii.   Black/African American _____%
- iii.   Native American/Alaskan _____%
- iv.   White _____%
- v.   Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander _____%

Signatures

This application is complete, and all information is accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if any information is found to be false, the site will be deemed ineligible to participate in the Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort. I have read and will abide by all current NC Child Care Rules, the Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort Program Requirements and Guidance, and the Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort Program Fiscal and Contract Manual.

*Reminder: Approval will be determined based on a number of factors including (but not limited to): the NC Standardized Site Selection Rubric, site observations, and if applicable, monitoring results.

_____

Site Administrator Signature (Print and Sign)   **Date**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY (Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort Contracting Agency)

Date Application Received _____

Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort Site Selection Sub-Committee Rubric Points Total   _____

Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort Committee Decision   Approved with Funding*   ☐

Not Approved

Approved with No Funding (Consider for Future Expansion or Changes)

Date applicant was notified of the Pre-K Classroom Model Cohort Committee decision in writing _____