

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

SECTION I: ANNOUNCEMENT OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Unit: Issue Date: **May 1, 2026**
Title: Close Date: **June 12, 2026**

Send All Proposals To:

RFP:
Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.
Attention: Michelle Downey, Contracts Coordinator
351 Wagoner Drive, Suite 200
Fayetteville, NC 28303

Questions may be directed to: _____ at _____

Interested parties may submit either electronically or hard copy. **All submissions must be signed.**

It is the sole responsibility of the offeror to have the proposal delivered **by 5:00pm on the Close Date** as specified above. LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please send proposals to mdowney@ccpfc.org; hard copies may be submitted at the Partnership front desk in an envelope marked "Attn: Michelle Downey."

SECTION II: SCOPE OF WORK

The Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Local Partnership") is soliciting proposals to establish a contract through competitive negotiations. The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to acquire the goods and/or services of a qualified contractor (hereinafter referred to as the "Contractor") to provide:

This is a proposal for one year of service:
7/1/2026 through 6/30/2027

Details of the project include:

The learning events, in the form of contact hour credits (CHCs) and/or continuing education units (CEUs), developed and presented must relate to the first nine required topic areas according to the Child Care Law, along with other specific learning event topics:

1. Planning a safe, healthy learning environment
2. Steps to advance children's physical & intellectual development
3. Positive ways to support children's social & emotional development
4. Strategies to establish productive relationships with families
5. Strategies to manage an effective program operation
6. Maintaining a commitment to professionalism
7. Observing & recording children's behavior
8. Principles of child growth & development
9. Learning activities that promote the inclusion of children with special needs
10. Emergency Preparedness and Response in Child Care (EPR)
11. NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development (NCFELD)
12. Environment Rating Scales (ECERS-3, ITERS-3, FCCERS-3, SACERS-U)
13. Partnering with Parents to Prevent Child Abuse & Neglect
14. Other related topics as they relate to and/or benefit ECEPs
15. Bilingual Instructor- Early Childhood Learning Events

Bachelor's degree(s) and/or Credentials in the related teaching field are required. Experience providing adult education utilizing Bloom's Taxonomy is also required.

For all courses offered which do not require hands-on or face-to-face instruction, the Contractor must be willing to offer services via the technology platform ZOOM™ provided by the Local Partnership. This technology will be made available at no cost to the Contractor and all courses will be hosted by the Local Partnership staff. The Contractor's equipment requirements will be limited to a secure, stable, high speed internet connection and a device with audio and video recording capabilities. Contractors may also be requested to provide services locally (throughout Child Care Resource & Referral Region 5) at Early Childhood Education Facilities.

Additional Requests:

From time to time, additional training requests may be made by the Local Partnership. If the following criteria are met, the Contractor may be selected to provide additional services without amending an existing contract. Any changes not covered by the criteria set forth below will result in a contract amendment and may require additional bidding processes.

1. The Contractor has previously submitted documentation that he or she is qualified to provide the additional services, and such documentation has been made a part of the Contract; **and**
2. The rate for services is the same as those in Contract at the time that the additional request has been made; **and**
3. The Contract amount is sufficient to allow payment for the additional services.

SECTION III: EXECUTION OF PROPOSAL – The information in this section must be completed by the offeror.

By submitting this proposal, the offeror certifies the following:

- The proposal is signed by an authorized representative of the company;
- The offeror has, or can obtain, insurance certificates as required within ten (10) calendar days after notice of intent to award; The Local Partnership require a minimum aggregate General Liability coverage of \$1,000,000 and Workers' Compensation Coverage. Additional insurances may be required dependent upon the services being provided;
- All labor costs, both direct and indirect, have been determined and are included in the proposed cost;
- The offeror can and will provide the specified performance bond or alternate performance guarantee (if applicable); and
- The offeror has read and understands the conditions set forth in the Request for Proposals and agrees to them with no exceptions.

Therefore, in compliance with this Request for Proposals, and subject to all conditions herein, the undersigned offers and agrees, if this proposal is accepted within not less than ninety (90) days from the Close Date, to furnish the subject goods and/or services.

OFFEROR

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

FEDERAL TAX ID NO.:

LICENSE NUMBER(S):

If applicable

****Please complete the form above in its entirety. In the event that your company is selected to provide the goods and/or services proposed, we must have your Federal Tax ID Number in order to prepare Contract Documents.***

****Attach copies of your company's insurance, bonding and workers' compensation information.***

BY: _____
(Signature)

TITLE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

DATE: _____

SECTION IV: COST PROPOSAL – The information in this section must be completed by the offeror.

Provide your cost to provide the goods and/or services. **The cost(s) provided must be good through 6/30/2027.** Please be specific regarding the unit of cost to the Local Partnership (unit of cost must be either per hour, per workshop, **or** per participant). If you are proposing to provide learning events that take place for Region 5 (Region 5 consists of Anson, Cumberland, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Robeson and Scotland Counties), regardless of where they are held, please specify if a different rate applies for those learning events. Please be sure that rates listed are inclusive of indirect costs. Indirect costs should not be billed separately. Indirect costs include but are not limited to: travel, photocopies, training materials, etc.

Professional Development Learning Events (Learning events in-person or virtual for Professional Development held only in Cumberland County)

Learning Event:	Per	Hour	Workshop	Participant
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Learning Events Presented Locally at Early Childhood Education Facilities

Learning Event:	Per	Hour	Workshop	Participant
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Invoicing Schedule: The Offeror agrees to provide invoices upon completion of each learning event.

Availability:

Weekdays (Mon – Fri, 8am – 5pm)

Weeknights (Mon – Fri, 6pm – 9pm)

Weekend Days (Sat, 8am – 5pm)

Please attach a list of learning events which you are qualified to offer. The list must include a description, the length of each learning event, and class size restrictions (minimum/maximum). Please also attach copies of your CV, Resume, Licenses, Education Documentation and Qualification Verification, and Certificates applicable to the services provided.

Please provide any additional information you feel is important.

SECTION V: REFERENCES

Offeror must supply at least three references for firms for which it has done similar or related work during the past three years.

1. Agency or Firm Name _____
Business Address _____
Contact Person _____
Phone Number _____
Description of Services _____

2. Agency or Firm Name _____
Business Address _____
Contact Person _____
Phone Number _____
Description of Services _____

3. Agency or Firm Name _____
Business Address _____
Contact Person _____
Phone Number _____
Description of Services _____

4. Agency or Firm Name _____
Business Address _____
Contact Person _____
Phone Number _____
Description of Services _____

5. Agency or Firm Name _____
Business Address _____
Contact Person _____
Phone Number _____
Description of Services _____

SECTION VI: GENERAL INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

1. **EXCEPTIONS:** All proposals are subject to the terms and conditions outlined herein. All responses shall be controlled by such terms and conditions and the submission of other terms and conditions, price lists, catalogs, and/or such other documents as part of an offeror's response will be waived and have no effect either on this Request for Proposals or on any contract that may be awarded resulting from this solicitation. OFFEROR SPECIFICALLY AGREES TO THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN THE ABOVE PARAGRAPH BY SIGNATURE TO THE PROPOSAL.
2. **ORAL EXPLANATIONS:** The Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. shall not be bound by oral explanations or instructions given at any time during the competitive process or after award.
3. **REFERENCE TO OTHER DATA:** Only information, which is received in response to the RFP, will be evaluated; reference to information previously submitted shall not be evaluated.
4. **ELABORATE PROPOSALS:** Elaborate proposals in the form of brochures or other presentations beyond that necessary to present a complete and effective proposal are not desired.
5. **COST FOR PROPOSAL PREPARATION:** Any costs incurred by offerors in preparing or submitting offers are the offeror's sole responsibility; the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. will not reimburse any offeror for any costs incurred prior to award.
6. **TIME FOR ACCEPTANCE:** Each proposal shall state that it is a firm offer, which may be accepted within in a period of not less than ninety (90) days.
7. **PRICES IN EFFECT:** Proposed prices shall remain in effect for the life of the contract.
8. **TITLES:** Titles and headings in the RFP and any subsequent contract are for convenience only and shall have no binding force or effect.
9. **CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROPOSALS:** In submitting its proposal, the offeror agrees not to discuss or otherwise reveal the contents of the proposal to any source outside of the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. until after the award of the contract. Offerors not in compliance with this provision may be disqualified, at the option of the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc., from contract award. Only discussions authorized by the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. are exempt from this provision.
10. **RIGHT TO SUBMITTED MATERIAL:** All responses, inquiries, or correspondence relating to or in reference to the RFP, and all other reports, charts, displays, schedules, exhibits, and other documentation submitted by the offerors shall become the property of the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. when received.

SECTION VII: PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

1. Offerors are urged to submit a proposal for establishing, performing and/or providing the goods and/or services described herein. All proposals must be submitted strictly in accordance with the requirements for the Request for Proposal. Failure to furnish any required information with your proposal is grounds for rejection, at the option of the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.
2. Each offeror shall demonstrate in its proposal that the firm and its management and employees are experienced and competent and that it has the background, training and experience to perform the services required by the Request for Proposal. This can be done by submitting, as an attachment, a Capability Statement of the firm.
3. Submit one original proposal to the address indicated on page 1 of this RFP.
4. All proposals must be received by the issuing agency not later than 5:00 pm on the date specified on page 1 of this RFP.
5. At their option, the evaluators may request oral presentations or discussion with any or all offerors for the purpose of clarification or to amplify the materials presented in any part of the proposal. However, offerors are cautioned that the evaluators are not required to request clarification; therefore, all proposals should be complete and reflect the most favorable terms available from the offeror.
6. Proposals will be evaluated according to completeness, content, experience providing similar services, response time, the ability of the offeror and its staff, and cost. Award of a contract to one offeror does not mean that the other proposals lacked merit, but that, all factors considered, the selected proposal was most advantageous to the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.
7. In addition to any other evaluation criteria identified in the solicitation document, the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. shall, for the purposes of evaluating the proposal, consider the following factors to ensure that any award will be in the best interest of the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.: total cost; level of quality information as provided by references; availability of pertinent skills; and licensing/registrations as appropriate.
8. Offerors are cautioned that this is a request for offers, not a request to contract, and the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc. reserves the right to reject any and all offers when such rejection is deemed to be in the best interest of the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.
9. The evaluators reserve the right to request financial information as specified below. If requested, vendors must provide financial references in one of the forms outlined below within five (5) days from receipt of request: most recently accredited balance sheet; certified letter of credit or Performance Bond; statement from the company's financial institution indicating financial stability of the company.
10. If your firm is the successful vendor as a result of this solicitation, formal award will not be finalized until your firm has submitted all required insurance certificates.

SECTION VIII: CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following terms and conditions are those that must be accepted as agreeable upon execution of an award/contract. Due to the possibility of changes to our Contract templates required by the State, the terms and conditions as they appear in any actual contract awarded may differ from those found below. Should changes occur, the Contractor will be notified upon award that the terms and conditions have change.

1. Independent Contractor:

The Contractor is and shall be deemed to be an independent contractor in the performance of this Contract and as such shall be wholly responsible for the work to be performed and for the supervision of its employees. The Contractor represents that it has, or shall secure at its own expense, all personnel required in performing the services under this Contract. Such employees shall not be employees of, or have any individual contractual relationship with, the Local Partnership.

2. Subcontracting:

The Contractor shall not subcontract any of the work contemplated under this Contract without prior written approval from the Local Partnership. Any approved subcontract shall be subject to all conditions of this Contract. The Local Partnership shall not be obligated to pay for work performed by any unapproved subcontractor. The Contractor shall be responsible for the performance of all of its subcontractors.

3. Assignment:

No assignment of the Contractor's obligations or the Contractor's right to receive payment hereunder shall be permitted.

4. Beneficiaries:

Except as herein specifically provided otherwise, this Contract shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Parties hereto and their respective successors. It is expressly understood and agreed that the enforcement of the terms and conditions of this Contract, and all rights of action relating to such enforcement, shall be strictly reserved to the Local Partnership and the named Contractor. Nothing contained in this document shall give or allow any claim or right of action whatsoever by any other third person. It is the express intention of the Local Partnership and the Contractor that any such person or entity, other than the Local Partnership or the Contractor, receiving services or benefits under this Contract shall be deemed an incidental beneficiary only.

5. Key Personnel:

The Contractor shall not substitute key personnel assigned to the performance of this Contract without prior written approval of the Local Partnership. The individuals designated as "key personnel" for purposes of this Contract are those specified as the Contract Administrator, the person(s) authorized to sign contract documents, and the Project Manager, if applicable.

6. Indemnification:

The Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of North Carolina (the "State"), the Division of Child Development and Early Education of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (the "Division"), The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. ("NCPC"), the Local Partnership and any of their officers, agents and employees, from any claims of third parties arising out of any act or omission of the Contractor in connection with the performance of this Contract.

7. Contract Administrators:

All notices permitted or required to be given by one Party to the other and all questions about this Contract from one Party to the other shall be addressed and delivered to the other Party's Contract Administrator. The name, post office address, street address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of the Parties' respective initial Contract Administrators are set out below. Either Party may change the name, post office address, street address, telephone number, fax number, or email address of its Contract Administrator by giving timely written notice to the other Party.

For the Local Partnership:

Mary Sonnenberg, President
Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc.
351 Wagoner Drive, Suite 200
Fayetteville, NC 28303
Telephone: (910) 826-3102
Email: msonnenberg@ccpfc.org

For the Contractor:

Name
Title
Contractor Name
Address
Address
City
State **ZIP** **Phone**
Email

8. Choice of Law:

The validity of this Contract and any of its terms or provisions, as well as the rights and duties of the Parties to this Contract, are governed by the laws of North Carolina. The Contractor, by signing this Contract, agrees and submits, solely for matters concerning this Contract, to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of North Carolina and agrees, solely for such purpose, that the exclusive venue for any legal proceedings shall be Cumberland County, North Carolina. The place of this Contract, and all transactions and agreements relating to it, and their situs and forum, shall be Cumberland County, North Carolina, where all matters, whether sounding in contract or tort, relating to the validity, construction, interpretation, and enforcement, shall be determined.

11. Precedence Among Contract Documents:

This Contract and any documents incorporated herein by reference represent the entire agreement between the Parties and supersede all prior oral or written statements or agreements. In the event of a conflict in terms between or among the Contract Documents, the terms in the Contract Document with the highest relative precedence shall prevail. The Contract Documents include this Contract, any amendments thereto, and the Attachments. The Contract Documents have the highest precedence followed by the Contractor's proposal. If there are multiple Contract Amendments, the most recent amendment shall have the highest precedence and the oldest amendment shall have the lowest precedence.

12. Survival of Promises:

All promises, requirements, terms, conditions, provisions, representations, guarantees, and warranties contained herein shall survive this Contract expiration or termination date unless specifically provided otherwise herein, or unless superseded by applicable federal or State statutes of limitation.

13. Availability of Funds:

The Parties to this Contract agree and understand that the payment of the sums specified in this Contract is dependent and contingent upon and subject to the appropriation, allocation, and availability of funds for this purpose to the Local Partnership. In the event funds are unavailable, the Local Partnership may terminate this Contract by giving written notice to the Contractor specifying the effective date of termination.

14. Responsibilities of the Contractor:

- A.** Provide services as described in the Proposal submitted by the Contractor, the scope(s) of work of which is incorporated herein as Attachment I. In case of any conflict between the Proposal and this Contract, this Contract will take precedence.
- B.** Provide staff, subcontractors, facilities and expertise to perform the services described herein competently and in the manner prescribed within the time frames described herein.
- C.** Perform all work required by this Contract in accordance with all legal and contractual requirements, and with that degree of skill exercised under similar circumstances by reputable professionals with reputations for providing the types of services contemplated by this Contract.
- D.** Submit to the Local Partnership any other plans, reports, documents or other products that the Local Partnership may require in the form specified by the Local Partnership.
- E.** Attend scheduled meetings with the Local Partnership as requested.
- F.** Obtain approval from the Local Partnership prior to implementation of any activity changes.
- G.** Make available all records including general and subsidiary ledgers, reports, vouchers, books, program documentation, correspondence, or other documentation or evidence at reasonable times for review, inspection or audit by duly authorized officials of the Local Partnership, NCPC, the Division, or the North Carolina Office of the State Auditor or applicable Federal agencies.
- H.** Report suspected child abuse, neglect, or dependency as defined in N.C.G.S. §7B-101.
- I.** To the extent permitted by law, submit to the Local Partnership, a photograph of and a criminal background check for every employee who may provide services under this Contract before that employee begins work within the Partnership for Children Family Resource Center (“PFCRC”) and at least annually, thereafter. Criminal background checks provided by the Contractor on each employee must cover a period of not less than seven (7) years and include records for all addresses at which the employee has resided during that time period. Background checks older than 60 days at the time of receipt by the Local Partnership will not be accepted. To ensure adherence to federal and state laws and regulations, criminal background checks will be accepted from an established, reputable reporting agency pre-approved by the Local Partnership; or a source subsequently approved in writing by the Local Partnership’s President. Criminal background checks will be accepted, reviewed and maintained in accordance with the Local Partnership’s Policy governing such, a copy of which can be provided to the Contractor up on request. *Please note this item may not be applicable.*

15. Conflict of Interest:

The Contractor expressly asserts that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services required to be performed under this Contract. The Contractor shall not employ any person or subcontractor having such interest during the performance of this Contract. The Contractor further agrees to notify the Local Partnership in writing of any instances that might have the appearance of a conflict of interest.

These do not consist of the entire terms and conditions, a copy of which can be provided upon request.