

An opportunity to improve early literacy development in Rochester's young children

INTRODUCTION

The importance of **high-quality early education** is well documented both locally and nationally. A longitudinal study by High/Scope shows that **an investment of \$1 in quality early childhood education will pay back \$7 in saved social costs within the criminal justice system**. Data also show that **literacy development in young children is supported through participation in high-quality programs** such as prekindergarten and other child care programs. Based on that research, the City of Rochester's Literacy Initiative includes the strategy of enrolling young children in high-quality early education programs in order to help Rochester become the most literate mid-sized city in the United States.



NEED

While two-thirds of our community's children are enrolled in the highest quality programs in the United States, approximately 1,500 are cared for in 175 urban group family child care settings where the quality of the programs is unknown. Children in these programs are among some of the neediest who are growing up in impoverished neighborhoods and homes. Local and national research shows that the education of providers and teachers is positively correlated with child outcomes; the better the teacher is trained, the better the child performs. Most **group family child care providers are in acute need of training** to ensure that the children for whom they care have the literacy and other behavioral, social and emotional skills to succeed in school and life.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Partners in Family Child Care: Supporting Early Literacy through Home Visiting utilizes home visitors who provide long-term, in-home professional development to family child care providers in order to facilitate children's early literacy and social and emotional development.

- Through a home visitor coach, providers will receive **one year of in-home professional development** on early literacy and social and emotional development.
- Coaching sessions will be provided two times per month for two to three hours per session.
- Home visits will **integrate research-based curricula** that have been shown to improve children's literacy, cognitive and social and emotional development.
- Following screening, **children and families with potential needs will be referred** to existing community services.
- Children who qualify will be encouraged to enroll in a Rochester City School District prekindergarten program.

Partners in Family Child Care utilizes programs that are grounded in research with demonstrated successful outcomes. Scientific assessment tools that measure children's literacy, social and emotional development and quality of child care services are included in the project. Information from these tools are used to secure other necessary services for children and to improve service delivery to ensure every child thrives.

GOALS AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The **project goal** is to improve the quality of early education programs in group family child care homes and generate significant improvements in the early literacy and behavioral development of children who attend those programs.

In the first three years:

- 90 providers (30 new providers per year), serving approximately 750 children will be served;
- Program quality will improve;
- Children in group family child care programs will make gains above developmental expectations, ensuring their preparedness for school.

Long term, the project will:

- Improve children's developmental outcomes so they are successful in school and life;
- Create a pool of well-trained home visitors (some bilingual) and a delivery system that will sustain the intervention for years to come;
- Reduce the cost to society for programs to support those who lack the literacy and social and emotional skills to be successful in school and life.

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET \$560,000 (3 years)
Unit cost per child \$748 (3 years)

FUNDERS & PARTNERS

A lead gift from **Jim Brush and the Brush Family** has committed \$65,000 each year for three years. **Rochester's Child**, a fund of The Community Foundation, is working to raise funds for the project.

Children's Institute will provide overall program management, data collection, assessments and state-of-the-art training for group family child care providers.

Family Child Care Satellites of Greater Rochester at Rochester ChildFirst Network will recruit family child care providers, provide home visiting services, train and coach the group family child care provider. Home visitors will also assist programs in making referrals for additional services to children and families.

children's
institute



STRENGTHENING SOCIAL AND
EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Contact information:

Lori VanAuken • Director of Community Partnerships
Children's Institute • 274 North Goodman Street, Suite D103 • Rochester, NY 14607
(585) 295-1000, Ext. 227 • lvanauken@childrensinstitute.net

www.childrensinstitute.net