

UNITED WAY OTTAWA – CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SCHOOL READINESS – PRIORITY GOAL DESCRIPTION

Investment Strategies	Healthy and Resilient Children Ready to Learn
Key Issues	• Children learn at their fastest rate between birth and age six; • In Ottawa, 25% of children entering school score low on one of more domains of the Early Development Indicator; • In vulnerable neighborhoods the number increases to 40%; • 32,000 children in Ottawa live in poverty. Schools, child care centres and early learning programs are increasingly dealing with issues related to the child's inability to deal with self-regulation and everyday stress. Children who begin school ready to learn are much more likely to succeed in school than those that do not.
Addressing Systemic Change	Living in safe and caring environments, having basic needs met, providing opportunities to develop competencies, and having stable and nurturing relationships are the significant pre-conditions to healthy physical, emotional, cognitive, and social growth in children.
Funding Categories	Focus investment on programs that are evidence informed and demonstrate impact and where Parent/Primary Caregiver engagement is a key component Support for vulnerable parents Programs that increase parental/caregiver awareness of, and improved infant and child development in, the following areas: • Physical health and well-being, • Social Competence, • Emotional Maturity, • Language and Cognitive development, • Communication skills and general knowledge Skill development for children through play and parental interaction
Research and Evaluation	Continue to invest in the Ottawa Child and Youth Initiative for the continued development of frameworks and shared measurement based upon the Ottawa Child and Youth Initiative "Charting Outcomes" indicators.
Convening	Continue to support the Ottawa Child and Youth Initiative in convening multi-sectoral stakeholders to coordinate resources and to enhance overall effectiveness
Advocacy	Continue to support the Ottawa Child and Youth Initiative in advocating for the adoption of promising practices and common evaluation tools and to increase the community's understanding of the importance of early childhood development
Target Populations	Priority populations include vulnerable low-income, multicultural, Francophone, Aboriginal, rural, those with disabilities and the LGBTQ communities.