



## Lessons Learned from EHS-CCP Round One Grantees to Incorporate into your 2017 EHS-CCP Grant Proposal

*From the ACF EHS-CCP Year One Report, January 2015-January 2016*

The Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) projects are a new approach that asks HS programs to expand their role and expertise in support of infants and toddlers. When developing a proposal for a new grant program it is often difficult to discern the concepts behind the grant scoring criteria that will be used to determine if your application is funded. The recently released report from ACF titled *Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships: Growing the Supply of Early Learning Opportunities for More Infants and Toddlers Year One Report, January 2015 – January 2016* offers insight into the lessons learned during the first round of EHS-CCP funding. This tip sheet provides a summary of findings and report content and offers suggestions for how each element can be used to strengthen your grant narrative.

EHS-CCP Year One Report Finding	2017 Grant Recommendations
Round one EHS-CCP grantees had an average of seven child care partners.	Think big! Scale is important in ensuring programs are efficient. For example, the last round of EHS-CCP applications suggested having a program size of at least 72 slots. When you are designing your program seek out enough partners to show that your program will significantly expand access to high-quality infant and toddler care in your community.
Almost half of all the applications also included signed commitments from their partners.	Include letters of commitment in your grant. We do not suggest including full agreements due to their size. However, you should include a timeframe for solidifying partners in your start-up plan.
Grantees used various strategies to describe how they would assess partner capacity.	Review tools on the Center for EHS – CCP website for assessing partner capacity and describe how you will do this in the application narrative.
A large portion of grantees proposed they would serve special populations such as children with disabilities, homeless children, foster children, and dual language learners.	Provide details about how you would serve each of these populations and describe examples of how you are qualified to meet their needs based on your past experience.
45% of grantees said they would provide services in at least one high-priority zip code.	Focus services on high-priority zip codes or impoverished areas. If you can include at least 3 high-poverty zip codes your chances of funding are increased.
ACF issued policy guidance to address a number of EHS-CCP issues in August of 2015	Read the IM and make sure your proposal speaks to these elements.
Partnerships took much longer than anticipated to establish and strong partnership agreements that clearly outlined roles and responsibilities with reasonable budgets were an important element of project success.	Describe how you will handle partners dropping out of the project, describe your success in maintaining current partnerships, or any prior partner arrangements that will demonstrate your partnership knowledge.
The 18-month start-up period was critical for EHS-CCP grantees.	Include a start-up plan in your grant that speaks to the 18-month period.
Grantees had to engage in organizational and capacity building activities with partners.	Speak to the roles that you will play beyond providing technical assistance and describe how you will ensure your partners understand the role that basic program management and operations, using data, and maintaining adequate records systems plays in EHS services.
It is critical that payment terms are clear and partners have access to sufficient funds to accomplish the goals and objectives established in their agreement	Describe how you arrived at the amount per – child that you will be paying partners and describe your fiscal systems. Indicate what will happen when a partner needs more money to achieve compliance with EHS standards or licensing regulations.



Need assistance with your grant proposal? Call us at 970-776-4330 or email [andrea@heartlandgrants.org](mailto:andrea@heartlandgrants.org)