



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF ORANGE COUNTY Proposal for Professional Services

OVERVIEW

The University of Florida Lastinger Center is an education innovation hub that blends cutting-edge academic research and practice to transform education. We create equitable educational systems where every child and educator, regardless of circumstances, experiences high-quality learning every day to support children's achievement of critical milestones that are predictive of success in school and life.

Beginning in 2014, with its Early Learning Florida statewide professional development system, the Lastinger Center has expanded to provide professional learning opportunities to early childhood educators across the country. As a part of its Flamingo Early Learning systemwide professional development services, the Lastinger Center proposes to provide the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County a series of online courses focused on inclusion and promoting positive classroom climate. The courses will help support the providers they serve in guiding positive interactions, implementing inclusive instructional strategies, and welcoming classroom environments.

Supports will include:

- **Online, instructor-led courses** - Four online, instructor-led courses will be divided among the field team. Each member of the field team will engage in one course and share out their learning with the other members of the team.
- **Community of practice (CoP) support** – Eight hours of community of practice support will be provided to a cohort of 15 field staff. Supports will be both face to face and/or virtual.

ONLINE, INSTRUCTOR-LED COURSES

The following Flamingo Early Learning Online, Instructor Led Courses will be offered:

PreK Courses

- TBD
- TBD

Infant Toddler Courses

- TBD
- TBD

The cohort of 15 field staff will be divided among the four courses. To ensure continuity of the experience, the cohort will have the same UF Lastinger Certified Instructor to provide the ongoing feedback and support. The instructor will also work with the CoP facilitator to design and co-facilitate the wrap-around sessions.

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COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The UF Lastinger Instructor Professional Development supports reflect the high-quality engagements and learning opportunities that early childhood professionals in Florida have come to know and expect. Research has shown that our courses, when offered with blended supports, produce higher mastery and retention rates. A community of practice focuses on having participants share their wisdom, celebrate successes, and collaboratively solve problems as they engage in the course content and create action plans to transfer the learning to practice. Eight hours of CoP support will be provided throughout the course term and will be offered in-person and/or virtually. This set of professional development experiences requires and includes tools to enhance and grow the field staff's capacity to facilitate effective one-on-one adult learning experiences and create a culture of reflection and experimentation among the providers they are serving.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The UF Lastinger Center will provide regular technical assistance to the course practitioners. Technical Assistance can include IT support, course support, or CoP facilitator assistance.

DELIVERY AND DURATION

This hybrid work is anticipated to begin December 2021 and culminate at the end of March 2022.

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