2027 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROVEN PD + INNOVATION CYCLE QUESTIONS

STAGE1: PRELIMINARY SCREENING

ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

Must be able to answer "yes" to all of the following:

- Our organization is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization, fiscally sponsored organization, governmental entity, or higher education institution.
- Our organization has a strong track record of working with educators, communities, and families to design and improve programs.
- Our organization prioritizes serving providers whose student populations have significant economic need.
  At least 60% of the children impacted by the project must come from families that fall at or below 200% of the federal poverty level or 50% of the area median household income. This is not a requirement for our state-based priority.
- Our organization will not have an active Stranahan Foundation grant as of January 1, 2027.
- Our model or approach is designed to impact classroom educators and leaders in birth-to-5 early education settings.
  This includes early childhood professionals such as educators, coaches, program leaders, and administrators.
- Our model or approach has a clear logic model or theory of change that fits one of the RFP's four priorities.
- Our project is intended to benefit early childhood leaders, teachers, and staff outside our organization.

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

We use the information below to create your organization's profile in our grant system. Once your profile is created, much of this information will automatically carry over if you apply for future funding opportunities.

1. Organization Name
2. Address
3. Tax ID
4. Organization Website
5. Annual operating expenses
6. Staff information:
   a. Number of full-time staff
   b. Number of part-time staff
   c. Number of contractors or consultants
7. Approximately how many early childhood educators does your organization currently serve each year, not including your organization's direct employees? (multiple choice)
   ⊕ Fewer than 50
   ⊕ 50-249
   ⊕ 250-999
   ⊕ 1,000 to 4,999
   ⊕ 5,000 +

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please identify the primary contacts for this application.

8. Request Primary Contact

MODEL OR APPROACH OVERVIEW

The Foundation is interested in funding the development, testing, evaluation, and expansion of clearly defined models or approaches that improve outcomes for early childhood professionals and the children they serve.

YOUR RESPONSES TO QUESTION #2 DETERMINE YOUR REQUIRED QUESTIONS.

OVERVIEW

1. Which RFP priority does your model or approach address? (multiple choice)
   ⊕ Affordable and scalable instructional coaching

- ⊕ Innovative pathways to degree attainment
- ⊕ Reinvestment for recent grantees
- ⊕ State-based strategies to strengthen ECE quality and workforce systems

2. Which statement best describes your model or approach? (multiple choice)
   - ⊕ *My model or approach has been previously funded by the Stranahan Foundation (2020 or later).*
   - ⊕ *New model or approach (concept stage or less than one year old).*
   - ⊕ *Early-stage pilot (two to three years old) seeking to refine implementation and build its evidence base.*
   - ⊕ *Established model (four plus years old) seeking more rigorous evaluation of impact.*
   - ⊕ *Proven model testing refinements or modifications.*
   - ⊕ *Proven model expanding to new geographies or settings.*
3. Approximately how many early childhood educators does the model your organization is about to describe reach annually? (multiple choice)
   - ⊕ *Not yet implemented*
   - ⊕ *1-49*
   - ⊕ *50-249*
   - ⊕ *250-999*
   - ⊕ *1,000+*
4. Approximately what percentage of these participants work in programs where at least 60% of enrolled children meet the Foundation's definition of low-income? (multiple choice)
   - ⊕ *Less than 60%*
   - ⊕ *60-74%*
   - ⊕ *75-84%*
   - ⊕ *85%+*
   - ⊕ *Program not yet piloted, but the pilot will exclusively serve this population*
   - ⊕ *We currently serve fewer than 60%, but the proposed project is specifically designed to increase our reach to these providers, or have a statewide or multistate impact.*
   - ⊕ *Other (please explain)*
5. How did your team calculate this figure?
   Recommended length: 25 words or fewer.
6. What best describes your current evidence base? (select all that apply)
   - ⊕ *Draws upon evidence-based models, but has not yet been formally evaluated by our organization.*
   - ⊕ *Participant satisfaction and feedback data.*
   - ⊕ *Child or classroom outcome data and pre/post measures.*
   - ⊕ *Formal third-part evaluation.*
   - ⊕ *Quasi-experimental study.*
   - ⊕ *Randomized controlled trial.*
   - ⊕ *Multiple rigorous studies.*

DETAILS

This section is about the model itself, not specific to proposed grant activities.

7. In the simplest terms possible, describe the overall model or approach, its target audience, and its goals.
   Recommended length: 75 words or fewer.
8. Provide a brief overview of the primary components or activities of the model or approach.
   Examples may include training or workshops, coaching, professional learning communities, mentoring, etc.

   *For each **bulleted activity**, please include the following:*
   - *Intended audience*
   - *Duration and frequency*
   - *Typical content covered*
   - *If it is currently being delivered or is planned for future delivery*

   Recommended length: 250 words or fewer; 2-3 sentences per activity – complete sentences not required.
9. What experience, expertise, and partnerships make you uniquely positioned to successfully implement the model? *(not required for previously funded projects)*

Be sure to indicate who else in the community or field may be undertaking similar types of work and how you collaborate with them.
Recommended length: 100 words or fewer.

10. What end-user input, research, data, and learnings have shaped the design of the model or approach? *(not required for previously funded projects)*
    Recommended length: 100 words or fewer.
11. *(Required for early-stage pilots, established, proven, and previously funded models only)* Provide a high-level summary of the model's implementation history.
    This should include:
    - Years implemented
    - Number of sites/programs served
    - The types of providers served
    - Geographic areas delivered

    Recommended length: 50 words or fewer.
12. Evidence and Evaluation (conditional logic based on response to Question #2)
    - *New models or early-stage pilots*: Describe how you will evaluate the model. *Be sure to include key outcomes, measurement tools, and data collection approach. Recommended length: 150 words or fewer*
    - *Established models seeking stronger evaluation or previously funded projects*: Summarize what is currently known about the model's effectiveness and what you hope to learn through the proposed evaluation. *Recommended length: 200 words or fewer*
    - *Proven models*: Summarize the evidence demonstrating the model's impact on educator practice, classroom environments, or child outcomes. *Recommended length: 200 words or fewer*
13. Required Document (conditional logic based on response to Question #2)
    - *New models or early-stage pilots*: Upload a copy of your logic model or theory of action.
    - *Established models seeking stronger evaluation or previously funded projects*: Upload a copy of your most recent program evaluation.
    - *Proven models*: Upload a copy of the third-party program evaluation report that you are using to demonstrate your model is proven.

PROPOSED PROJECT

This section is about the project you hope Foundation funds will be used to support.

14. Provide a high-level summary of your proposed project and goals.
    Recommended length: 100 words or fewer.
15. Describe how the project is a meaningful step forward from previously funded work (*reinvestment priority only).*
16. Type of anticipated activities. *(choose all that apply)*
    - ⊕ *Further model development*
    - ⊕ *Participant recruitment and selection*
    - ⊕ *Piloting or testing the overall approach*
    - ⊕ *Implementation evaluation*
    - ⊕ *Formative evaluation (e.g., satisfaction surveys, pre/post tests, focus groups)*
    - ⊕ *Preliminary impact evaluation (e.g., standardized teacher, classroom, or child evaluation)*
    - ⊕ *Quasi-experimental or randomized control trial evaluation*
    - ⊕ *Building and testing modifications to a proven model*
    - ⊕ *Expanding a proven model to a new geographic area or setting*

OTHER

17. What else should we know about your organization, model, or proposed project?

STAGE 2: ABBREVIATED PROPOSAL

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

We'd like to better understand your organization.

1. Organization Name
2. Address
3. Website
4. Staff information:
   a. Number of full-time staff
   b. Number of part-time staff
   c. Number of contractors or consultants
5. Board information:
   a. # of board members
   b. # of board meetings
6. To what extent do your organization's leaders, board, and staff reflect the communities, families, and educators you hope to impact?

   Please include any information you currently track related to:
   - *Race or ethnicity*
   - *Language or cultural representation*
   - *Community connection or lived experience*

   Specific percentages, numbers, or examples are encouraged where available.

   Recommended length: 100 words or fewer

MODEL OR APPROACH (All narrative questions will be auto-filled from LOI)

This section is to understand your proposed model or approach, not the specifics of your proposed project.

OVERVIEW

1. Priority Area: Which RFP priority does your model address?
   - ⊕ Affordable, scalable coaching models
   - ⊕ Innovative Pathways to degree attainment
   - ⊕ Reinvestment in previously funded projects
   - ⊕ State-based strategies to strengthen ECE quality and workforce systems
2. Stage of development: Which statement best describes your model or approach? (choose one)
   - ⊕ *My model or approach has been previously funded by the Stranahan Foundation (2020 or later).*
   - ⊕ *New model or approach (concept stage or less than one year old).*
   - ⊕ *Early-stage pilot (two to three years old) seeking to refine implementation and build its evidence base.*
   - ⊕ *Established model (four plus years old) seeking more rigorous evaluation of impact.*
   - ⊕ *Proven model testing refinements or modifications.*
   - ⊕ *Proven model expanding to new geographies or settings.*
3. Current Reach & Implementation: Approximately how many early childhood educators does the model your organization is about to describe reach annually? (choose one)
   - ⊕ *Not yet implemented*
   - ⊕ *1-49*
   - ⊕ *50-249*
   - ⊕ *250-999*
   - ⊕ *1,000+*
4. What best describes your current evidence base? (choose one)
   - ⊕ *Includes evidence-based models, but has not yet been formally evaluated by our organization.*
   - ⊕ *Participant satisfaction and feedback data.*
   - ⊕ *Internal outcome data and pre/post measures.*
   - ⊕ *External evaluation.*
   - ⊕ *Quasi-experimental study.*

- ⊕ *Randomized control trial.*
- ⊕ *Multiple rigorous studies.*

DETAILS

This section is about the model itself, not grant activities.

5. In the simplest terms possible, describe the overall model or approach, its target audience, and its goals.
   Recommended length: 75 words or fewer.
6. Provide a brief overview of the primary components or activities of the model or approach.
   Examples may include training or workshops, coaching, professional learning communities, mentoring, and apprenticeships, etc.

   *For each **bulleted activity**, please include the following:*
   - *Intended audience*
   - *Duration and frequency*
   - *Typical content covered*
   - *If it is currently being delivered or is planned for future delivery*

   Recommended length: 250 words or fewer; 2-3 sentences per activity – complete sentences not required.
7. What experience, expertise, and partnerships make you uniquely positioned to successfully implement the model?
   Be sure to indicate who else in the community or field may be undertaking similar types of work and how you collaborate with them.
   Recommended length: 100 words or fewer.

FUNDING REQUEST

We're excited to hear more about the project you're proposing! We'd love to understand what you hope to accomplish over the next one to three years.

1. Project Title
2. Requested Amount
3. Total Project Budget
4. Proposed Grant Start and End Dates

PROJECT DETAILS

5. Upload your Implementation Plan
6. Upload your Project Budget + Narrative

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

7. Numbers impacted:
   a. # of early childhood providers
   b. # of classrooms
   c. # of early childhood professionals
   d. # of children (best guess)
8. Describe the demographics of the early childhood programs and staff you hope to impact through this project.
   Please include information such as:
   - *Early childhood setting (e.g., center, home, Head Start, pre-K, Kindergarten)*
   - *Geographic locations*
   - *Community type (e.g., urban, suburban, rural)*
   - *Position (e.g., leaders, coaches, lead teachers, assistant teachers, paraprofessionals)*
   - *Ethnic or racial demographics*
   - *% of projected participants currently employed by your organization.*

   You may include percentages, ranges, bullet points, or brief narrative responses.

   Recommended length: 100 words or fewer
9. What percentage of children impacted by this project will come from families at or below 200% of the federal poverty level or 50% of the area's median income?
10. How did your team calculate this figure?

Recommended length: 25 words or fewer.

11. Will this project impact educators or families facing barriers to high-quality professional development opportunities or early childhood education?
12. If so, describe the barriers they are facing.
    Please share the most specific organization or community-level research/data used to inform your response.
    Recommended length: 75 words or fewer
13. How have early childhood professionals and parents influenced or contributed to the development of this project?
    Recommended length: 75 words or fewer

EVALUATION & LEARNING

14. How will the success of the project be measured?
    Be sure to include 8-10 metrics, including targets.
15. By the end of the grant, what does your team hope to learn about what works, for whom, and under what conditions?
    Recommended length: 100 words or fewer
16. If successful, what does the organization hope to do next?
    Recommended length: 75 words or fewer
17. How might your organization share effective practices, lessons learned, or tools with the broader field?
    Recommended length: 75 words or fewer

OPTIONAL

18. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your organization, project, or fundraising efforts?
19. Feel free to upload any additional documentation that you think would be helpful.

APPLICATION OR PROCESS FEEDBACK