



**THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NO. 2023-003 EOI

Mental Health Professional Development

For

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board

Child Care Submission Template

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from non-profit organizations to create a mental health model of professional learning that supports EarlyON Child and Family Centres service providers in their role.

The Province of Ontario has recognized that over the past two years, the COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on children and families. The COVID-19 Pandemic and associated lockdowns have negatively impacted the mental health of children, families, and caregivers, by increasing stress, and other mental health symptoms including, irritability, hyperactivity, inattention, depression, and anxiety. Early identification of mental health challenges and providing supports as early as possible is critical and can lead to improved achievement in school and better health outcomes in life.

Based on the information indicated above, the province has committed to supporting this mental health funding over the next three years (2023, 2024 and 2025) within the EarlyON Child and Family Centre sector. The successful agency will commit to supporting this initiative over the indicated period and provide details of the three-year plan in their submission.

Submission Requirements

This successful agency(s) should have expertise working with birth to 6 years old children and their families /caregivers as well as have sound knowledge of the EarlyON Children and Family sector in the District of Thunder Bay.

The successful agency(s) will work to develop mental health resources and capacity building strategies to support children, families and the workforce in early years settings based on community needs by (but not limited to):

- Supporting the coordination of regional mental health supports for children, parents/caregivers, and staff;
 - Enhancing current professional learning supports to include mental health information for the EarlyON sector;
 - Supporting alignment with Ontario's provincial pedagogy for early years and child care settings: "*How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years*".
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If your agency is interested in submitting a proposal the following is required:

Description of Proposal – Business Case

- Proposed professional learning opportunities for educators and staff working in the EarlyON Child and Family sector in the District of Thunder Bay over the three-year period
- Identify the expected outcomes of the professional learning and how the proposed professional learning will support their roles when working with children and families
- Proposed opportunities for the professional learning to extend into other forms of support for the EarlyON community over the three years
- Timelines for the development and implementation of the professional learning over 2023, 2024, and 2025
- Resource requirements (personnel, start up, administrative infrastructure to support programming finance, human resources, information technology)
- Proposed budget

Evaluation Criteria

TBDSSAB will review submissions based on the following:

- Agencies knowledge of current conditions within the early years sectors as it relates to mental health of children, parents/caregivers, and service providers;
- financial sustainability;
- personnel requirements.

Agencies that meet the criteria of the EarlyON mental health model for professional learning, may be contacted for further discussion.

TBDSSAB may, as a result of the EOI, decide to proceed directly to negotiate a contract with an outstanding respondent (or the sole qualified respondent, if there is only one).

Submission Deadline

Expressions of Interest are to be addressed to:

The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
231 May Street South
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B5

and should be received by 4:00 p.m. local time on Friday, June 16, 2023.

An Expression of Interest may be submitted by email to the contact person named below, or it may be sent to the address specified above by mail or delivered by courier, in each case prior to the closing time.

Dave Stewart
Supervisor, Purchasing & Inventory Control
david.stewart@tbdssab.ca

Questions

All questions/inquiries related to this EOI shall be directed in writing via electronic mail to Dave Stewart, Supervisor Purchasing and Inventory Control as per contact information listed above.

Any information provided by anyone other than the above mentioned will not be considered binding, nor will it change the requirements of this EOI.

Late Expression of Interest

TBDSSAB, may in its discretion, accept, or reject and return, any EOI received after the closing time

Lack of Information

Following receipt of an EOI, TBDSSAB may, in its sole discretion and without having any duty or obligation to do so, request that the respondent provide TBDSSAB with additional information to clarify or substantiate the information provided by the respondent.

If a respondent fails to provide information required for TBDSSAB evaluation of the respondent's qualifications or fails to provide timely clarification or substantiation of the information supplied, that failure may result in no further consideration being given to the EOI.
