Request for Proposal

for

Technical Assistance Opportunity
(Healthy Child Care, Healthy Communities Project)

Project Duration:
March 15, 2018 to December 14, 2018

Proposal Submission Deadline

Proposals must be submitted at https://goo.gl/forms/MaS89e5Tm6wvHTpj2 by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, February 28, 2018.
Proposals received after the deadline will be disqualified.

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I. **Background**

Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA) is pleased to offer technical assistance (TA) to states on projects that support the development and/ or maintenance of high quality, health promoting child care settings.

CCAoA has a strong history in advocating for policies that protect the health of children. Background checks for child care providers, health and safety training, and monitoring visits from the State Agency are a few examples of how the organization has supported policies that protect children in child care.

It's been eighteen years since the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) was first authorized. During that period, the landscape of early childhood has changed. Universal Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) programs have been established across the country. Early Childhood Education (ECE) is now recognized as a critical support for the healthy development of young children. A robust research base highlights the importance of quality early childhood experiences and has informed policy for Head Start and Pre-K programs. In 2014, the reauthorization of CCDBG brought new federal requirements around the traditional health and safety areas. Now, states must provide pre-service health and safety training to all providers who receive funding from CCDBG; develop health and safety standards for all child care providers related to things such as first aid & CPR, prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and child abuse prevention; perform at least one annual inspection and at least one pre-licensure inspection of CCDBG providers; and require individuals who provide care for children with the support of CCDBG funding to undergo a comprehensive background check. The law also emphasizes the importance of quality, developmentally appropriate care to children that aligns with Early Learning and Development guidelines. This reflects the growing body of evidence that quality early child care programs promote child health broadly and that child care can benefit from enacting policies that focus on the whole child's health, much as the Head Start system does.

As states concentrate on implementing critical changes to their state systems in support of traditional health and safety topics, there is a growing understanding that child care settings can and should focus on supporting the physical health, social, and emotional health and development of children of varying abilities. Child care settings must include health-supporting policies and practices for whole child health and development in order to truly provide high quality care. We believe that healthy settings are those that address health and safety, nutrition, active play, engagement and inclusion of children with disabilities and special health care needs, as the following graphic illustrates.

Topics for Change

Safety and Environment

Nutrition/ Breastfeeding

Active Play/Screen Time

Inclusion— Disabilities and Special Needs and Behavioral Health

II. Project Goal and Objectives

CCAoA knows that existing initiatives are being implemented in states and localities in these areas. We are interested in supporting statewide, regional, or local organizations in their efforts, with intensive and targeted technical assistance across the following areas:

Tools for Change
Policy Development and Analysis
Advocacy
Research and Community Informed Practices
Family and Community Engagement
Workforce Capacity Building Activities

III. Scope of Work and Deliverables

Up to six state or local organizations will be selected for participation in this project, based on the strength of their applications.

During the *Healthy Child Care, Healthy Communities* project period, participants will prioritize topic areas to address and will develop a TA plan in collaboration with CCAoA.

1) Identify a topic or area for change: Safety and Environment, Nutrition/ Breastfeeding, Active Play/Screen Time, Disabilities and Special Needs, or Behavioral Health.
2) Identify specific activities that they would like CCAoA to take on in support of their identified goal(s). If an organization is selected for participation in the project, CCAoA and the organization will review the proposed TA plan and the identified support activities and adjust as necessary before work begins.
Options for support activities include:
   - Data collection support: surveys, focus groups, listening sessions, quantitative analysis
   - Data analysis and visualization
     o Discussing and planning spatial use of data to support project goals
     o Completion of one story map
     o Development of messaging and a marketing plan for the story map
   - Coalition building: Pulling diverse stakeholders together, providing strategies to create buy-in for the identified goal(s)

- Development of communications tools to support initiatives, as defined by state or local partners
- State scan reports of existing regulations, policies and initiatives on health topic(s) addressed in the child care system
- Maps of existing state supports/systems
- Development of advocacy messaging
- Training module development on practice or advocacy topics

3) Review goals and work towards change. During the project, participants will:
   - Review the articulated goal with CCAoA and make any changes, adjustments or revisions needed (within the first month of the partnership)
   - Identify coalition partners who will assist the organization in meeting the stated goal, extend invitations and engage
   - Identify any additional resources or supports and linkages needed to meet the goal
   - Develop a timeline for the TA project, including deliverables
   - Select one member to participate in Symposium 2018 (funded by CCAoA)
   - Meet monthly with CCAoA and provide an update on progress
   - Meet quarterly with all project participants for opportunities to engage and learn from others

IV. Requirements for Qualification

- State or local early care and education or advocacy agency
- Have and are willing to share child care or program data
- Represent a diverse group of stakeholders as part of the team or a team that is looking to build a coalition of broad stakeholders to address health in child care settings. Examples include child care professionals, community advocates, etc.
- Interest and willingness to use data and data visualization to answer a research question or to solve a problem related to healthy child care settings.

V. Requirements for Proposal

Application questions are below for your review; please submit an application here: https://goo.gl/forms/MaS89e5Tm6wvHTpj2

All questions must be answered in order for the applicant to be considered.

Application Sections (100pts total):

Applicant Profile

1.   Organization name, address, telephone number, fax number, email address.

Needs Assessment Data

2. <u>Goal Statement</u> – Goal identifies the specific element/elements of healthy child care that the applicant will address; goal identifies one to two change levers that will be the focus of the work to reach this goal. The goal is a SMART goal. (20 points)

3. <u>Identification of Requested Technical Assistance Activities</u> – Respondent must identify specific TA activities that CCAoA could provide and detail how those activities will help the organization meet its goal. (20 points)

4. <u>Summary of Existing Partnerships</u> – Respondent must list and describe initiatives or programs within the state that address child health OR share how you might convene a work group to serve as the state coalition for this work. (20 points)

5. <u>Information on Regulations and Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)</u> – Respondent must describe how the state regulatory environment and Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) address health in child care. (15 points)

6. <u>Information on Existing Health Work in the Organization</u> – Respondent must describe how healthy child care is currently addressed in their agency. Please include how health is incorporated into: Consumer education, advocacy, training, technical assistance, family and community engagement, and other activities. (15 points)

7. <u>Staff Information/Qualifications</u> – Respondent must provide staff names, email addresses, organizational affiliation and job titles for individuals who will be primary collaborators on this project with CCAoA.

8. <u>Short Essay</u> – Respondents must share a one-paragraph statement about why their organization is interested in partnering with CCAoA to receive intensive TA around child care health. (10 points)

VI. Selection Criteria

Elements of a successful application include:
- Participation in or building of a broad-based coalition focused on addressing health in child care settings.
- Expressed interest in using data and data visualization to answer a research question or to solve a problem related to healthy child care settings.
- A description of the types of support activities offered by CCAoA (listed above) that it plans to use to support the equity-rooted policy and practice levers mentioned in the background section.
- Preference will be given to applicants who are willing to enter into data partnership agreements with CCAoA.

VII. Type of Agreement
Applicants selected will sign a Memorandum of Understanding which will articulate the terms of partnership between the incumbent and CCAoA.

VIII. Project Timeline

Applications due: February 28, 2018
Notification of award: March 9, 2018
Project begins: March 15, 2018
Project ends: December 14, 2018

Questions and Answers: All questions should be submitted via email to
krista.scott@usa.childcareaware.org . Questions will be answered on a rolling basis and answers will be made available to all applicants.