

Be a Change Agent! Become an Early Childhood Action Partnership Facilitator

The Early Childhood Action Partnerships Technical Assistance and Training project is a one-year campaign to develop and strengthen early childhood partnerships throughout Illinois. Up to sixteen communities will receive mini-grant funding and technical assistance to meet locally-driven goals. **Illinois Action for Children is recruiting a cadre of 5-10 Partnership Facilitators** to provide high quality, locally responsive technical assistance from November 2012 through April 2013.

The Role of a Partnership Facilitator

Partnership Facilitators will be asked to work in one to three communities, with an estimated time commitment of 15-30 hours per community. Facilitators will be paid a set stipend per community and reimbursed for travel expenses.

Specific tasks will be determined by local need and project capacity, but may include:

- Meet with lead agency to plan for local work
- Draw on knowledge and experience to provide local support and guidance
- Facilitate one to three partnership meetings to: assess need/perform SWOT analysis; identify critical issues and root causes; develop action agenda; develop partnership vision and strategic goals; or other purpose as identified as a technical assistance need

Qualities and Characteristics of a Potential Partnership Facilitator

To be considered for this role, a Partnership Facilitator must have:

- Working knowledge of collaboration building, early childhood system components and interdependencies, and system change strategies
- Experience with planning and facilitating meetings that engage participants with diverse perspectives and range of knowledge
- Interest in driving systemic change at the organizational, local, regional, or statewide level
- Ability to see the big picture, connecting the dots when there is no clear outcome but a multitude of opportunities
- Familiarity with data analysis and strategic planning
- Passion for partnership-building, openness to new ideas, and willingness to engage in a process where there is no single “right answer”

Does this sound like you? Here's how to apply:

Send a brief letter of interest to Kathy Stohr (stohrk@actforchildren.org) by September 4, 2012 and plan to attend one of two training sessions (September 10 in West Chicago; September 12 in Bloomington).