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**For Immediate Release:**

**October 6, 2009**

## **Thrive in 5 to fund collaborations to support school readiness Organizations invited to apply for grant**

BOSTON – Thrive in 5, a public-private partnership sponsored by the City of Boston and United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, is accepting proposals from organizations in Allston/Brighton, Charlestown, Mattapan, Roslindale, East Boston, communities within Dorchester, Roxbury or communities within Roxbury, and the South End to fund an effort to strengthen communities' capacity to engage families in their children's learning and development, starting at birth.

Thrive in 5 will provide funding for "Community School Readiness Wiring," which builds on and weaves together neighborhood-based supports, services, partnerships and initiatives. Neighborhood organizations are invited to propose innovative approaches to surrounding parents of young children with information and linking them to services and supports for child development, parenting and school readiness. Community School Readiness Wiring will include the use of sources parents already know and trust, everywhere they go in their community – from the supermarket to the health center, the bodega to the church and the hair salon to the bank.

The result is that families have multiple connections to knowledge and opportunities that support their children's learning within their typical day in their physical neighborhood. The proposals must also include efforts to bring service providers together to enhance coordination and improve services for young children and their families.

Thrive in 5 will provide funding to five organizations/collaborations in Boston communities to lead the implementation of this model in their neighborhoods. Thrive in 5 will award up to \$100,000 to each of five organizations.

Potential applicants are encouraged to attend the Community School Readiness Wiring Bidders' Conference on October 13 at the Boston Children's Museum from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Applicants are encouraged to attend as teams of two or more organizations. The deadline for receipt of proposals is November 2, 2009. The Request for Proposals can be found online at [www.thrivein5boston.org](http://www.thrivein5boston.org). Contact Katie Madrigal at [Katie.Madrigal@thrivein5boston.org](mailto:Katie.Madrigal@thrivein5boston.org) or 617.624.8196 for further information.

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