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July 18, 2011

Elizabeth M. Hyde, PhD
Department of Early Learning
PO Box 40970
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Dr. Hyde:

As the President and CEO of the private-public partnership Thrive by Five Washington (Thrive), I support the Department of Early Learning (DEL)'s FY 11 application for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, FOA HRSA-11-185.

Thrive by Five Washington will oversee the grants to local MIECHV Program funded communities, provide implementation supports through a statewide Implementation Hub, and leverage additional funding through the Home Visiting Services Account to provide public and private dollars for home visiting programs in the state.

We look forward to working with DEL to accomplish the activities outlined in this grant application by serving as the Implementation Hub. Our roles include:

- Manage the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA) including funding that will support implementation through the MIECHV Program. This will be overseen by the Thrive's Deputy Director and Home Visiting Director.
- Implement EBHV in the selected communities outlined in the grant. Thrive's Home Visiting (HV) Director (.5 FTE), HV Manager (.5 FTE), and Grant Administrator (.25 FTE) will oversee contracts, technical assistance and performance of each of the program.
- Provide implementation supports for EBHV programs through a Statewide Implementation Hub and support of model specific technical assistance. This includes training, coaching, reporting and continuous quality improvement for program development based on implementation science.
- Oversee the rural development work in Grays Harbor County utilizing Thrive staff and a contracted Rural Development Consultant.
- Provide technical expertise and support for local programs to meet the legislatively-mandated benchmarks and use data as part of ongoing CQI efforts.

This work will continue to build on Washington's strengths in developing an integrated system of services and supports for families with young children to improve the health and development outcomes for at-risk children through evidence-based home visiting programs.

Sincerely,

Nina Auerbach

Nina Auerbach
President & CEO, Thrive by Five Washington

www.thrivebyfivewa.org
1218 Third Avenue, #800, Seattle WA 98101 Phone: 206.621.5555 Fax: 206.652.0761

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WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Area Health Education Center of Eastern Washington

July 18, 2011

Elizabeth M. Hyde, PhD
Department of Early Learning
PO Box 40970
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Dr. Hyde:

I support the Department of Early Learning (DEL)'s Maternal, Infant and Early Child Home Visiting Programs application for FY 11, FOA HRSA-11-187.

Washington State University has a long history working with Washington's home visiting programs on evaluation. We look forward to working with DEL to accomplish the activities outlined in this grant. Washington State University's Area Health Education Center (WSU AHEC) is prepared to act as the benchmarks and data management lead for the MIECHV Program work.

WSU AHEC is a community research and development unit and is currently responsible for the two state home visiting demonstration programs (the Council for Children & Families EBHV program and the Thrive by Five Washington managed Home Visiting Services Account).The proposed plan for meeting the legislatively-mandated benchmarks has been developed in consultation with the 4 state agency partners and Thrive by Five Washington. WSU AHEC will be ready to begin implementation upon approval of the Updated State Plan and FY 11 application.

Sincerely,

Christopher Blodgett PhD
Washington State University

P.O. Box 1495, Spokane, WA 99210-1495
509-358-7640 • Fax: 509-358-7647 • www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu • ahec@wsu.edu

Cooperating agencies: Washington State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Washington counties. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

American Indian Health Commission for Washington State

"Improving Indian Health through Tribal-State Collaboration"

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Member Organizations:
Seattle Indian Health Board
NATIVE Project of Spokane

July 18, 2011

Elizabeth M. Hyde, PhD
Department of Early Learning
PO Box 40970
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Dr. Hyde:

The American Indian Health Commission (AIHC) supports the Department of Early Learning (DEL)'s FY 2011 MIECHV Program application.

We look forward to being involved in this project by supporting efforts to improve home visiting services for tribal families. Drawing from some of the research and work that the AIHC has already accomplished with our Tribal Maternal-Infant Health Strategic Plan we will work with DEL and tribal partners to explore home visiting models and approaches that could work best for our American Indian populations and explore how to build services in non-tribal and tribal areas to support families where they are. According to the HomVEE research there was little or no research on the effectiveness of home visiting program models for families from American Indian Tribes. Washington currently has several tribal grantees funded with federal dollars that are looking at community needs and exploring models for community fit. As part of this grant, we will partner with the Dept. of Early Learning to:

- Report on home visiting in tribal communities and current gaps in services
- Identify options for culturally competent home visiting approaches informed by national research and Washington State efforts. Solicit tribal input on preferences.

In the anticipated contract with the Department of Early Learning, this work would provide an unprecedented opportunity to improve the health and development outcomes for American Indian/ Alaska Native children and families through this important initiative. Thank you for this opportunity, we look forward to this collaborative work.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Scott, Chair
American Indian Health Commission

*808 North 5th Avenue; Sequim, WA 98382 ** Phone: 360-582-4881 ** Fax: 360-582-4885 **
E-mail: aihc@aihc-wa.com ** Website: www.aihc-wa.com*