The Four Rivers Early Learning Hub is pleased to announce this opportunity for Responsive and Innovative Funding for counties within the Four Rivers Region.

The purpose of Responsive Funding is to respond to emerging needs related to young children and their families that are not being addressed through the regional efforts of the hub. Responsive efforts should align with the core elements of the 4RELH strategic plan and may be expanded to include other counties.

**Responsive Funding**

Apply for Responsive Funding if:

- The requested action responds to a need that isn’t being addressed and aligns with 4RELH Strategic Plan areas
- The requested action could also be a need for other counties and could help more children
- The requested action is linked to an existing effort and/or builds on existing funding.

The purpose of Innovative Funding is to support small, pilot efforts that demonstrate visionary thinking about new ways to meet existing needs.

**Innovative Funding**

Apply for Innovative Funding if:

- The requested action responds to a need that aligns with 4RELH Strategic Plan areas
- You have identified a new, creative way of achieving better outcomes for children and families and you think it could be scaled across the region but want to try it as a pilot first.
- You have some evidence to demonstrate that this effort has potential and you want to try it first.

Applications for either type of funding are dependent on available funding.

**As of October 1, 2016, the funding available is:**

- Responsive - $24,223.00
- Innovative - $6,642.00
The Process for applying and accessing these funds is as follows:

STEP 1
- Determine which funding stream best aligns with your request and complete the corresponding application.

STEP 2
- Responsive Funding - submit concept to ECC/ECAT for discussion and consideration. If the ECC and ECAT approve the concept, submit application to 4RELH Coordinator or Communications Specialist. 4RELH staff will verify that the concept was vetted and approved for consideration by the local ECC/ECAT.
- Innovative Funding - submit application directly to 4RELH Coordinator for review by regional review team and recommendation to the Governance Board.

STEP 3
- Applications are reviewed by a regional review team and forwarded to the Governance Board with recommendation to either approve or not. The Board will make all final decisions.

STEP 4
- Governance Board reviews recommendation from the review team and approves or returns.

STEP 5
- If funded, awarded entity is responsible for reports and provides documentation as outlined in agreement.

To participate and receive funding, please:
- Check out the strategic plan overview to ensure that your efforts align. (see below)
- Keep the Four Rivers Early Learning Hub priority elementary school zones in mind. (see below)
- Let us help: call or email 4RELH Coordinator or Communications Specialist with any questions and/or ideas you have or are thinking about for making this effort work for your district.

Funding Priorities
The 4RELH core initiatives are meant to be a collective umbrella that is responsible for the prospective outcomes for the region’s children and families. These efforts include community support for children and families, connecting them to health care, overall improvement of child care, and pre-kindergarten engagement and social experiences.

Proposed initiatives MUST relate to the Strategic Plan and our three goals:
- Children who arrive at Kindergarten ready to engage and participate
- Stable and attached families
- Systems that work together to ensure outcomes through various alignment and coordination approaches

Strategic Plan Overview
The following describes the core efforts of the Four Rivers Early Learning Hub Strategic Plan. Applications should clearly demonstrate how the proposed effort links to, broadens or supports one or more of the following:
• **Expand the Home Visiting Connections (HVC):** Finalizing the development of early identification HVC framework across region. Build on this network to link to additional supports needed by families.

• **Trauma Informed Care:** A framework that demonstrates how various strategies are linked and coordinated. Work with regional and local entities to identify existing strategies that are based in trauma informed theory and/or social emotional wellbeing.

• **Engaging Parents:** Increase parent representation and engagement in the regional and county level Early Childhood Committee (ECC) meetings. ECCs will develop strategies for linking to existing parent advisor boards, or establish a connection through the ECC meeting. Utilize parent input and parent perspective to shape and guide regional strategies and implementation.

• **Shared Online Calendar:** A calendar of shared activities and county specific committees will be established and made accessible to the network to link families to efforts.

• **Connecting DHS Families to Network:** Focused Family Child Care Network of 12 – 15 providers being implemented by CCRR with a specific focus on providers serving families who are receiving ERDC. Also includes implementation of Focused Family Child Care Network for Spanish speaking providers. Providers from all 5 counties are expected to have access to some form of participation in the network.

• **Developmental Screening and Well Child Visits:** Connecting every child born in each county with a welcome baby visit and as needed engagement with HVC and/or other resources.

• **Increase Access to Pre-School:** Continue frontier county preschool funding supports while working with school districts to incorporate preschools and high quality child care into high poverty and/or high minority schools. This also includes working with school districts and Head Start providers to extend offerings of blended classrooms with Head Start/Oregon Pre-Kindergarten children mixed with community children.

• **Increase Access to Quality Care through QRIS:** Child Care Partners will provide focused, intensive support and training for child care practitioners in those areas to assist them in participating in QRIS which is meant to promote the importance of high quality early learning experiences – as measured by QRIS – to current practitioners throughout the region.

4RELH Priority Elementary School Zones

The following elementary school zones have been identified as priority areas. Attention to these areas as well as focused efforts to support children who are disproportionately represented in achievement data is strongly encouraged.

- Parkdale
- Chenoweth
- Maupin
- Cascade Locks
- Mid Valley
- Colonel Wright
- Dufur- Celilo Village
- Preserving Infrastructure: Sherman, Fossil, Spray, Mitchell
- Child Welfare: Arlington and Condon

**Reporting**

These are the components for reporting that we will ask for on a quarterly basis:

Budget Expenditures, itemized as follows:

- Employee Salaries/Stipends
- Employee Benefits
- Supplies and Materials
- Professional Development
- Administrative Costs* (no more than 5% of total award)
- Family Engagement
- Sub-Contracts (may not apply)
- Travel

Demographics of Participants

Four Rivers Early Learning Hub Responsive and Innovative Funding Application

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