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Dear Community Members,

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests Letters of Interest (LOI) from Washington State organizations providing group-based parenting and education programs.

**PRIORITY & ELIGIBILITY**

The following community-based organizations are encouraged to submit a Letter of Interest by April 5th, 2019 by 5pm PT:

* 501(c)3 private non-profits
* local governments
* public and private schools, and
* Tribes and Tribal Organizations

Priority will be given to organizations that currently implement group-based parenting education programs focused on strong and resilient families. This funding opportunity is available only to programs that have implemented the proposed group-based parenting education programs for 24 months or more as of May 17th, 2019 and, as such, have trained staff, curricula and referral pathways established. No start-ups (e.g., new programs to the organization that might require staff training or establishing referral pathways in the community) will be funded at this time. Funding is available up to $30,000 for 12 months with a possibility of continued funding to be determined.

*Funded programs must be either primary prevention or secondary prevention.* Primary prevention activities are directed at the general population to prevent abuse prior to it occurring. Secondary prevention activities are offered to families experiencing one or more risk factors for abuse. Tertiary prevention services are for families involved in abuse, or the Child Protective Services system, and are **not eligible** for this prevention funding.

**BACKGROUND**

Strengthening Families Washington (SFWA), a team at DCYF, would like to work with local communities to build access to high quality parent support that strengthens families for prevention of child abuse and neglect utilizing the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework for children and families (<http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/about/protective-factors-framework>).

**\*Please Note:** Home Visiting is funded in Washington State through the Home Visiting Services Account. The funds in this application may not be used to support Home Visiting programs.

**Additional Helpful Resources:**

Here is the link to the Compendium of Parenting Interventions (2015):

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/resource/compendium-of-parenting-interventions>

WA State Home Visiting Needs Assessment:

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/OFCHI_HVNA_report.pdf>

Infants at Risk Study:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/node/30958/>

**PURPOSE OF FUNDING**

DCYF is seeking programs that offer community-based and strengths-based child abuse prevention services in diverse communities in Washington, including geographic diversity.

Funded programs are expected to administer and analyze their own evaluation with the addition of common questions provided by DCYF to all families that engage in programming through a pre/post survey during programming. The data gathered will be sent to DCYF at the end of the program year for analysis. Funded programs will also participate in peer learning opportunities related to the evaluation process throughout the funding year. Funded programs are matched with an evaluation coach to support their evaluation efforts. Programs must have the capacity to work effectively with DCYF staff and evaluation coaches through the coaching and technical assistance relationships. The *goal of this effort is to build capacity to implement and evaluate prevention services across Washington State*. Organizations seeking to *increase their organizational capacity for program implementation and evaluation* are encouraged to apply.

**LETTER OF INTEREST**

Priority will be given to organizations that can clearly demonstrate the following:

* The specific family support or group-based parent education and support program design including the research or evidence to support its implementation with the focus population.
* Experience serving the focus population.
* Plans for the recruitment of participants.
* Need in your community for the proposed program with the selected focus population.

The maximum funding request is $30,000 for State Fiscal Year 2020.

**SELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINES**

DCYF will review the Letters of Interest and invite 8-12 applicants to provide a full application, based on the timeline below. DCYF anticipates funding 3-4 Capacity-Building programs through contracts that provide services directly to these families.

March 11, 2019: Letter of Interest announcement

April 5, 2019: Letter of Interest due to DCYF by 5pm

April 19, 2019: Letter of Interest finalists invited to submit full application

May 17, 2019: Full application due by 5pm

June 7, 2019: Contract awards announced

July 1, 2019: Contract cycle begins

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Please send questions by phone or email to:

[strengtheningfamilies@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:strengtheningfamilies@dcyf.wa.gov)

(360) 725-4410

All questions and answers will be posted in an FAQ on the Strengthening Families WA/DCYF website and updated regularly.

**Department of Children, Youth, and Families Strengthening Families WA**

**Capacity-Building Program**

**2019-2020 Letter of Interest Submission Form**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE – April 5, 2019**

**The Letter of Interest is due electronically to strengtheningfamilies@dcyf.wa.gov by 5:00 pm.**

Late applications will not be considered.

**COVER PAGE**

**Project Name:**

**Organization Name:**

**Primary Contact Name:**

**Name & Title of Head of Organization:**

**Mailing Address:**

**City:**       **State:**       **Zip:**

**Telephone:**       **Fax:**

**Primary Contact E-Mail:**

**Web Site Address:**

**Primary Protective Factor (select one):**

Most funded programs are impacting 1 or more of these Protective Factors; please select one Protective Factor in which you believe this parent education program will have the strongest impact. [**http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/about/protective-factors-framework**](http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/about/protective-factors-framework)

Nurturing and Attachment & Social Emotional Development of Children

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Parental Resilience

Social Connections

Concrete Support to Families

**Focus Populations to be Served (Choose no more than 3):**

Low Income Families  Refugee/Immigrant Families Teen Parents

Special Needs Families  Tribal Communities  Single Parents

Homeless Families  Latino/Hispanic Families  Non-English Speaking

African American Families  Families with Children 0-3  Asian/Pacific Islander Families

Fathers  Mothers  Relative Caregivers

Unaccompanied Homeless Youth  Adult Former Victims of Domestic Violence or Child Abuse or Neglect

Other (Please Specify):       (example: parents receiving substance abuse treatment)

Briefly describe your focus population:

**NARRATIVE**2-page maximum for 1-5 (including references), minimum 10pt font

1. **Project description:** Provide a clear picture of the project:
   1. Key Resources: The population that will be served and why your agency is interested in serving this focus population, curriculum (title and brief overview of content and format) and who will administer the services.
   2. Activities and Outputs: (Please answer all the following questions.) How many classes/meetings per session? How many sessions per year will the organization offer? How long are classes/meetings? How many parents (estimated on average) per class/meeting?

**2. Program Evaluation:** Does your organization have any experience collecting and summarizing outcome data for the proposed program? YES NO

If yes, please very briefly describe that evaluation (e.g., how do you collect data, via a survey, interview or other method?)

**3. Description of your organization and experience serving the focus population:**

1. Include examples of how you have previously engaged and retained the focus population, including how you involve parent voice and decision-making in your process Please note: Applicants who are asked to submit a full application will be required to include a letter from a parent supporting the application. :
2. Number of parents from the focus population who participated in the last offered session **OR** number of parents who participated in the last offered session (from a different community than the focus population)

**4. Capacity to deliver program:** Include the following in this section:

1. Describe how your program is well-position to deliver the proposed program.
2. Include plans for personnel and volunteers and plans for recruitment of program participants.
3. Please include a timeline that explains the process for beginning class session within the first 3 months of funding.
4. Briefly identify any other key resources that you will need for your proposed program (e.g., collaboration with other organizations; training or materials, classroom space, etc.).

**5. Previous Council for Children and Families/WCPCAN/DEL/DCYF Funding for this program:**

**No**  **Yes (Year(s):****)**

**SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED REQUEST**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Dollar Amount |
| **A. Personnel** | $ |
| **B. Supplies** | $ |
| **C. Other services & charges** | $ |
| **D. Travel** | $ |
| **E. Contracted services** | $ |
| 1. **Indirect**   **(max. 10% of DCYF request or federally approved agency indirect)** | $ |
| **TOTAL DCYF REQUEST (may not exceed $30,000)** | $ |

*Please note: If invited to apply for a full application, your total budget will need to include a 25% Match. Example: If you are requesting the maximum of $30,000 for your first year, your total budget would have to be at least $37,500 ($30,000 DCYF dollars and a minimum match requirement is $7,500.)*

*Please email* [*strengtheningfamilies@dcyf.wa.gov*](mailto:strengtheningfamilies@dcyf.wa.gov) *or call (360) 725-4410 if you have any budget questions.*

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE – April 5, 2019, 5:00pm**

1 copy of The Letter of Interest is due to the Department of Children, Youth and Families by April 5, 2019 at 5:00 pm. Please submit one (1) copy by email (Word or PDF format) to [strengtheningfamilies@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:strengtheningfamilies@dcyf.wa.gov)

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Note: You will receive a confirmation email following your submission. If you do not receive a confirmation email within 2 business days, please call 360-725-4410.

**SELECTION PROCESS AND TIMELINE:**

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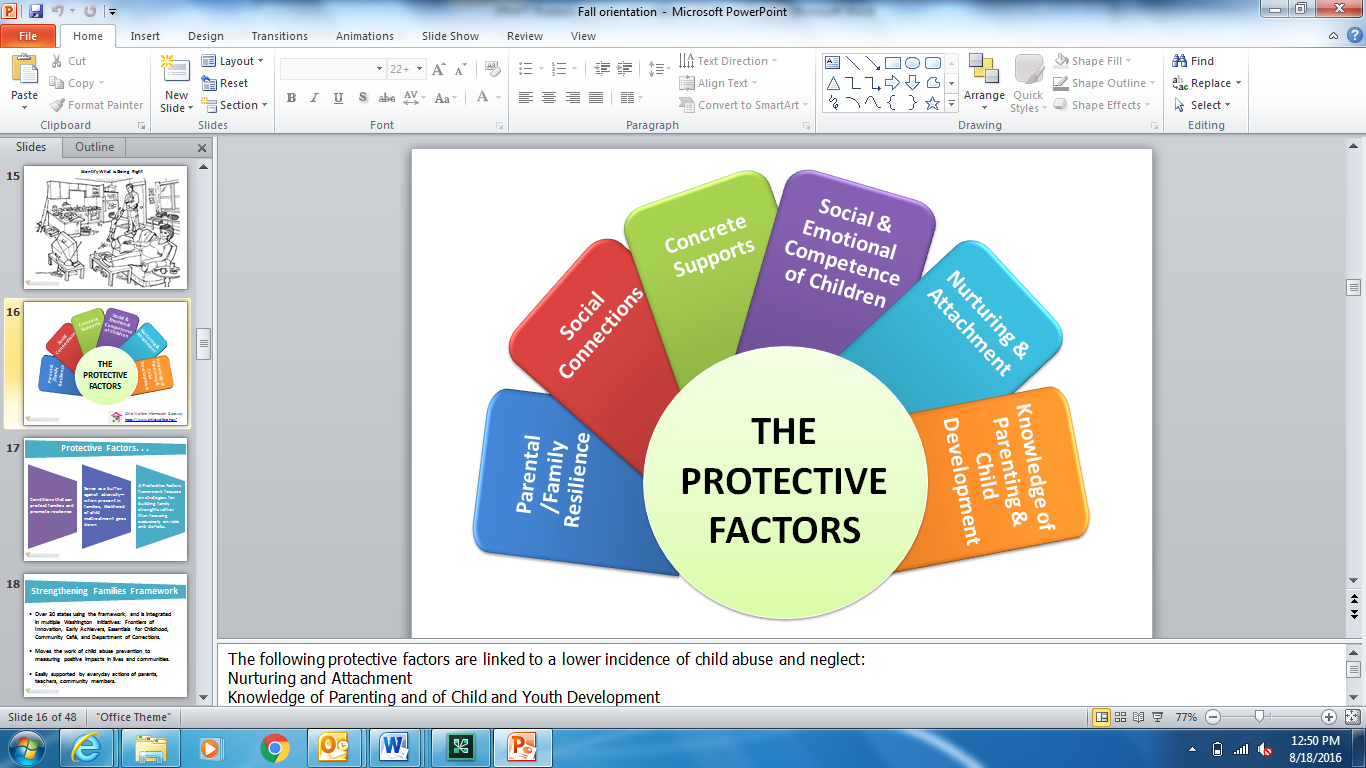
July 1, 2019: Contract cycle begins

Thank you – we look forward to reading your Letter of Interest!

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**Protective Factor Attachment #1**

Strengthening Families Washington at the Department of Early Learning (DEL) supports optimal child and family development efforts by utilizing the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy. Protective factors include:



\*The diagram shows 6 protective factors. Social and Emotional Competence of Children and Nurturing and Attachment are often listed together as one protective factor. At DEL we often like to list and discuss them separately.

These five protective factors contribute to the health and well-being of families and children and are By providing parents, child care professionals and others who work with children more information about these protective factors, we can help build these protective factors in families with young children. Research shows that these protective factors are also “promotive” factors that build family strength and a family environment that promotes optimal child and youth development.

Enhancing one or more of these protective factors for families is a required outcome for Group-Based Parenting and Family Support programs. Please review relevant protective factors information at [the Center for the Study of Social Policy](http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengtheningfamilies/about)**.**

Programs will work toward at least one of the following protective factors/outcome areas:

* Increase parents’/caregivers’ **knowledge of parenting and child development.**
  + Core Meaning: Understanding child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, social and emotional development.
  + Example Indicators: Having appropriate developmental expectations. Understanding the importance of being attuned and emotionally available to one’s child.
* Parents/caregivers development of **parental resilience**.
  + Core Meaning: Ability to manage stress and function well when faced with challenges, adversity and trauma.
  + Example Indicators: Proactively meeting personal challenged and those in relation to their child. Effectively managing adversity and stressful situations.
* Increase parents’/caregivers’ use of effective **social connections**.
  + Core Meaning: Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, instrumental and spiritual support
  + Example Indicators: Having a sense of connectedness with family, friends and peers helping parents/caregivers to feel confident, secure and respected. Having friends and family members who provide emotional support, help solve problems and reduce feelings of isolation.
* Increase parents’/caregivers’ **concrete supports.**
  + Core Meaning: Access to concrete support and services that address a family’s needs and help minimize stressed caused by challenges.
  + Example Indicators: Being resourceful. Understanding how to navigate through service systems and gaining knowledge of relevant services.
* Increase parents’/caregivers’ positive **social and emotional competence of children** (also known as **nurturing and attachment**) with their children.
  + Core Meaning: Family and child interactions that help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize and regulate their emotions and establish and maintain relationships
  + Example Indicators: Responding warmly and consistently to a child’s needs. Fostering a secure and strong parent-child relationship.

The protective factors are universal to all families. They reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect and increase healthy child and family development; therefore, having it present in parenting education and family support programs is important.