

**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
2009-2010 Child Care Resource and Referral
Request for Proposals**

RFP Questions & Answers #3
March 20, 2009

- 1. Is there a “scrubbed” copy of last year’s awarded grants available for Applicant’s viewing?**

Answer: Bright from the Start has significantly changed the way in which it will require CCR&Rs to operate and provide services effective July 1, 2009. There will be a strong focus on measurable outcomes as a result of high-quality technical assistance and training provided by highly qualified staff. These changes are described in the “Introduction” (pp. 1-3) of the RFP. Bright from the Start is seeking proposals from Applicants that demonstrate an innovative approach to delivering these services. Potential Applicants may receive copies of last year's proposals for CCR&R services by submitting an open records request. However, please keep in mind that last year’s proposers were responding to a very different RFP.

- 2. Do Inclusion Coordinators have to be in home offices or can they be in a physical location?** *(RFP Reference - Description of Community-Based Child Care Resource and Referral Services, #1, Inclusion, pg. 11)*

Answer: While it is not required that Inclusion Coordinators be in home offices, all staff should be positioned throughout the region to ensure access to all providers within that region. Bright from the Start is seeking proposals that provide effective and innovative approaches while maximizing resources.

- 3. What age range of children with disabilities do we need to include in the proposal?** *(RFP Reference - Measurable Goals, Technical Assistance, Activity #3 (c), pg. 15)*

Answer: Services should be provided to centers, homes, and programs that are licensed or registered by Bright from the Start and providing services to youth with disabilities up to age 19.

- 4. Does Bright from the Start have any current inclusion data on record?** *(RFP Reference - Description of Community-Based Child Care Resource and Referral Services, #1, Inclusion (a), pg. 11)*

Answer: The current CCR&Rs are gathering this data. When the process is completed, Bright from the Start will share this information with the CCR&R Inclusion Coordinators as part of the collaborative “Start-up Planning” process

Note: Applicants are not required to submit the information outlined in the “*Inclusion*” section of the RFP, pg. 11 (a-d). The CCR&R Inclusion Coordinator in partnership with Bright from the Start will develop and implement an inclusion “Start-up Plan” that will address these deliverables. Refer to “*Description of Community-Based Child Care Resource and Referral Services, #1, Inclusion, pg. 11*” for additional information.

- 5. In order to promote consistency, can Bright from the Start provide Applicants with a specific source to use for researching and identifying the number of children with disabilities within a region? (RFP Reference - *Description of Community-Based Child Care Resource and Referral Services, #1, Inclusion (c), pg. 11*)**

Note: Applicants are not required to submit the information outlined in the “*Inclusion*” section of the RFP, pg. 11 (a-d). The CCR&R Inclusion Coordinator in partnership with Bright from the Start will develop and implement an inclusion “Start-up Plan” that will address these deliverables. Refer to “*Description of Community-Based Child Care Resource and Referral Services, #1, Inclusion, pg. 11*” for additional information.

- 6. When scoring proposals, how much will past performance count? (RFP Reference - *Proposal Selections Committee Process, pg. 25*)**

Answer: Each proposal will be evaluated and scored based on its own merit. Past performance will be reviewed after proposals are scored and will be considered before final recommendation in order to determine the ability of the Applicant to deliver proposed services.

- 7. Is out-of-state travel allowed for attending conferences and meetings that pertain to CCR&R and early childhood care?**

Answer: All costs included in the proposal should be necessary, reasonable, and required to carry out program functions.

- 8. Will there be other stipulations for other staff to work out of home offices?**

Answer: Bright from the Start is primarily concerned with ensuring that CCR&R services are accessible for all providers within the region. Home offices strategically located throughout the region is one approach to maximizing service delivery access points.

- 9. Will satellite offices be allowed for large geographic areas?**

Answer: Bright from the Start is interested in proposals that demonstrate an innovative approach to meeting all measurable outcomes and effectively providing direct services throughout the region. Applicants should carefully assess how the use of satellite offices, as compared to home offices, will provide greater access to providers throughout the region. Refer to “*Introduction,*” pg. 2 of the RFP for additional information.

10. Will each region be responsible for maintaining data for the statewide parent referral system? (RFP Reference - Introduction, pg. 1)

Answer: Maintenance of the data for the statewide parent referral system is the responsibility of the statewide call center Contractor. However, CCR&Rs are expected to share region-specific information with the statewide call center Contractor as well as ensure that the information and data in the system is accurate and up-to-date.

11. Will the clock hours that staff have obtained through various workshops and conferences count toward the Professional Development Registry Technical Assistance 15 semester hour requirement? For example, if a person has one or more years experience, has taken and passed the Art of Technical Assistance and holds a degree in an unrelated field but has 250 or more Early Childhood Education (ECE) clock hours accumulated over the past few years (in various ECE classes but not a CDA or extended curriculum training), will they be considered as meeting the educational requirement? (RFP Reference - Contract Requirements, Personnel #1, pg. 20)

Answer: Specific guidance on evaluating ECE credits can be found on the Professional Development Registry website at: <https://www.training.decal.state.ga.us/bfts/includes/files/CareerLevels.pdf>. (RFP Reference - Contract Requirements, Personnel, #1, pg. 20)

12. Is any part of this initiative for child care providers who do not meet or exceed minimum licensing requirements? Is there any provision for providing them with technical assistance? (RFP Reference - Measurable Goals, A, Technical Assistance, Activity #1, pg. 14)

Answer: Bright from the Start will provide technical assistance to child care providers who are not meeting standards. CCR&Rs are to focus solely on those providers who are meeting or exceeding minimum licensing requirements.

13. Are we allowed to include association membership (NACCRRA, NAEYC, NAFCC, GAYC, etc.) costs for staff members to the proposal budget? (RFP Reference - Budget Categories and Definitions, pg. 26)

Answer: Bright from the Start does not pay association membership fees. All costs included in the proposal should be necessary, reasonable, and required to carry out program functions.

14. Are we allowed to include the cost of subscriptions to early childhood magazines to place in our resource room and teacher curriculum idea magazines for the office? (RFP Reference - Budget Categories and Definitions, pg. 26)

Answer: Bright from the Start recognizes that professional publications are considered “allowed costs,” however all costs included in the proposal should be necessary, reasonable, and required to carry out program functions. **Note:** Effective July 1, 2009, CCR&Rs will no longer be required to have lending libraries or resource rooms.