

ADVISORY BOARD

Robert Dugger, Chair
Tudor Investment Corporation

Lynson M. Beaulieu
*The Schott Foundation for Public
Education*

Marcia Egbert
George Gund Foundation

Ron Haskins
Brookings Institution

James Heckman
University of Chicago

Paul Hirschbiel
Eden Capital

Stuart Hoffman
PNC Financial Services Group

Charles Kolb
Committee for Economic Development

Barbara Miller
Ohio Children's Foundation

Roy Miller
Children's Campaign

George Overholser
Capital One

Lynda Parmely
Horace Hagedorn Foundation

Dan Pedersen
Buffett Early Childhood Fund

Arthur Rolnick
Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank

Ada Sanchez
Peppercorn Foundation

Ann Segal
Wellspring Advisors

Jack Shonkoff
Harvard University

Eugene Steuerle
Urban Institute

Louise Stoney
Alliance for Early Childhood Finance

Sara Watson
The Pew Charitable Trusts

Kim Wallace
Lehman Brothers

Michael Weinstein
Robin Hood Foundation



PARTNERSHIP FOR AMERICA'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS: INVESTING IN CHILDREN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR IDEA PAPERS

BACKGROUND

The Partnership for America's Economic Success (Partnership) is seeking to commission papers from finance policy experts to examine policy options and financing vehicles to encourage investments in young children (prenatal to age 5) commensurate with their impact on state and national economies. Authors will be featured at a national meeting on innovative financing policies, and selected researchers may be funded to complete a larger project based on their initial paper.

The Partnership is a collaborative effort of leaders in business, economics, and philanthropy to make the successful development of all children the top economic priority of the United States (see below and www.partnershipforsuccess.org). It is commissioning a variety of research projects in order to document the connection between early childhood policies and investments and the economic success of states and the nation. It is also carrying out a range of strategies to focus attention on these results among academics, policy makers, the media and the public.

Much of the Partnership's research agenda will document the macroeconomic and microeconomic effects of early childhood investments. However, even if these impacts are found to be positive and significant, how to best capture those benefits in ways that support programs is unclear. Unlike many private investments, public programs are financed in ways that reflect their contributions to economic growth in only the crudest ways. Two challenges predominate. First, it is usually quite difficult to estimate a program's specific contribution to future growth. Second, ways to bring the financial benefits of future growth into the present to cover current program costs are difficult to design and implement. Research solicited through this RFP will explore what public and private policies and institutions are needed to finance the optimal delivery of services to parents and children by their families, communities, for-profit and non-profit organizations, and local, state, and federal governments. In particular, the Partnership is interested in soliciting proposals to address the following issues:

- Analysis of opportunities for redirection of federal funding, especially expenditures that are portrayed as supporting economic growth but do not have the research-based evidence of impact that exists for children's programs.
- Making better use of existing federal budget law, policy and procedures to force spending decisions to be considered on the basis of their contribution to economic growth and job creation.
- Changing existing federal budget law, policy and procedures to force spending decisions to be considered on the basis of their contribution to economic growth and job creation.

- Description of a macro-level financing system that would create a bond system or other financing mechanism to build a pool of funds for effective children's programming. The bonds would be financed based on improvements in child outcomes.

One additional point is important: this RFP seeks specifically to recruit experts both within *and* beyond the early childhood field, *particularly those who are unfamiliar with early childhood policy but who have deep expertise in a variety of financing strategies that could be applied to this area.*

PRODUCT

Researchers should plan to submit a draft and final product, with the final responding to questions and comments from the Partnership to the extent possible. The final product should be a 10-30 page thought/idea paper, which relies on the most rigorous existing studies and data available. Funding for each paper is negotiable, based on the scope and qualifications of the author(s), but it will generally be commensurate with the funding for an individual consulting project rather than a large initiative.

In addition, the Partnership will host a high-profile roundtable on financing investments for young children, either in Washington, D.C. or at a west coast location to be determined, and all authors will be invited to present their papers (travel costs covered separately by the Partnership).

TO APPLY:

Proposals should be no more than 2-4 pages and should include:

- (1) Description of the paper, including exact topics covered and how they will be addressed.
- (2) Qualifications of key personnel and organizational description (include c.v. for key personnel)
- (3) Commitment to attend the roundtable (if schedules permit)
- (4) Expected completion date, name of contracting organization (individual or institution), and full contact information for applicant (name, email, mailing address and telephone).

Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis, with the goal of contracting for papers by the end of March 2007. So earlier submissions are encouraged. Proposed contracts may be reviewed with the Partnership Advisory Board and other experts in finance and early childhood policy. Individuals, non-profit and for-profit organizations are eligible for contracts. Interested applicants should **e-mail** a proposal with the information above to Sara Watson and Elizabeth Gross at The Pew Charitable Trusts, which is the administrator and contracting organization for the Partnership. Applicants can contact Watson/Gross with preliminary ideas if they would like initial feedback.

Sara Watson
The Pew Charitable Trusts
1025 F Street NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20004
(202) 552-2134

swatson@pewtrusts.org

eigross@pewtrusts.org

PARTNERSHIP FOR AMERICA'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS (www.partnershipforsuccess.org)

The Partnership is a new venture aimed at making the success of all children the nation's top priority. During this initial phase (2006-2008), the Partnership will commission a variety of research to document the economic impacts of interventions that help children grow into successful, productive adults. The Partnership is currently funded by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, Robert Dugger, George Gund Foundation, Horace Hagedorn Foundation, Paul Tudor Jones, Ohio Children's Foundation, Peppercorn Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, PNC Financial Services Group, Scholastic, Inc., the Schott Foundation for Public Education and an anonymous donor. The Partnership is administered by The Pew Charitable Trusts.