

Washington State Frontiers of Innovation
First 1,000 Days
Request for Letters of Interest



Dear Community Leaders,

The Washington State Frontiers of Innovation (WA FOI) partners are seeking Letters of Interest (LOI) from communities that have a passion for prevention, innovation and reducing the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) for families with young children. We want to learn with you!

We hear from communities that there is strong interest in building a coordinated community response for families experiencing high stress levels. Brain science research shows us that supporting positive parent-child relationships buffers children from stress and promotes their optimal development in the first 1,000 days. We also hear from you that this work with children and parents can be complicated by the many federal, state, and community initiatives, programs and policies.

The WA FOI team would like to partner with you to explore what works and doesn't work in your community to connect systems to improve child and family well-being. Specifically, we are interested in how we can work together to more effectively (1) find families as early as possible who are experiencing high levels of stress at the birth of a child, and (2) create a triaged response that helps target resources most effectively based on a family's interests and needs.

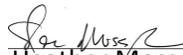
This is **not a new initiative** but rather an opportunity to work together to build new connections and synergy across the current systems of family-serving resources. What we learn together will inform state systems and policies.

We know how busy you are, so let us come to you. Our WA FOI Team will handle meeting logistics and communications, meeting facilitation, and initial data support. We also hope to identify future funding opportunities to build community capacity over the course of the project.

Sincerely,



David Stillman
Assistant Secretary
Department of Social and Health Services
Economic Services Administration



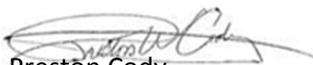
Heather Moss
Deputy Director
Department of Early Learning



Tassy Warren
Chief Program Officer
Center on the Developing Child
Harvard University



George Aszklar
Director of Career and Technical Education
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction



Preston Cody
Division Director
Medicaid Program Operations & Integrity
Health Care Authority



Janna Bardi
Assistant Secretary
Department of Health

Interested in Partnering with us?



Who Should Submit a Letter of Interest?

- A “community collaborative” with a strong commitment to reduce and mitigate the effects of ACEs in the first 1,000 days of a child’s development.
- A community that has an idea of what they want to change and are looking for innovative ways to achieve their goals and create lasting system impact.

What is the timeline?

- Request for LOI released: December 15, 2016
- Pre-proposal Webinar: January 6, 2017
- LOI submission deadline: January 31, 2017
- Meet with a short list of selected communities for an Information Exchange: March 20-24, 2017
- Announcement of selected community(s): April 7, 2017
- Phase One the technical assistance, planning, and design period: April 15, 2017 through June 30, 2018
- Phase Two Study Implementation period: July 1, 2018 to June 2020 based upon available funds

All interested stakeholders will be invited to receive updates on what we learn across both Phase One and Phase Two of the demonstration period.

Looking for more information?

- Visit www.wafoi.org where you can find a resource packet that includes:
 - The WA FOI First Thousand Days Strategic Framework
 - A community readiness self-assessment tool
 - Links to data that may help to define your population
 - WA FOI Newborn Study Group Roster

Have questions?

Please submit questions by email to info@wafoi.org

What are we testing?

Theory of Change: Children will have better health, educational, and social emotional outcomes if their families are strong, stable, and supported by systems, policy, and communities informed by the science of early childhood.

Background

Across Washington State, communities recognize the importance of supporting families with young children, so families can provide the safe, nurturing experiences and environments children need during their early years. Brain science is clear—the first 1,000 days of a child’s development are critical for establishing a strong foundation for lifelong health, learning, and well-being. A child’s family and caregiver relationships play an essential role in promoting healthy brain development during this time period. Chronic stress within the family is strongly associated with negative impacts on child development. Positive nurturing relationships can help buffer children from stress and promote a child’s optimal development. A “family centered” system with supporting policies builds upon parent and caregiver’s amazing strength and partners with them to strengthen communities.

Purpose

The WA FOI Team would like to partner with your local community to identify opportunities to strengthen how you currently find families experiencing high levels of stress at the birth of a child, and how you buffer that stress and target resources to these families.

What we learn together can help inform policies designed to create more accessible and responsive systems and supports for families, to improve community resilience and child well-being.

- Improve early identification, coordinated response, and support to mitigate common family stressors; and,
- Support positive parent-child relationships to buffer young children from stress and promote optimal development.

Outcomes

As a result of our joint efforts, we will identify and propose policy opportunities to create more accessible and responsive systems and supports for families with children, thereby:

- Reducing parental stress, anxiety, and depression,
- Increasing caregiver capacity and skill to support the developmental needs of young children,
- Decreasing child maltreatment, and
- Increasing kindergarten readiness and developmental progress.

Approach

Establish a learning collaborative between participating communities and state partners, incorporating a learning process which includes:

- Fast cycle learning where we test what works and what does not and make local and state level changes based upon our what our measures are telling us,
- Look at all the babies born in your chosen community and see how we can improve outcomes for the whole population by changing how systems work better together,
- Work with your priority systems to reduce those things that cause stress,
- Measure the resulting system, family, and child outcomes
- Incorporate learnings into strategic policy development and systems change

Areas of Potential Impact

These are potential strategy, outcome, and proximal measure areas of focus for our collective work. In our Information Exchange site visit we will begin to dialogue around your top three gaps and assets in these areas.

System Strategy	Focus Areas	Outcomes/Proximal Measures
Develop and implement universal family risk screening and tiered response for...	Housing and Economic stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family with safe place to live Family able to meet basic needs
	Parental mental health and Substance use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents or caregiver sad or anxious Parents or caregivers with excessive use of alcohol or other substances/signs of addiction
	Family relationships and social support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive partner or family violence Network of family and friends
Innovation around caregiver skill building and capacity by...	Creating targeted linkages to existing services and supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caregiver responsive to child needs Parent-child "Serve-and-Return" Child attachment and bonding
	Identifying areas where we need more	
	Identify areas where a new solution may be needed	
Measure and monitor desired changes related to...	System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> System/service capacity and coordination System ease of use Earliest identification of risk or problems
	Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parental stress, anxiety, and depression Parenting knowledge and skill
	Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child abuse and neglect Child developmental progress (social-emotional, cognitive) Pre-school expulsion

What's In It for You?

The WA FOI Team Resource will provide the following technical assistance (TA):

- Convene, facilitate, and support partner community planning sessions (monthly for 12 months to be negotiable),
- Provide data support and facilitate data exploration with communities,
- Map existing state initiatives and help define community connections,
- Develop a public-private funding resource to implement Phase Two - Study Implementation period,
- Provide TA during Phase Two to include: evaluation support, linkages to state level data experts, synergy with strategic statewide initiatives, and the creation of a broad learning community,
- Facilitate linkages to Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child researchers and other state and national thought leaders.

Interest Submission Form

Submission guidelines:

- Submission deadline: **January 31, 2017 by 5:00 pm**
- Additional information can be found at www.wafoi.org
- To submit your LOI, the LOI Submission Form can be found at www.wafoi.org

Please provide your contact information:

Primary contact:

Lead organization:

Mailing address:

Telephone number:

Primary contact email:

Website Address:

Please answer the following five questions in three pages maximum:

1. Please describe your community¹:
What is the chosen community for this project?
Why did you choose this population catchment area to harness and create synergy?
What is your total number of annual births? _____ How many are eligible for Medicaid? _____
2. Relating back to the “Areas of Potential Impact,” what are your gaps and assets for this population in your chosen community? What are your top three combined gap or asset priorities?
3. What is your community’s interest in innovative problem solving when working with families? Give an example of how you have come together to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and/or family stress. Did that experience create any sustainable capacity? Please explain.
4. How might from a state level partnership like this help your community to identify policy and system barriers toward the project’s stated goals?
5. Explain how the timing of this project leverages your existing work.

¹ Keep in mind there will need to be a large enough target population to reveal changes in those most at risk for poor outcomes, as compared to a like community. Examples might include a county, a hospital catchment area in a smaller region where it is easy to capture your birth population, a school district, an ESD region, or an Accountable Community of Health boundary.