Ready Start Networks

Cohort 4 Application - 2021

*The initial application is due April 7 at 12 p.m. Please name the file “Network name RSN C4 app – initial” and email to* [*amy.poirier@la.gov*](mailto:amy.poirier@la.gov)*. The subject of the email should be the same as the file name.*

*The second round application is due May 6 at 12 p.m. Please name the file “Network name RSN C4 app – second” and email to* [*amy.poirier@la.gov*](mailto:amy.poirier@la.gov)*. Again, the subject of the email should be the same as the file name.*

Lead Agency Applying:

Primary Contact Name:

Primary Contact Title:

Telephone:

Email:

**I. Blueprint**

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| *A blueprint is an outline of the network’s early childhood goals and strategies that includes background information, a mission and vision statement, and 3-5 goals with strategies, resources, and performance metrics. The blueprint pillar of Ready Start Networks will be critical to your success. The blueprint sets a vision for the network’s future, establishes agreed-upon goals, and lays out clear strategies to achieve those goals. The blueprint also provides key stakeholders, both internal and external, with an idea of where the network is going and therefore helps garner buy-in.* |

1. Please attach your blueprint (as a PDF or Word doc attached in the same email as this application) with all components (background information, mission and vision statements, and goals with strategies, performance metrics, and resources).
2. Do you have an external, public-facing blueprint? If so, link to it or attach PDF in the same email as this application. If not, please state “N/A.”

1. Describe the process used to develop and update your blueprint. Who did you engage in this process? What would you do differently?

1. How do you plan to update/make changes to your blueprint in the future? Who else will you consult?

1. How do you plan to use your blueprint as a tool to achieve your community network’s goals?

1. How often will you revisit your network’s blueprint throughout the upcoming school year?

**II. Coalition**

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| *A Ready Start Network’s coalition is a group of community members committed to supporting early childhood. They will serve as advocates and champions to promote your cause in the community, may serve as potential funders and fundraisers, and may contribute to the network by providing resources and skills needed. A strong coalition that is educated about and committed to improving early childhood education in your community is key to creating awareness for your RSN.* |

1. Who are your current program partners? Provide a complete list of ALL partners, including child care partners, Early Head Start and Head Start grantees, NSECD recipients, public pre-K schools (including charter schools), Early Steps regional partners, Resource and Referral agency, Early Childhood Ancillary Certification (ECAC) programs, and any others.

1. Provide a list of potential *new* stakeholders and organizations that you would engage to join your coalition after becoming a Ready Start Network. Categories to consider include (but are not limited to) local, state, or federal government partners; non-profits or philanthropy; for-profit or business community representatives; research or educational partners; the faith-based community; and grassroots leaders. If you list individuals by name, please indicate what organization or category they represent (e.g., “Jane Smith, philanthropy”).

1. How do you plan to engage these potential stakeholders and organizations to participate in your Ready Start coalition?

1. How can your expanded coalition strengthen your Ready Start Network?

**III. Governance**

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| *Establishing a governance structure will allow your RSN to make collaborative decisions about early childhood education with key members of your community. Governance will provide the process and structure necessary for collaborative decision-making.* |

1. Do you currently have an existing early childhood advisory council or governance structure in place? Are there bylaws? If yes, please describe this structure and who the members are. How long has this structure been in place? What decisions are made? If this does not apply to your network, please respond “N/A.”

1. Describe the ideal governance structure for your Ready Start Network. What does this structure look like? How many members will be involved, and how will they be chosen?

1. How would you approach building a Ready Start local governance structure or adapting your current structure?

1. What topics would your governance structure address?

**IV. Fundraising**

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| *Because of the urgent need for early childhood care and education statewide, Ready Start Networks will make the most efficient use of current funds by maximizing resources in addition to seeking external funding. Leadership first must have a clear understanding of the current financial status. After recruiting a coalition and instituting a local governance structure, RSNs will create a plan to develop fundraising strategies.* |

1. What was the total amount of federal funding across all early childhood programs in the community network last year (2019-2020)? Please fill in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Federal Funding** | |
| **Funding Source** | **Amount** |
| Early Head Start | $ |
| Head Start | $ |
| ESSA Title I | $ |
| Education Excellence Fund | $ |
| IDEA | $ |
| Rural Education Achievement Program | $ |
| Other federal funds | $ |
| **TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDING** | $ |

1. What was the total amount of state funding across all early childhood programs in the community network last year? Please fill in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **State Funding** | |
| **Funding Source** | **Amount** |
| LA-4 | $ |
| 8(g) | $ |
| Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development | $ |
| Other State | $ |
| **TOTAL STATE FUNDING** | $ |

1. What was the total amount of local and private funding across all early childhood programs in the community network last year? Please fill in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Local and Private Funding** | |
| **Funding Source** | **Amount** |
| Local public | $ |
| Philanthropic/private | $ |
| **TOTAL LOCAL AND PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING** | $ |

1. Describe the process for how you completed the 2021 Super App and Coordinated Funding Request.

1. If you requested additional PDG B-3 seats, how did that process look? Who did you engage? If you did not, please write “N/A.”

1. How did you use Super App to sustain or increase early childhood funding?

1. Have you explored other non-state, non-federal funding sources to support early childhood initiatives in your community?

1. How do you plan to use your Ready Start Network allocation to support your Ready Start Network initiatives? Please note: this allocation cannot be used to directly fund seats.

**V. Program Partner Engagement**

1. Describe how you have engaged with your program partners on this Ready Start Network application.

1. Optional upload: Program Partner signatures in support

**VI. Signatures**

Lead Agency primary contact signature:

CEO or Superintendent signature: