

FL ECCS Impact RFP Questions & Answers

1. What states are involved in the ECCS Initiative?

Map included in the PowerPoint shows there are 12 states involved in the initiative. There are 28 place-based communities nationwide working on the project.

2. What data are participating communities expected to generate or gather?

The National Institute for Child Health Quality (NICHQ), which leads implementation activities at the national level, is in the process of refining the data set and measures that will be collected by states and communities. This is in response to feedback by participating sites. Florida is also developing its own measures on racial equity. The goal is to reduce the burden on sites, while still gathering information that reflects the impact of the initiative on systems change. Based on experience to date, service providers in each community are likely to be the source of some required data (for example, ASQ screening and results). We may also be using sampling, surveying and focus groups to obtain other indicators. Florida's focus on racial equity will also require disaggregation of some data by race, gender and income. Dr. Jennifer Marshall at the University of South Florida, College of Public Health, serves as the data manager and is working with us on the measurement strategy. She and her team will also provide technical assistance to the place-based communities on data collection.

3. Will time be allotted for the community selected to work on data collection strategies?

Yes. We recognize that it takes time to plan data collection strategies. We are committed to the principle of shared measurement and will support the community as it develops a strategy that works best for them.

4. What is the salary range for a local coordinator?

We will explore this question with other states. Not all states are funding their place-based communities, so the range is likely to vary. Salaries are expected to be the biggest part of the budget since the coordinator has primary responsibility for supporting the systems work and collaboration. We also encourage applicants to think about including compensation for parent partners or parent representatives as a strategy for engagement and recognizing the value of their time and contributions to the initiative.

5. Can the data plan be deferred until input is provided by the person mentioned in the Q & A? Is the measurement of developmental skills change in 3 yr olds going to be the primary metric?

The data manager will work with the coordinator of the place-based community to develop a plan for data collection. The primary aim is to show a 25 percent increase in age appropriate developmental skills among the community's 3-year-old children.

6. Can the Coordinator's position be split? As an example, .5 FTE new staff and .25 FTE existing staff.

While it is acceptable to provide part of the FTE for an existing staff person (for the amount of time they are contributing time to the grant), one person has to be dedicated at least .75 FTE to the grant.

7. Are materials (not food) for parent/child play groups and/or parenting education groups an allowable cost?

First, we want to emphasize that the ECCS grant is primarily focused on systems change rather than implementing a specific program. With that being said, we will allow for supplies that are directly linked with system improvement, developmental health promotion, or family engagement.

8. Can you tell me who serves on the State Improvement Team and the State Advisory Group?

You can go to our website for information on the state improvement team members as well as the agencies represented on the state advisory group.

<https://www.fleccsimpact.org/advisory-team/>

9. I've been reading through the website information referenced in the power point presentation and see that Jacksonville and Miami have been participating thus far. Will they continue in the next cycle? I also see that the goal of improving developmental outcomes in 3 year olds for ECCS grantees is based on the full 5 year funding cycle. Will the expectation be the same for the new grantee added for the 1/19-6/21 cycle?

Miami will continue their work but Jacksonville will not. As far as the project aim, the new implementation site will be responsible for the 25% increase but we acknowledge that it may be harder to accomplish in that timeframe. All we can aim for is our best!

10. As long as there are no financial penalties involved.

No, there aren't financial penalties for not meeting the aim.

11. I'm wondering about the reimbursement plan based on 'deliverables'. Could you give me a couple examples of these? The majority of costs will be personnel related - reimbursement will not include time spent on grant activities?

Yes, deliverables will include things like hiring and maintaining the ECCS coordinator, developing the improvement team, participating in ECCS webinars and calls, data collection, improvement activities, etc. The reimbursement will include time spent on ECCS activities.

12. So reimbursement will not be tied directly to a time sheet? Is reimbursement done on a monthly basis?

For subrecipients, reimbursement is based on actual expenses incurred for program implementation, include personnel costs. Timesheets will meet federal guidelines. Deliverables and reimbursement requests are submitted quarterly. Our contracts generally provide a one-quarter advance at contract signing.

13. Would FL ECCS provide a portion of the grant immediately (in late December 2018 or the start of January 2019) to the newly funded site? Or would funds be reimbursed on a monthly basis, such that we'd need to find a way to cover Month #1 salary and expenses on this end before receiving the first payment from FL ECCS?

The agreement will offer an advance equal to one quarter of estimated expenses. Example: Jan-Dec award = \$100,000. An advance in the amount of \$25,000 will be offered.

14. What would be the length of time between submission of expenses to FL ECCS by the local site, and receipt of payment from FL ECCS?

Our goal is to review and approve a payment request within one week of receipt. Our fiscal team processes checks each week. FAHSC also offers the option for receipt of EFT payments. We understand and appreciate cash flow concerns and work to be responsible and responsive to these concerns. Timely, complete and accurate reporting is a key factor in timely processing of payment requests.

15. Our neighborhood initiative has negotiated a local nonprofit organization to serve as the fiscal sponsor in relation to our proposal. We need a fiscal agent because our neighborhood initiative is a resident-led effort to promote the networking and self-organizing of the neighborhood and broader community, so it is not at this point a separate nonprofit. We have a mailing address, phone, email, and website. We do not, however, have a FEIN or DUNS number. Is this acceptable?

The applicant responding to this RFP must be incorporated with a DUNS and FEIN. These are requirements to receive federal funding. Agreements or subcontracts which provide funding from the applicant to neighborhood groups or individuals is permitted, however.

16. We're very excited about applying, but might run into a problem getting a letter of commitment from our local children services council. If we are not able to, is that a fatal flaw?

Get as many of the letters as you can. Not having them all will not disqualify you. We just want to see that you have the buy-in of your partners.

Would it also be helpful to include information about the organization that will serve as our fiscal agent in the proposal narrative so that the review committee can best determine whether this organization is well suited to partner with our neighborhood initiative, and to be receiving and responsible for the federal dollars? In the past we have drafted and submitted an MOU to make the relationship between the organization serving as Fiscal Sponsor and our initiative explicit. We

drafted one for the Florida ECCS proposal and I have attached it. Would this arrangement work for the Florida ECCS Impact Project grant?

Our suggestion is that you focus more on the work of your neighborhood initiative but add in some info about your fiscal agent. We also suggest that you explain your approach to organizational partnerships (and rationale) and why the proposed partner is a good fit based on their experience, etc. Unfortunately, we cannot comment on the specifics of the MOU as it is part of the proposal.

17. Is it possible for more than one group per community to submit a proposal?

Yes, any community can apply.