

Outline Brief

Pre-K Priority Proposal: \$350,000 of City of Winston-Salem for Pre-K Initiatives

- In September 2021, the Mayor and City Council appropriated ARPA funding for their \$1.35 million crime prevention plan, which includes the \$350,000 for Pre-K initiatives. It is considered one-time funding.
 - The funds will continue to roll over until the City disburses them.
 - It is recommended that the funds be directed to centers and programs located inside the W-S city limits.
-

Background/Context for Proposal:

The Pre-K Priority coalition includes a group of six organizations that are collaborating to deliver a 2-year cohort project with specific high-quality resources and supports that are currently limited or nonexistent. The model is funded with Forsyth County ARPA dollars and will include 30 Pre-K classrooms across the following sites: 4 WS/FCS classrooms; 4 Head Start classrooms; 8 NC Pre-K classrooms in community sites; and 14 private/independent classrooms. The project will impact 540 Pre-K students and their families in addition to 60 Pre-K educators. Smart Start of Forsyth County is the fiduciary and administrative entity for the grant and is operating on behalf of the Pre-K Priority.

Proposal:

The City of Winston-Salem funds (\$350,000) will be applied to the 2-year model cohort of classrooms to complement the program in the following ways:

1. Support the 2-year model cohort budget shortfall

Forsyth County awarded the SSFC/PAK \$3.7 million in ARPA funding. However, the original ARPA budget/request was \$3,826,406. Offsetting this shortfall of the planned budget will help ensure the full programmatic resources will be delivered.

Approximate cost = \$126,406

2. Data Collection

The centralization and privacy of children's data is important to analyze reports and make data-driven decisions, track trends, and help to improve overall impact of program delivery. The cohort will use the Child Plus data management system (currently used in Head Start) in the classrooms that are located in sites that lack access to this system.

Approximate cost for 26 classrooms (468 children) = \$11,700

3. ECE Curriculum and Formative Assessment Tools

Publicly-funded Pre-K programs (in WS/FCS, Head Start, and NC Pre-K classrooms) are required to use a state-approved curriculum; all Forsyth County's publicly-funded programs currently use Creative Curriculum. An assessment tool aligned with the curriculum is critical to monitoring and understanding how children and teachers are progressing through the year. To create equity in the curriculum and assessment tools, the 14 private/independent classrooms will receive these resources.

- a) Creative Curriculum for Preschool: evidence-based and designed to foster social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development and to enhance learning in literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology
- b) Teaching Strategies GOLD: a formative assessment tool that follows widely held expectations for children from birth through third grade and enables a whole-child approach to assessment; aligned and complementary with Creative Curriculum

Approximate cost of package (two tools above) for 14 private/independent classrooms = \$63,000

4. Health and Safety Screenings

Fourteen classrooms in private/independent sites will be supported with health screenings and also an environmental classroom assessment by a Child Care Health Consultant (CCHC) in coordination with the local Health Department. The child health screenings will include physical health, dental, and vision.

Approximate cost = \$110,000

5. Implementation Support

The cost for high-quality programmatic components in private/independent classrooms exceeds what providers actually charge for tuition. Most private/independent or franchise providers charge a market-based rate to stay within the range that families can afford, however in doing so, they are unable to implement the scope of high-quality aspects for a classroom. Implementation assistance includes a number of resources ranging from teacher supports to actual classroom materials and resources.

Approximate cost = \$39,200 total (\$2,800 one-time stipend to 14 classrooms)