**Partnership for Children of the Foothills**

**Request for Applications**

**The Partnership for Children of the Foothills is seeking bids from agencies to provide a part-day program in McDowell County, NC that will serve children who are not enrolled in licensed childcare or otherwise being served in a regulated program for birth to five year olds.** The program should focus on enrolling two to three years olds and also have classes for three to five year olds. A school setting is preferable. If the child reaches four or five years of age and is eligible for public pre-k or kindergarten, they could transition over to those programs if space permits.

The program should run on a school calendar and it should include parent involvement opportunities such as on-site Circle of Parents program or other parenting groups that meet on a regular basis while their children are attending this part day program. (or free childcare is provided if the group meetings are in the evenings).

Children would attend either three mornings a week, or two mornings a week, depending on age and classroom space. The only eligibility should be the age of the child, county residency and that they are not enrolled in childcare or Public Pre-K programs. The subsidy voucher system will not be used.

Smart Start funds will not cover the full cost of the program. By utilizing our funds in this way, it defrays the cost of monthly tuition that the families pay.

These funds are meant to be used to furnish and equip new classrooms to be used for the program, or replace worn out furnishings/materials in existing classrooms and/or partially cover the cost of the teachers & teacher assistants. The remaining cost of the care must be covered by the bidder or by parent-paid tuition.

The programs should use the Creative Curriculum and the Ages & Stages or Dial developmental screening tools, based on the age of the child.

**Efforts should focus on these 2 communities of McDowell County.**

* Old Fort community, which has the highest poverty rate in the county and currently does not serve children under four and only has one NC Pre-K classroom for 4 year olds
* Glenwood community, which has an existing part-day program for 32 children ages two through five, but has a waiting list of at least 15 children.

Funding is subject to approval by the Partnership for Children of the Foothills Board of Directors and the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. and is subject to availability and successful performance of the awarded contractor**. To request a Bidding Packet contact Barry Gold, Executive Director at** barry@pfcfoothills.org. Proposals MUST BE received no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, November 5, 2018. Applicants should anticipate a December 1, 2018 activity start date. Awarded bids will be for a three-year term.