



ZERO to THREE
Early connections last a lifetime



State Capacity-Building Initiative- Office Hours Q & A

Core Teams

Just to clarify when we refer to "Voices of Lived Experience," are we specifically talking about families with children aged three and under?

- This phrase refers to families with children under the age of three who have experienced homelessness or housing instability.

If Housing-insecurity specific groups in the state don't know about the grant or are uninterested in the pursuit of it- can other nonprofits/maybe not housing-specific nonprofits take the lead? Or, can the lead group be of Early Childhood focus if they are including input from Housing/justice organizations within the planning group?

- Yes, any 501(c)(3) partner can be lead on this opportunity. Please provide evidence of engagement with housing and homelessness organizations in your state however.

Does it matter which/what type of coalition member submits the application on behalf of the group? I.e., a 501(c)(3) org?

- We would like to see evidence of engagement with housing organizations, but it does not matter which 501(c)(3) organization on the team applies to lead the work.

In the RFP, it says: "Lead applicant must be a 501(c)(3) public charity in good standing." Would this mean a university or place of higher education would be ineligible to apply as the lead applicant?

- Universities with 501(c)(3) standing may apply for this opportunity.

Our state has some cross sector partnership happening currently on a small scale in early childhood homelessness. We hope this grant could expand that work. However, due to state system funding, we cannot participate in lobbying/advocacy. Can we still be considered?

- Yes, while a small percentage of this funding can be used for lobbying, it is not a requirement of the grant. We've seen great success in other similar projects when teams include public-private partnerships such as state agency staff, professionals working directly with families, community leaders, advocates, etc.



Would engagement with partners that provide Housing Choice Vouchers/HCVs/Section 8 or shelter services help support an application in a team setting?

- Yes, if this supports an understanding of state context.

Connection to other Funders

I believe one of the questions in the LOI touches on whether we are in contact with funders to support our efforts. Since there is a quick turnaround, would email conversations/reach outs for previous supporters meet that criteria?

- We would like to hear about contacts you already have for this as well as future plans. Please feel comfortable sharing where you actually are in this process.

Related to potential funder in our state, I see it notes financial support, yet, could people power be considered a financial support?

- We agree that people power is definitely supportive and would be valuable to share as well as financial support.

Grant Logistics

Can you share what reporting will need to be done by teams and at what frequency?

- A reporting schedule will be included in the contract that is shared with applicants that are invited to participate in the project after the interview stage. It will include a final narrative and financial report and mid-point surveys. For teams that decide to use some funds for lobbying – there will also be quarterly lobbying disclosure reports. We aim to keep time spent on reporting minimal and low-burden.

When is the in- person convening happening and how many people are expected to attend?

- This event will be in the spring of 2026 and we are hoping to see 3-5 members of your team attending. Please include travel costs for this event in your budget.

Use of Funds

Can funds be used to put services directly into shelters supporting pregnant and new moms? Could these funds be used to build/launch an early childhood facility onsite at a transitional housing shelter for families?

- Funds may not be used for direct services to children and families.

Could you please share how it can support staff support but not direct services work?

- Funds may be used to support staff working on this initiative but not in providing direct services to children and families. Refer to the examples in the RFA about permitted uses of funds – staff time contributing to those activities can be funded through grant funds.



Can grant funds be allocated for specific project staff salaries or only operations? Are there restrictions on funding allocation between partners in a collaboration?

- Yes, this funding can be used for staff salaries that will contribute to the goals of the proposed project. It can also be used to strengthen partners abilities to collaborate in the project.

Statewide Focus and Connection to other Efforts

Does the application need to have a statewide focus? Or could it be focused on an area or region?

- Applications and efforts should provide a statewide focus.

With the timeline, for our state project launch then would be right around when our state legislative session is, would there be flexibility in awareness of our capacity to make effective efforts at a statehouse level during that session with a quick turn around? More laying the groundwork for the following session.

- Yes, this funding allows for the education and groundwork to make an impact in the next legislative session.

How would this grant respond to a group focus on economic security that blends housing, tax options, transportation and early childhood services?

- If the group has a focus on economic security already, think about how this funding may be used to expand and deepen the existing coalition's focus on homelessness and housing instability.

How do you see alignment between this initiative and the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant from HRSA? ECCS grantees too are working with cross sector partners including families with the goal of building integrated maternal and early childhood systems.

- ECCS is a great catalyst of cross-sector work in states and communities and depending on your state's goals and context – could be a great partner in this work. This opportunity is more narrowly focused on supporting state teams to focus on policy priorities impacting families prenatal-3 who are homeless and/or experiencing housing instability – so if you want to build on ECCS work it will be important for you to describe how doing so will further those specific goals.