

## **Criteria to Apply**

### **Child Care Centers**

Priority will be given to child care centers that meet the following criteria to participate in the Fairfax County School Readiness Collaborative Grant:

- Recent history of enrolling children who transition to one of the following elementary schools:
  - Annandale Terrace Elementary School
  - Freedom Hill Elementary School
  - Hollin Meadows Elementary School
  - Lake Anne Elementary School
- Enrollment of children from low-income families who participate in the Fairfax County Child Care Assistance and Referral Program.
- Evidence of commitment to quality early childhood education as reflected in such things as NAEYC Accreditation, history of strong staff participation in training, use of a comprehensive and developmentally appropriate curriculum, low staff and director turnover.
- Ability to participate in the Project for the full grant period – September 2005 through April or May 2007. This will include a willingness to participate in the development of a program improvement plan for the selected classrooms based on observation measures such as the Early Childhood Environmental Ratings Scale (ECERS) and the Early Learning and Literacy Classroom Observation (ELLCO) and a willingness to release time for selected staff to participate in training and mentoring.
- Strong interest in advancing staff professional development. Four teachers will need to enroll in a 90 hour School Readiness Certificate program. This will include a 45 hour School Readiness class that will meet weekly between either January and May 2006 or October 2006 and February 2007. Two teachers should enroll in each of these sessions.

Following selection, a partnership agreement will be developed to clearly define goals and expectations for both center directors and participating teachers. The attached “Opportunities and Expectations” Statement outlines this information.

## For Directors and their Child Care Centers

### Opportunities

- Learning groups that bring you together with other center directors, and elementary school principal and kindergarten teachers. This School Readiness Team will focus on school readiness and supporting professional development for teachers.
- Special recognition as a School Readiness Collaborative participant.
- The latest information about early learning and school readiness.
- A series of 90 hours of fun and interactive training for selected teachers that look holistically at improving learning experiences so that children enter school ready to learn.
- Materials and equipment to support Personal Program Improvement Plan.
- Financial information for teacher's formal education to attend ESL classes or pursue a GED, CDA, AA or BA degree.
- Ability to share ideas with other programs through a grant newsletter.
- Attend a Kick-Off event in October to meet school administrators, kindergarten teachers, center directors, and other grant participants.

### Expectations

- Participate in regularly scheduled meetings of the neighborhood School Readiness Team to plan strategies to support school readiness and plan activities to help children and parents transition to kindergarten.
- Attend periodic meetings with other participating center directors.
- Attend or send Education Coordinator to first School Readiness Certificate class for teachers to get a better understanding of the course content and expectations.
- Provide support to teachers enrolled in the School Readiness Certificate program through time and resources for the following type of activities:
  - Attending weekly evening or Saturday courses
  - Completing homework assignments
  - Scheduling and participating in on-site technical assistance and mentoring visits from the grant's School Readiness Specialist.
  - Assessment of classroom environments by an evaluation team hired by the grant using appropriate observation tools
  - Development of teacher's individualized program improvement plan
  - Organizing special activities for parents to build their involvement in their child's early learning as well as their transition to Kindergarten
  - Conducting conferences with parents about their child's progress
- Participate in activities that support the evaluation of the School Readiness Collaborative from the "Investing in Virginia's Children" grant.

## For Child Care Center Teachers

### Opportunities

- The latest information about early school readiness.
- A series of 90 hours of fun and interactive training held in the evenings and on Saturdays that look holistically at improving learning experiences so that children enter school ready to learn.
- Convenient on-site mentoring with a knowledgeable School Readiness Specialist.
- Opportunities to network with other teachers and family child care providers.
- \$300 stipend upon successful completion of program.
- Materials and equipment to support Personal Program Improvement Plan.
- Financial information for formal education to attend ESL classes or pursue a GED, CDA, AA or BA degree
- Ability to share ideas with other programs through a grant newsletter.
- Attend a Kick-Off event in October to meet school administrators, kindergarten teachers and other grant participants.

### Expectations

- Attend and actively participate in School Readiness Certificate program
  - 30 hours of core courses from the Institute of Early Learning taken within a one year period
  - 45 hour School Readiness Course
  - 15 hours of elective courses and mentoring
- Use information collected from classroom observation assessments with the Center Director and the grant's School Readiness Specialist as part of the development of a personal program improvement plan.
- Participate in monthly on-site technical assistance and mentoring visits with the grant's School Readiness Specialist.
- Participate in activities that support the evaluation of the School Readiness Collaborative from the "Investing in Virginia's Children" grant.
- Partner with parents in supporting their children's school readiness and transition to Kindergarten through regular written and oral communication as well as the implementation of transition activities planned by neighborhood School Readiness Team.
- Hold individual conferences with parents to provide parents with updates about their children's progress on the continuum of learning developed for the grant.
- Maintain a portfolio of children to document children's progress.

Fairfax County



School Readiness Collaborative

**Application for Child Care Centers**

**Child Care Center Information**

Name of Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Director's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Information**

- Which of the following Fairfax County Public Schools will your children attend?  
 Annandale Terrace     Freedom Hill     Hollin Meadows     Lake Anne  
In the Fall of 2005, approximately how many children in your center will be attending the school you checked? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you currently have children enrolled in your program whose families participate in the county's Child Care Assistance and Referral program?     Yes     No
- What type of center do you direct?  
 Private for profit     Non-profit     Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Is your center NAEYC Accredited?     Yes     No
- Which of the following best describes your program's curriculum?  
 High Scope     Creative Curriculum     Portage  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Combination that includes at least one of the above  
 No formal curriculum used to plan programming
- What type of services does your center provide families? (Check all that apply)  
 Parent meetings and educational programs     Family literacy programs  
 Intervention services for children with special needs     Parent/teacher conferences  
 Developmental screenings for children with special needs     Home visits  
 Social or family support services  
 Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- How many classrooms in your program serve: children 0-3 years of age? \_\_\_\_\_  
: children 3-5 years of age? \_\_\_\_\_
- How long have you been the Director of this Center? \_\_\_\_\_

## Teacher Nominations

Teachers will be selected to participate in one of two groups receiving professional development support. Two teachers will participate in the Project between October 2005 and May 2006. Two different teachers will be able to participate in the Project between September 2006 and March 2007.

Please nominate two teachers to participate in the first group meeting between October 2005 and May 2006:

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Position/Fall 2005: \_\_\_\_\_

How long in this position? \_\_\_\_\_ How long at center? \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of children in classroom: \_\_\_\_\_ How many children in classroom? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe level of training and education: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Position/Fall 2005: \_\_\_\_\_

How long in this position? \_\_\_\_\_ How long at center? \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of children in classroom: \_\_\_\_\_ How many children in classroom? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe level of training and education: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

Will you be able to nominate two different teachers to participate in the group working with Project staff between September 2006 and March 2007?  Yes  No

Optional: If you know the teachers you would like to nominate for this second group, please provide their information below. We realize this information may change by September 2006.

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Position/Fall 2005: \_\_\_\_\_

How long in this position? \_\_\_\_\_ How long at center? \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of children in classroom: \_\_\_\_\_ How many children in classroom? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe level of training and education: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Position/Fall 2005: \_\_\_\_\_

How long in this position? \_\_\_\_\_ How long at center? \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of children in classroom: \_\_\_\_\_ How many children in classroom? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe level of training and education: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

