

**MARCH 20, 2020 RELEASE:**

**2020-2021 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL  
CHILDREN'S SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Children's Services Advisory Committee (CSAC), an advisory committee to the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners, is now accepting applications for the new grant period beginning October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. This Request for Proposal (RFP) allows not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, government agencies and individuals, to apply for funding of programs for Indian River County children. Organizations submitting proposals will be required to demonstrate how their proposed program's focus and impact are aligned with at least one of the Focus Areas of Need outlined below.

The deadline for submission is **2:00 PM Monday, MAY 4, 2020.**

**FOCUS AREAS OF NEED**

Mental health affects every Focus Area. We have decided not to make mental health a separate Focus Area but to evaluate mental health interventions relevant to each Focus Area.

1. Early Childhood Development

This encompasses birth to age 5. For the younger children this would mean improving the interactions they have beginning at birth with their caregivers and with focus on physical, social emotional and cognitive development. It would include improving the quality of childcare, PreK and Voluntary PreK providers. Providers must complete developmental screens at appropriate intervals and make referrals where necessary.

2. Build Parent Capacity

This encompasses improving parenting skills at every age of a child's life and providing support mechanisms for parents, including the pre-natal period. Parents should be taught the importance of wellness of the whole child (medical, dental, mental health and developmental) in addition to meeting their basic needs. A priority would be new parents in particular, first-time and single parents and those in the poverty pockets. Additionally, parents need to be assisted in obtaining developmental screens at all stages of a child's development starting at 2 months.

3. Quality After School and Summer Enrichment programs that include a meaningful component of social emotional skill building and academic instruction and remediation

Programs should be free/affordable and accessible (transportation) to parents and children. They should include quality instruction, be properly staffed and have enough dosing to make a meaningful impact on a child. We hold agencies to a high standard of what constitutes academic enrichment. Mentoring programs are included.

4. Middle and High School programs that address risky behavior

Programs that help adolescents and teens develop the tools to become productive, healthy, law-abiding citizens and address risky behavior (chronic absenteeism, alcohol, tobacco, vaping, drugs, delinquency, teen pregnancy, STDs, bullying, depression and other mental health problems).

An information workshop for all applicants is scheduled for **Monday, APRIL 6, 2020, at 1:00 PM** in Building B, Room B1-501, of the County Administration Complex, located at 1800 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida. CSAC members and staff will be present to discuss changes to this year's grant application.

**AGENCY ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.**

For questions or to RSVP, please contact Leigh Anne Uribe at (772) 226-1467 or [luribe@ircgov.com](mailto:luribe@ircgov.com).