



Smart Start Request for Proposal (RFP) One Place Grant Guidelines

FY 2022-2024
Two Year Bid Requested

Application Deadline:
January 21th, 2022 by 5:00 PM

One Place
900 Dennis Road
Jacksonville, NC 32223
910.938.0336
www.oneplaceonslow.org

One Place Grant Guidelines Package

Two Year Proposal: FY 2022-2024

To ensure every child in Onslow County enters school ready to succeed, One Place leads community strategies for children birth to 5 and their families that promote healthy development and learning and enhances access to high-quality care.

One Place is accepting new and continuing proposals for Smart Start funding for fiscal years 2022-2024 funding cycle. New applicants are invited to apply.

GRANT PURPOSE AND AVAILABILITY:

Smart Start funds may only be used to support services for young children, birth through age 5, and their families who reside in Onslow County. Smart Start funds are available to local, community-based nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies.

All selected projects will be funded for a maximum of two years, from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. One Place and its governing board determine whether to approve grants to partners. One Place executes Smart Start contracts for a two year period. All awards are contingent upon successful monitoring of program activity and Smart Start funding made available by the N.C. General Assembly and contracted through the North Carolina Partnership for Children.

FOCUS AREAS FOR WHICH WE ARE SEEKING PROPOSALS:

- Improve the quality of early care and education
- Increase access to high quality early care and education
- Enhance early intervention services for children at-risk of developmental delays or disabilities
- Enhance physical health and well-being of young children
- Improve school readiness outcomes including transition to kindergarten
- Increase public awareness of the importance of the first 2000 days to include positive nurturing adult and child interactions and brain development
- Provide materials and outreach to families and early educators to increase knowledge of the Five Protective Factors to strengthen families and reduce child abuse and neglect
- Provide materials and outreach to increase knowledge of early literacy and the importance of daily reading and book sharing
- Enhance social and emotional development of young children
- Provide the core services of a local Child Advocacy Center. Services provided must adhere to the accreditation standards of the National Children's Alliance
- Provide the core services of a local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) program through child care referrals for parents and caregivers, and consumer education to increase knowledge of high-quality early education centers and family child care homes

FUNDING CRITERIA:

The following criteria are used to determine eligibility for Smart Start funding. All applicants must describe how their activity addresses the following funding criteria. When agencies are being selected, preference will be given to those responding in the most effective ways to the goals and program standards described.

- 1) **Program elements that relate to one or more of the priorities identified by One Place:**
 - (1) Strengthening Children**
 - a. Provide early education programs that support children's healthy development during the first 2,000 days of life when critical brain development occurs.
 - b. Educate parents and caregivers about the importance of social and emotional development and how to support it through loving, responsive, positive interactions.
 - c. Prepare early educators to promote and support healthy social and emotional development through coaching, training, and inclusion services.
 - (2) Connecting Families**
 - a. Educate parents on the importance of the first 2,000 days, why a high-quality preschool or child care programs is crucial, and provide information and support to help families feel confident and empowered.
 - b. Connect local military families to the community and help them build resiliency.
 - c. Support early educators identify resources to support children in their care, navigate complex behavior challenges, and meet other professional in their industry.
 - (3) Ending Child Abuse**
 - a. Programs designed to serve as a preventative approach to child abuse.
 - b. Educate and build community awareness around child abuse and neglect, its impact and the importance of Five Protective Factors and creating resilient communities.
 - c. Provide the core services of a local Child Advocacy Center. Services provided must adhere to the accreditation standards of the National Children's Alliance
- 2) **Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Practice:** One Place will fund activities that have been shown to demonstrate measurable results for young children and families. In 2011, the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation mandating that Smart Start service funding be used only for evidence-based or evidence-informed (EB/EI) activities as defined by the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) Board of Directors. **The following definitions provide flexibility while assuring strong outcomes for young children.**

"Evidence-based programs or practices are those that have repeatedly and consistently demonstrated desirable outcomes through application of scientific research methods (replicated experimental, experimental, or quasi experimental)."

"An evidence-informed practice is one that is guided by child development theory, practitioner wisdom, qualitative studies and findings from basic research with written guidelines, a strong logic model, and a history of demonstrating positive results. They may be rated "promising" or "emerging" by at least one source that rates evidence-based programs."

- 3) The use of EB/EI programs and practices should be reflected in the Logic Model. For a list of EB/EI activities approved by NCPC, refer to the Smart Start Resource Guide of Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Programs and Practices. This document can be found at <https://www.oneplaceonslow.org/about-us/rfps/>

- 4) **The Community Early Childhood Profile (EC Profile):** The Community Early Childhood Profile are measures of child well-being for which local Smart Start Partnerships are held accountable. EC Profile indicators assess progress towards realizing Smart Start's mission of advancing a high-quality, comprehensive, accountable system of care and education for every child. Proposals must address at least 1 EC Profile indicator listed below, and clearly explain how proposed program outcomes will improve Onslow County measures of school readiness. If you have questions about how/if your proposal fits within the following criteria and need areas, you may contact **Autumn Bishop, Program Evaluator** at autumn.bishop@oneplaceonslow.org. *The Early Childhood Profile (EC Profile) for Onslow County can be found at <https://www.oneplaceonslow.org/about-us/rfps/>*

- 5) **Target Population:** Families with children age 0-5. Programs that serve the most at-risk young children and families receive priority for Smart Start funds. Applicants must describe the activity's target population. If services are available to a broader population, methods for ensuring that underserved children receive priority must also be described. All strategies should be responsive to the needs of vulnerable populations such as children with special needs, low- income families, and dual language learners.

Early Childhood Profile Indicators

Early Care and Education-- Quality	
PLA40	a) Quality of early care and education for children enrolled in regulated early care and education programs – Child Placements – Average star rating for children enrolled in 1-5 star care. b) Quality of early care and education for children enrolled in regulated early care and education programs – Child Placements – Percent of children in 4 & 5 star care.
PLA50	a) Quality of early care and education for children receiving subsidy or other assistance enrolled in regulated early care and education programs – Subsidized Placements - Average star rating for children enrolled in 1-5 star care. b) Quality of early care and education for children receiving subsidy or other assistance enrolled in regulated early care and education programs – Subsidized Placements - Percent of children in 4 & 5 star care.

Early Care and Education- Workforce

EDU10 Lead Teacher Education - Percent of children enrolled in 1-5 star rated child care centers that have 7 lead teacher education points.

EDU20 Administrator Education - Percent of children enrolled in 1-5 star rated child care centers that have at least 7 administrator education points.

Family Support

FS20 Family Literacy/Language Development - Percent of parents who report reading to their children daily.

FS30 Percent of children age 0-5 with an investigated report of child abuse/neglect.

Health

H01

- a) Early intervention/special education services- Percent of children 0-2 years who receive early intervention or special education services.
- b) Early intervention/special education services - Percent of children 3-5 years who receive early intervention or special education services.

H20 Use of primary health care - Percent of children enrolled in Medicaid who receive a well-child exam.

H60 Percent of children who are at a healthy weight.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Applicants must complete the Budget Worksheets for both years that describe the total Smart Start funds requested.

The Budget section, which is found in a separate Excel workbook:

1. 2022-2024 Budget Narrative Worksheet

The total cost of an activity may consist of both direct costs and indirect overhead costs. Direct costs are those expenses that can be identified with a particular program or specific activity of an organization where 100% or a specifically documented portion of the cost directly benefits the program. Indirect overhead costs generally represent those expenses that are for the benefit of common or joint objectives and cannot be readily identified with a particular program.

A line-item explanation and justification that details the items and amounts that are included in the individual budget lines must be included. The budget must adhere to the Smart Start Cost Principles. (You may obtain a copy of the Cost Principles from One Place's website: <https://www.oneplaceonslow.org/about-us/rfps/>)

GRANT REQUIREMENTS:

Program Monitoring: The N.C. General Assembly, through NCPC, Inc., holds One Place accountable for the effective use of all NCPC-contracted funds in Onslow County. All funded programs must comply with:

1. Provisions established by the NC General Assembly and the One Place Board of Directors and set forth in the One Place financial assistance contract. In addition, funded programs will be required to:
 - a. Participate in evaluation planning and reporting;
 - b. Respond to requests for program documentation in support of program management and monitoring provisions;
 - c. Adhere to NCPC and One Place cost principles to help ensure the efficient and effective use of Smart Start funding and;
 - d. Promote and identify the activity as being funded by One Place in messaging and print-format.

Evaluation: The Activity Application includes a logic model for FY 2022-2024. Each agency selected for funding must finalize its Logic Model with One Place staff during the 1st quarter of the fiscal year. Funding is contingent upon successful monitoring of program activity and Smart Start funding made available by the N.C. General Assembly and contracted through the North Carolina Partnership for Children.

Reporting: All agencies selected for funding will be required to submit to One Place: monthly financial status reports with supporting documentation, monthly outputs, and quarterly program reports. Supporting documentation must be submitted with monthly and quarterly program reports to verify outputs and outcomes.

Audit and Legislative Requests: Applicants must agree to provide in a timely fashion any information requested. Applicants must also agree to participate in any Smart Start audit or evaluation required by the N.C. General Assembly or other state officials or agencies.

GRANT REVIEW PROCESS:

Locally, One Place's Program Evaluation Team reviews applications and presents recommendations for approval. A representative from the applicant agency may be asked to give a brief presentation for the Program Evaluation Team in February 2022. The Program Evaluation Team's funding recommendations are presented to the Annual Planning Committee and then the Annual Planning Committee's recommendations are presented to One Place's Executive Committee and full Board of Directors, which has final voting authority on Smart Start funding. This funding package is then forwarded to the North Carolina Partnership for Children where it is reviewed for compliance with Smart Start guidelines. Once the plan is approved, local contracts may be awarded by One Place to begin July 1, 2022. Final funding is contingent upon approval of the state budget for Smart Start by the N.C. General Assembly and the Smart Start allocation for Onslow County made by the North Carolina Partnership for Children

APPLICATION CONTENTS:

All requests for funds must contain the following sections:

Must include ALL of the following:

- **Cover Sheet**
- **Activity Application** – Includes FY 2022-2024 Contract Activity Description, Logic Model, Staffing Plan, and additional questions.
- **Budget Narrative**
- **Agency Information & Signature Sheet(For EXTERNAL APPLICANTS)**
- **IRS Tax Status Letter** if applicant is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization **(For EXTERNAL APPLICANTS)**
- **Pages 1-11 of the most current Form 990 for the organization (For EXTERNAL APPLICANTS)**
- **Board of Directors List** if applicant is a non-profit organization **(For EXTERNAL APPLICANTS)**
- **Agency's most recent financial statement or audit report (For EXTERNAL APPLICANTS)**

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications must be emailed to autumn.bishop@oneplaceonslow.org by 5:00pm on Friday January 21th, 2022

No fax copies will be accepted.

QUESTIONS or TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

You may contact our Program Evaluator, **Autumn Bishop** at **910-938-4683**, (autumn.bishop@oneplaceonslow.org) with programmatic questions.

For questions related to the budget, please contact **Paula Taylor, Director of Finance**, at **910.938.0336**. Technical assistance or questions may only be requested prior to grant submission