Request for Proposals

Recruiting Third Cohort to Join NASBE’s Early Childhood Education (ECE) Network

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) seeks state applicants to join the NASBE ECE State Network as part of its project to support a well-qualified, equitable, well-compensated early care and education workforce through effective state policies. Given the current pandemic, NASBE welcomes state proposals that seek to develop innovative strategies to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the ECE workforce.

Background

NASBE established an early learning network in 2017 led by members of state boards of education from New York, Iowa, Nebraska, Michigan, Mississippi, Washington, and Delaware. They were tasked with developing, revising, and adopting policies to support the ECE workforce. They made tremendous progress and showcased state boards’ key role in leading initiatives to advance ECE.

NASBE seeks to build the capacity of state boards to support the early care and education workforce by recruiting two state boards to develop, revise, or adopt policies and share practices with other states. It has these desired outcomes in view:

1. a well-qualified, equitable, well-compensated workforce for children from birth to age 8;
2. an improved, better aligned system to support education from birth to age 8;
3. collaborative stakeholder engagement across agencies; and
4. supportive state policy and leadership.

Upon approval of their applications to join the network, the two selected states will each receive a stipend of $4,000 for the remainder of 2020, with the possibility of another round of stipends in 2021. The project will end December 2021.

Selection Criteria

Focus Areas. Applicant state boards must have a strong interest in work on ECE workforce issues to support educators and leaders serving children birth through age 8, focusing on at least two of the areas identified in the National Academies’ report Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation:

1. educator competencies and certification
2. educator preparation programs
3. educator professional development
4. compensation

Proposed areas for policy work could address the health and safety of young children and teachers, distance learning models for preK to age 8, professional development to enable teachers to conduct distance learning effectively, or mitigation of learning loss for young children, for example. States should ensure that proposed projects have at least one policy component to support ECE educators. States can also reference the policy recommendations described in these recent NASBE Policy Updates: Remote Learning in ECE and Supporting Child Care Providers amid COVID-19.
**Stakeholders.** State boards should include state and local stakeholders as team members or partners in their applications. State boards may also consider participants from other state entities: departments of education, health, and family and child care; Head Start; ECE advisory councils; state educator leadership, licensure, and accreditation agencies; leaders and faculty from higher education; and other early care and education stakeholders.

**Proposals are due to NASBE no later than COB on Friday, August 28, 2020.** Please fill out the stipend application below and email to Winona Hao, director of early learning, at winona.hao@nasbe.org.
STATE STIPEND APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

State

Signature of board chair or vice chair

Name, title, phone, and email of state liaison

Name, phone, and email of the lead State Board of Education member (if different from above)

Is your state board a member of NASBE?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Has your state board agreed to join the Network and accept the stipend?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Areas of Focus. States must tackle at least two of the following areas identified in the National Academies’ report *Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation* through this stipend. Which areas is your state planning to tackle? States should consider both teachers and leaders in the following categories.

☐ Educator competencies and certification
☐ Educator preparation programs
☐ Educator career pathways and professional development
☐ Compensation Issue
Does your proposed project connect to COVID-19? If so, please explain the connection.

Application Narrative (please extend the space as needed to describe your project)

1. **Statement of Interest and Commitment.** Describe your state board’s interest in this project and member commitment to ECE. What do you hope to achieve by joining the Network?

2. **Capacity and State Landscape.** Describe the state board’s capacity to accomplish the activities in this proposal. What is the current landscape of your state in terms of readiness for policy change?

3. **Strategic Partnerships.** Describe current and potential state board relationships with key stakeholders related to this initiative. What critical partnerships will assist with this work? What entities will you include in the planning and execution of the work plan? What relationships exist with other political entities impacted by this work (legislature, governor’s office, local districts, etc.)? How will you communicate regularly with stakeholders throughout the project?

4. **Goals and Objectives.** Please share the general goals you wish to accomplish by joining the Network and list specific objectives that you will include in your work plan.

5. **Please List Your Project Deliverables** (you will need to submit a work plan once NASBE approves your application; NASBE will provide the work plan template):

6. **Budget Narrative.** Please share your general proposal for how the stipend funds will be spent.
Proposed budget based upon $4,000 stipend award (as outlined in the budget narrative)

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