****

Sample Activity Descriptions

Columbus County Partnership for Children, Incorporated

Early Learning & Family Resource Center (Lending Library)

The Smart Start Early Learning Facility (ELF) will offer a variety of materials to support child care providers and families with young children's learning and development. The ELF will provide access to child development resources and materials such as, but not limited to, books, manipulatives, reference materials, curriculum kits, etc. Items for check out will be available to educators, families with children ages birth to five years, college students, early interventionists, etc. The ELF will also serve as a resource room with access to a laminating machine, comb binder, Ellison Die-Cut machine, Cricut machine, a projector, art and bulletin board supplies. Smart Start funds may be used to translate materials and resources into Spanish. The ELF staff may participate in trainings, workshops, community outreach events and may deliver resources to child care facilities.

Quality Enhancement Project

Quality Enhancement Project is designed to promote continuous quality improvement of child care centers and/or homes. Services that are provided using Smart Start dollars in this activity include: (1) Technical assistance in the form of coaching and modeling provided to early childhood educators working in any Columbus County start-up, temporary, licensed and/or G.S. 110 child care facilities serving children birth to five years old. The Technical Assistance activity will be focused on improving ITERS/ECERS/FCCERS scores; POEMS scores. (2) Training for child care providers: Training for DCDEE credit hours provided on child care related topics and coordination of CEU opportunities. Smart Start funds may be used to cover expenses for collaborative community meetings related to child care, and provider appreciation activities which could include purchase of materials, space rental, incentives, and food. An educational award may be available for qualified child care staff according to program guidelines. Non- cash grants may be available for those sites or staff participating in technical assistance and will be offered in compliance with locally approved policies & procedures and the Smart Start Cost Principles.

Raising A Reader

A Raising A Reader (RAR) Community Coordinator will implement Raising A Reader, a program that promotes improved literacy development through daily book sharing between caregivers and young children. The RAR Coordinator will hold a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education or related human service field and is required to attend the RAR National Coordinator Training prior to initial implementation. Coordinators will host two trainings for the site implementers that have been identified to participate in this project. Identified families will be loaned a book bag containing high quality developmentally appropriate children's books. The books will be exchanged each week. Parents of the children in the project will be invited to participate in at least two parent workshops where they will learn book sharing strategies. At least one library event will be provided for RAR participants and their families. Participants and their families will be provided with library information, library card application, and other community literacy resources. The program will be implemented with model fidelity as described above. Child care centers, child care homes, or other community sites with a high percentage of low-income children will be targeted. Smart Start funds may also be used for books for children, child care for participants, and/or incentives for eligible participants.

Transportation

The Columbus County Partnership for Children will purchase transportation services from Columbus County Transportation for Columbus County pregnant women and children ages birth to 5 and their families for health care appointments. Services will only be provided for clients not eligible for Medicaid transportation services. Transportation may be provided to the local Health Department, local WIC sites, the Child Development Services Agency in Wilmington, appointments at Duke, UNC, New Hanover Regional Medical Center and other locations as determined by authorized staff of Columbus County Transportation. A referral system will be established between the transportation director and county health care representatives to ensure transportation needs are being met for those who qualify for the services. Service will be provided Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., throughout Columbus County and North Carolina.

Parents As Teachers

The Parents as Teachers (PAT) program will provide the following services in adherence to the Parents as Teachers National Center (PATNC) essential requirements: (1) personal visits; (2) group connections (3) developmental screenings and a health review that includes a record of hearing, vision and general health status; and (4) referrals to community resources. The PAT program will serve families with children ages birth to five years. Eighty percent (80%) of the target population will have at least one risk factor and identified as most appropriate for PAT services in the community. The program will address each of the essential requirements as documented on the program’s affiliate plan, which is updated every five years and be implemented to model fidelity as demonstrated by the program data reported on the annual Affiliate Performance Report (APR). Smart Start funds may also be used to support incentives for eligible participants.

**Potential New Solutions with Descriptions**

**Supporting Father Involvement**

Supporting Father Involvement is designed to serve both fathers and co-parents/parenting figures to ensure continuity and whole family involvement. The goals include strengthening the father’s involvement in the family, promoting healthy child development, and preventing key factors implicated in child abuse by strengthening the relationship between the parents.

**Motheread/Fatheread**

Motheread/Fatheread (MR/FR) is a family literacy program that emphasizes the importance of reading to children and strategies to support early literacy. Participants learn ways to share stories and themes with children while enhancing their own literacy.

**Kindergarten Transitions**

Kindergarten Transition support is focused on building communication and relationships between educators and families and between preschool and kindergarten teachers to ensure a successful transition to kindergarten. Transition Goal in NC: All young children birth through age 8 and their families are engaged and supported as they transition between home, early care and education programs, and schools. Early care and education programs and schools collaborate so that they are ready to support all children effectively and engage with families and each other within the context of the community to plan transitions that meet the diverse needs of all children and families. Aligned with NC Transition - Guiding Principles & Practices.