

KENTUCKY'S RACE TO THE TOP EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE

Sustainability Planning

Overview

As the grant period for Kentucky's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) is concluding, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood would like to develop a sustainability plan to ensure the work of the grant continues and improves. The proposed sustainability planning process will take place October 2017-June 2018 and includes coordinating a sustainability planning team, developing a vision and goals for sustainability, identifying challenges and opportunities, and creating options and action steps. As a result of this planning process, a Sustainability Plan will be developed to **communicate goals, obstacles, resources needed and plan for next steps in acquiring resources.**

Methods and Approach

The sustainability project will rely on four primary strategies: work groups, supportive data collections, coordinated knowledge management, and expert advisory panel review.

Sustainability Planning Work Groups

The sustainability planning process will be conducted through coordinated and facilitated workgroups of key stakeholders. Existing subcommittees of the Early Childhood Advisory Council will be utilized as work groups when possible to align sustainability work with ongoing efforts and to avoid duplication. Through a facilitated process, the planning groups will develop a shared vision for sustainability, review stakeholder and financial data, identify needs, challenges and opportunities, and develop recommendations with action steps.

Supportive Data Collections

Data collections will be conducted to support the work groups' processes. The nature of data collections may change over the course of the project, as the need for information and data emerges in each group. However, we anticipate using a stakeholder survey, stakeholder interviews and document and data review to access information and data to support each work group.

Coordinated Knowledge Management

One of the key roles of the project facilitator is the coordination of work group conversations with data, information, and analyses. The work groups and facilitator will assess project impact and potential to determine what aspects of each project create value for Kentucky and should be continued, while also helping stakeholders define a potential (future)

scope for projects. Financing analysis will include cost projections of expected fiscal needs, alignment of current funding and research on funding streams.

Advisory Panel

A small advisory group of national experts will help guide the sustainability planning process, provide critical questions and analyses, and review a draft sustainability plan. The Advisory Panel will meet at least three times, primarily using webinar meetings and events, to conduct its activities.

Sustainability Planning Results

1. **Stakeholder feedback:** Through interviews and surveys, key stakeholders including state agency personnel, local professionals and parents, we will provide information critical for sustainability planning. A summary of survey and interview results will be developed and will be provided as an appendix in the final Sustainability Plan.
2. **Financing Analysis:** Through the sustainability planning process and in collaboration with the planning workgroups and key financial staff, cost projections will be developed for sustainability options. In addition, an analysis of existing funding streams and potential funding streams will be provided. A summary of cost projection models and current and potential funding streams will be developed.
3. **Sustainability Plan with Executive Summary and PowerPoint Presentation:** A written Sustainability Plan will be developed based on data collection and with input and guidance from the Sustainability Work Groups and advisory committee. In addition, a PowerPoint Presentation will be developed summarizing the Sustainability Plan.

Sustainability Project Staff

Kate Irish, MSW, is a non-profit consultant with 15 years of experience working to expand access to and the quality of early childhood and family support services. She has non-profit leadership experience with a focus on systems change, collaboration and program management and evaluation. She worked as a Program Officer at North Carolina Partnership for Children where she focused on statewide policy efforts and managed two Race to the Top projects. Previously she was Program and Evaluation Director at Durham's Partnership for Children for six years, where she directed Durham's Smart Start, NC Pre-Kindergarten and Early Head Start programs. Prior to coming to North Carolina, Kate worked at the Center for Law and Social Policy coordinating research projects to describe and analyze national and state early childhood policies and programs. She has a Master of Social Work degree from University of North Carolina with a certificate in Non-Profit Leadership.

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