



Early Learning Advocacy Contractor Opportunity

The Children's Alliance is seeking a short term contractor to support implementation advocacy of the Early Start Act, specifically the Standards Alignment project, between now and October 2016.

Scope

The Early Start Act (HB 1491) directs the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to develop a single set of standards for child care licensing and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). The new standards must provide minimum health and safety standards, rely on Early Achievers standards to address quality, take into account the separate needs of family child care providers and child care centers, and promote the continued safety of child care settings. More information about the project can be found [here](#). These new standards will impact the landscape of early learning settings in Washington State for years to come. Implementation advocacy now is essential to ensure that the new standards support increased access to high quality early learning opportunities for all children from birth to age five and specifically support increased access to culturally and linguistically responsive early learning opportunities for children who are furthest from opportunity. In order to accomplish this, the new standards must:

- Be designed with intentional focus on impacts to culturally diverse and low-income communities; and
- Promote cultural and linguistic diversity as child and family assets to be honored and encouraged.

In order to reach the objectives listed above, Children's Alliance is seeking a contractor to provide the following deliverables:

- Coordinate and execute the development of detailed written comment on the new draft standards based upon a clearly articulated racial equity analysis framework. It is expected that the contractor will consult with key partners in the development of the comments. Partner contact info will be provided by Children's Alliance staff.

- Attend and participate in the Standards Alignment Advisory Committee;
- Provide leadership and coordination to Early Learning Action Alliance (ELAA)'s engagement in the Standards Alignment Project by providing information updates to coalition members via email and updates at coalition meetings. More information about ELAA can be found [here](#).

Contractor Knowledge and Skills Needed

- Knowledge of Washington State child care licensing, ECEAP and Early Achievers standards;
- Experience working with culturally diverse communities in the context of early learning;
- Experience applying a racial equity analysis to policies and programs; and
- Ability to review technical documents and produce clear, high quality written comments.

Compensation

The contractor will bill Children's Alliance at an hourly rate to be agreed upon, up to a total of \$10,000. The contractor may employ a team approach to completing the work provided that there is a clearly designated project lead who acts as the single point of contact with Children's Alliance staff.

To Apply

Submit resume and a letter of interest which outlines both how the contractor meets the knowledge and skills requirements and how the contractor proposes to meet the contract deliverables to Jennifer Jennings-Shaffer at jennifer@childrensalliance.org. All who submit proposals will receive a response indicating that the proposal has been received and a follow up communication regarding the outcome of the selection process. Additional information may be requested during the selection process.

Desired start date is during the month of April 2016.