



**Kaleidoscope Play and Learn®  
Request for Proposals to partner with Union County, January – June 2018**

Release Date: December 3, 2018

Deadline Date: Must be Received by **December 14, 2018 at noon**

Award Notification: Applicants will receive notice on or before 12/21/2018.

Submission Instructions: Electronic or hard copy applications accepted  
Late applications will NOT be accepted

Questions and  
Electronic Submission: Kim Sandoval  
[KSandoval@theallianceforchildren.org](mailto:KSandoval@theallianceforchildren.org)

Hand Deliver to: 2661 West Roosevelt Blvd., Suite A  
Monroe, NC 28110

OR Mail to: P.O. Box 988, Monroe, NC 28111

**\*\*APPLICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL NOON  
ON DECEMBER 14, 2018\*\***

**Applications may be submitted electronically or in hard copy format. Applicants that submit proposals electronically are encouraged to call to confirm receipt of proposal.**

**Applications must be submitted no later than the time listed above. Late applications will not be accepted. Faxed applications will not be accepted.**

## Introduction

Alliance for Children received supplemental funding to provide new programs to support children birth to five years old (not yet in kindergarten) in Union County. The agency has selected as its pilot program Kaleidoscope Play and Learn®, an evidence-informed program that brings families together to learn about children's early learning and healthy development and then practice these new skills at home. This Request for Proposal (RFP) seeks Union County community partners to manage this program locally for area children and families during the pilot period from January 2 until June 30, 2019.

## Definitions

**Applicants** – Organization or agency bidding for program

**DSP** – Direct service provider

**FY** – Fiscal Year

**FYE** – Fiscal Year End

**NCPC** – The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.

**Partnership** – Local Partnership (Alliance for Children) and Grantor

**RFP** – Request for Proposal

**State Smart Start** – Existing Smart Start legislation §143B-168.10-16 and North Carolina Session Law 2015-241

## Kaleidoscope Play and Learn

The Kaleidoscope Play and Learn® program provides quality facilitated play groups that will help to prepare children for success into their school years and throughout life. These groups should give adults the opportunity to provide support and resources to one another while fostering an interest in life-long learning for the children (birth to age 5, not yet in kindergarten) and their caregivers.

The program includes facilitated once per week, 90 minutes or more, of child and adult caregiver group experiences to promote learning and growth for young children in Union County. Caregivers may be relatives, friends or parents that provide them care during the day. The program supports families from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds to learn about healthy development and early learning.

Detailed information about the program can be found at the following site:

<https://www.childcare.org/family-services/find-care-kaleidoscope.aspx>

## Pre-Implementation Work

### **Community collaboration/coordination:**

Alliance for Children's programs strive to collaborate with other local community organizations. Please respond specifically in the application how you plan to collaborate with area community agencies, and with which agencies, to implement Kaleidoscope Play and Learn in Union County.

### **Initial Training:**

The selected direct service provider (DSP) for this program MUST have ability to attend two days of training (January 10-11, 2019) in Harnett County with other Alliance for Children team members. These training costs have already been allocated within the program budget.

## Scope of Services

The DSP providing the Kaleidoscope program will be expected to:

**1. Adhere to the Smart Start Cost Principles** - State funds are subject to State regulatory and audit requirements and the Smart Start Cost Principles and Accountability Plan. The Cost Principles are available from Alliance for Children upon request.

**2. Comply with Kaleidoscope Play and Learn® Model fidelity** – Alliance for Children has established appropriate funding for the selected DSP to receive training in the Kaleidoscope program. Provided sessions must follow the Kaleidoscope model as presented during training.

**3. Develop a Brief Recruitment Plan** - Applicants need to consider how they will recruit families with young children, birth to five years old, not yet in kindergarten to participate in Kaleidoscope Play and Learn®. Applicants are encouraged to link the program with other initiatives that have family engagement and support programs. However, applicants should also indicate their plans to reach families that are not already part of established programs but need support and connections. Applicants should share their recruiting strategies with Alliance for Children as part of the application.

**4. Program Management and Implementation** - DSPs will be responsible for the planning, preparation, recruitment, site selection and implementation of the weekly program.

**5. Ensure Staff Support** - The direct service provider must have staff available for:

a) Recruiting families: This can be done with area partner organizations. Applicants should be clear in their application about which area organizations they intend to work with to recruit families with the greatest need in our community.

b) Outreach communication: DSPs should provide appropriate outreach in the community through on-line or print mediums, as appropriate for potential families. Where printing or copy costs are necessary, applicant should include those in their proposal budget.

c) Data entry/file maintenance/evaluation: DSPs will be expected to maintain records and information about families that participate. It will also be necessary to submit quarterly reports to Alliance for Children indicating these contacts. This data is necessary to document results to share with partnerships, the legislature, and other potential funders.

d) Program development and weekly classes: DSPs must have staff available and capable to implement all stages of the program. These include, but are not limited to, securing a meeting location, setting up a regular weekly schedule, communicating with caregivers and preparing weekly lesson plans and learning tools for parents. Once a schedule for the program is established, DSP should have staff available to provide the service.

### **Participant Eligibility**

Applicants must have experience in early childhood education as well as a Bachelor's degree in early education or a related field. Applicants should also have connections in the Union County community to implement and recruit for the program. Alliance for Children will review all applications received for the program.