



Newsflash, September 2009

### Request for Proposals for Community School Readiness Wiring

**Apply today or help us spread the word** - send this announcement to organizations you think may be interested.

The information in this newsflash and the RFP are available on [our website](#).

### What is Community School Readiness Wiring

The goal of Community School Readiness Wiring (CSRW) is to strengthen communities' capacity to engage families in their children's learning and healthy development starting at birth by increasing families' access to early childhood information and resources.

CSRW has three major areas of work:

1. Supporting families in promoting the learning and healthy development of their children.

### Thrive in 5 Releases Request for Proposals for Community School Readiness Wiring

*RFP will fund 5 Boston neighborhoods*

With a generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Thrive in 5 will fund 5 organizations/collaborations to implement Community School Readiness Wiring in 5 Boston neighborhoods.

Thrive in 5 invites organizations to respond to a [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) that will award the following grants:

- \$100,000 to each of 3 organizations for an 18-month funding cycle that is expected to begin on January 1, 2010.
- \$75,000 to 2 organizations for a 10-month funding cycle that is expected to begin on September 1, 2010.

### Eligible Communities

In order to build on the strengths of existing early childhood work sponsored by United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley and by the City of Boston, Thrive in 5 will fund CSRW in each of the following communities:

- Allston / Brighton
- Charlestown
- Mattapan
- Roslindale

In addition, through this RFP process, Thrive in 5 will choose a fifth neighborhood from one of the following:

- East Boston
- Communities within Dorchester
- Roxbury or communities within Roxbury

2. Working with service providers to enhance service delivery so that young children and their families can easily access and engage in high quality services.

3. Building a movement in support of young children and their families that engages everyone and every organization (including businesses) in the community.

CSRW is one strategy to achieve Thrive in 5's Ready Families Goal: *Parents will be able to obtain the accurate, culturally-appropriate information they seek on child development, parenting, and school readiness, as well as community resources that help to strengthen families.*

### Quick Links

- South End

If applicants would like to apply on behalf of a community within Dorchester or Roxbury, the proposed community must meet the following criteria:

- At least 500 children birth to under age 5 reside there
- At least 70% of children birth to under age 5 are children of color
- At least 29% of children birth to under age 5 live in households that are under the federal poverty line

### Eligible Organizations

Organizations that are eligible to apply for this funding include established non-profit organizations, grassroots community groups, faith based organizations, community centers, family-serving agencies and for-profit organizations.

Applicants are encouraged to apply as a collaboration of 2 or more organizations working together. Collaborations will receive a preference in the selection process.

In all cases, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization must be the lead and fiscal agent for the funds.

### Key Dates and Deadlines

- **October 7, 2009 - Intent to Apply Form due** (optional but encouraged)
- **October 13, 2009 - Bidder's Conference** at the Children's Museum, 9:30a.m. to 12p.m. or 2:30 to 5p.m. (optional but encouraged) *RSVP via the Intent to Apply Form (RFP, Appendix G).*
- **November 2, 2009 - Proposals due** by 5 p.m.

> [Download the RFP for more information and to apply.](#)

**Questions?** Contact Katie Madrigal, Thrive in 5's Ready Families Manager, at (617) 624-8196 or [katie.madrigal@thrivein5boston.org](mailto:katie.madrigal@thrivein5boston.org)

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