

**FAQ Early Childhood Organizational Partnership Development RFS  
January 21, 2025**

1. I was not able to schedule a 15-minute consultation. Will more time slots be added?
  - a. We received a lot of interest in this opportunity and there are no additional consultation times available. Questions and answers from the consultations are included in this FAQ document. Consultations are not required to submit a proposal.
2. Is there a maximum length for the narrative submissions?
  - a. There is not a maximum length for the narrative. However, we encourage applicants to be concise in their proposals.
3. Is the \$175,000 for the entire contract period?
  - a. Applicants may submit a total cost proposal for the entire contract period up to \$175,000. This cost excludes travel. Travel costs will be negotiated with the finalist as part of the contracting process. You do not need to include a travel estimate in the proposal.
4. Does the Foundation have specific guidelines for developing the cost proposal?
  - a. Cost proposals should clearly align with the proposed scope of work. Proposals from universities may not include indirect or overhead costs.
5. Is the Foundation open to proposals from organizations outside of North Carolina?
  - a. This opportunity is open to proposals from organizations outside of North Carolina. However, the consultant must be willing and able to travel to North Carolina.
6. Is the Foundation open to a proposal that includes a team, or is it your intent to find one individual for this project?
  - a. Proposals may include a team or one individual. Roles and qualifications for each entity should be clearly defined and align with the proposed work.
7. Does the Foundation have a particular policy agenda or types of advocacy work in mind for the organizations to collaborate on?
  - a. Prospective grantees that the consultant will support will be working in the early care and education advocacy space. The Foundation does not have a policy agenda for this work.
8. Will there be a final end-of-project report or deliverable expected?
  - a. The contract will require quarterly reports from the consultant. These reports should document lessons learned and recommendations as the work progresses over the contract period.

9. Would the Foundation consider an alternative structure of a joint coordination effort instead of three pairs?
  - a. The Foundation has designed this opportunity to intentionally focus on pairs of organizations rather than a cohort model.
10. How will the Foundation define success at the end of the partnership investment with the grantees? Is this something that you hope the consultant will provide support to define?
  - a. The Foundation is taking an emergent learning approach to understanding the impact of this initiative. We are interested in learning more about how best to support and promote collaboration in the early childhood sector. While the consultant is expected to uplift insights, observations, and learnings as the initiative unfolds, the consultant will not be tasked with initiative evaluation.
11. What level of engagement, if any, will the Foundation have in the services provided by the consultant to grantees over the course of the initiative?
  - a. The Foundation will be involved in a collaborative capacity with the consultant on the design and implementation of the services provided. We do not anticipate Foundation staff will be regularly involved in grantee meetings facilitated by the consultant unless requested by the grantees.
12. Will the selected grantee pairs begin the initiative with pre-established collaboration goals, or will the contractor need to guide them in identifying and aligning these goals from the ground up?
  - a. We anticipate that grantee pairs will enter the work with a sense of their collaboration goals and that the consultant will assist pairs in further clarifying and refining these goals.
13. How will the Foundation evaluate the consultant's effectiveness?
  - a. Consultant performance will be assessed based on successful completion of key deliverables outlined in the RFS as well as grantee feedback on their experience with the consultant.