

**Request for Evaluation Contractor  
Great Start Collaborative –Wayne  
Wayne County QRIS Demonstration Project Assessment**

The Great Start Collaborative-Wayne (GSC-W) is an early childhood system development initiative funded by the Michigan Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC). Great Start's vision is to assure "A Great Start for every child in Wayne County: safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school and life".

GSC-W's Early Childhood Education Action Team is launching a Demonstration Project for a Wayne County Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The QRIS is research-based and under girded by the premise that children participating in the highest quality of child care demonstrate the lifelong capacity to learn and have more success in later life. Funded by GSC-W and the Skillman Foundation, the project will be centered in the Skillman's Good Neighborhoods.

The GSCW's QRIS will provide three (3) parallel tracks of quality rating to: licensed center-based pre-school care, licensed center-based infant/toddler care, and registered family home providers and licensed group home providers.

Wayne County Great Start seeks an evaluator to assist them in finalizing the database; assessing the progress of the initiative, as well as, the tools and methodology utilized. Using a variety of tools and strategies, proposed outcomes of this project are to:

1. establish and adopt a rating criteria and checklist within the first month of the project
2. ensure that 50% of the child care providers in the defined areas of the project are participating in the project within the first year.
3. ensure that 80% of the child care provider participants will be rated using the criteria identified within the first year
4. development of improvement plans within forty-five (45) days of the initial rating for all rated child care provider participants.
5. assess the impact of professional development, mentoring, incentives and other strategies with the 3 different target populations.

Additional information about the Great Start Collaborative - Wayne can be found at: <http://www.greatstartcollaborativewayne.org>. Information about the Wayne County QRIS Demonstration Project is attached and also available on the Great Start website.

The evaluator must have an understanding of systems-change thinking and a willingness to undertake this initial phase of this system change initiative for the limited resources currently available. Additionally, due to the current limitation of evaluation resources and the desire for easy access to/for the contractor, preference will be given to southeastern Michigan applicants. The evaluator selected will also have the support of the Early Care and Education Action Team and consultants.

The maximum amount available for this initial evaluation work is \$5,000 and is to be completed by December 31, 2009. The evaluator will contract with the Great Start Collaborative Wayne and receive ½ payment initially and the remainder upon completion of the work.

The final products for the QRIS Demonstration Project assessment are:

- rating criteria and checklist. Comparison and analysis of the validity of checklist used with target programs identified and to assess structure process.
- assistance in development and analysis of database
- a brief written interim report due in September, 2009 and a final summary report with benchmarks and recommendations for future improvements in the QRIS in December, 2009;
- 1 presentation discussing the findings of the evaluation with the Early Care and Education Action Team and Data Collection and Evaluation Committee.
- develop (in collaboration with the Committee) a proposed framework and budget for the continuation and/or expansion of this initiative.

Interested persons should provide a short, 2-3-page scope, and budget and how they propose to assess this initiative. Also include examples of previous work that illustrate competence with this type of evaluation and two references. Proposals are due by May 21, 2009. The contract is with Great Start Collaborative Wayne for the period of June 15, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

**Questions should be directed to:** Cheryl Frost, Children's Outreach, P.O. Box 10509, Detroit, MI 48210, 313-896-1642, [clfrost@yahoo.com](mailto:clfrost@yahoo.com).

**Submit proposal to:** Toni Hartke, Director  
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