

***Child Care Assistant Program for Transitional Youth Research Study Proposal***  
**September 3, 2014**

**Background**

In Arizona, three agencies exist for the function of regulating child care (day care), including the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Department of Education (ADE). As the primary regulating agency for child care centers, ADHS manages the licensing, certification, and monitoring of the staff-to-child ratio for child care centers. For operators of child care centers, effectively employing day care assistants can lead to successful labor management. The ratio of employees to children is often a child care center's greatest selling point and challenge and is legally mandated by state regulations. Therefore, child care centers generally hire more part-time staff to keep the staff-to-child ratio high, which includes assistants and interns. Wages have remained stable over the past five years because centers use the staff-to-child ratio as a competitive marketing strength.

Arizona is in fact one of the youngest states in the country with over 450,000 children under the age of 5 years old. With such a universal demand for child care here in the state, child care centers are trying to fill Child Care Assistant (CCA) positions, especially within Maricopa County. Due to the large turnover and current unfilled CCA positions, ADHS and the ADDPC have initiated discussions about creating a CCA program for transitional youth. The transitional youth program would be through Maricopa County area high schools and allow transitional youth to gain work experience and possible certification as a CCA.

**Project Scope**

The proposed project would be the first phase in determining interest among Transition Planners at high schools in Maricopa County and may include the following school districts: Scottsdale, Gilbert, Mesa, Phoenix Union, and Paradise Valley. In order to achieve the key project objective of accessing the level of interest among Transition Planners in the Child Care Assistant Program for youth in transition, Partners In Brainstorms would provide the following services:

- Research and identify potential Transition Planners at the district-level and high schools within Maricopa County for participation in the research study.
- Develop a detailed Interview Guide that may include possible key components of the CCA Program to gauge interest among Transition Planners in the program with the understanding that it may begin in the junior year and extend beyond age 18.
- Conduct and audio record the one-on-one interviews with Transition Planners and other key stakeholders tasked with the development and implementation of transition plans. Access level of interest, opportunities and potential barriers.
- Transcribe the interviews, knowing that all personal information will remain confidential.
- Develop a detailed report of the key findings and insights. Provide actionable recommendations and proposed next steps for ADDPC to consider.

The following is an estimate which includes both a budgeted amount for ADDPC and an allocated match funding by Partners In Brainstorms. If ADDPC or any Council members have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Debra Pryor, President & CEO, directly at (602) 368-0005.

**PARTNERS IN BRAINSTORMS ESTIMATE  
 STATEWIDE RESEARCH AND SURVEY SERVICES  
 MASTER CONTRACT #ADSP013-038340**

ITEM #	ITEM CODE	DESCRIPTION	HOURLY RATE	PHASE 1					
				CONDUCT ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS WITH TRANSITION PLANNERS TO ACCESS FEASIBILITY OF DAY CARE ASSISTANT PROGRAM					
				BUDGET (ADDCP)		MATCH (PIB)		TOTAL	
				Number of Hours	Total	Number of Hours	Total	Number of Hours	Total
11	( 918 - 12 )	Research, Strategic Planning and Development, Survey Purposes - <b>Project Leader</b>	\$ 99.50	65.00	\$ 6,467.50	22.00	\$ 2,189.00	87.00	\$ 8,656.50
12	( 918 - 46 )	Research, Strategic Planning and Development, Survey Purposes - <b>Key Staff</b>	\$ 75.00	110.00	\$ 8,250.00	37.00	\$ 2,775.00	147.00	\$ 11,025.00
1	( 918 - 12 )	<b>Other Reimbursables</b> (Billed at costs and includes such items as printing, postage, etc.)	\$ -		\$ 110.00				\$ 110.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>175.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,827.50</b>	<b>59.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,964.00</b>	<b>234.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,791.50</b>

## **Partners In Brainstorms Experience**

As you know, Partners In Brainstorms (PIB) has extensive experience in research, strategic planning, program and workforce development that supports individuals with disabilities in Arizona. These include Untapped Arizona, the Governor's Council on Workforce Development, and federally required triennial State Needs Assessment Program (SNAP) for the Department of Economic Security's Rehabilitation Services Administration (DES-RSA), statewide independent living studies, as well as numerous program evaluation and client satisfaction evaluation studies for the Arizona Employment and Disability Partnership (AEDP), and Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).

What you may not know about PIB is that one of our areas of specialization in research and program evaluation is education and education-related programming for preschool through grade 12.

- For the Department of Economic Security Child Care Administration, PIB designed and implemented a statewide evaluation of the Statewide Child Care and Early Education Development System, or S☆CCEEDS, a professional development registry for child care and early education practitioners aimed at improving the status of those working in the fields and the quality of care and education for children and their families.
- PIB has a long relationship with Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and has conducted numerous research studies, evaluations, strategic planning and consulting services for several divisions within ADE for Pre-Kindergarten through high school, including the Transition to Teaching program.
- PIB is currently conducting research on preschool education materials being developed by LEGO Education, a division of LEGO that produces curriculum-based, hands-on resources for educators and students worldwide. In fact, we are conducting focus groups next week with Phoenix and Scottsdale-area preschool teachers.
- One of our major clients is the National Education Association, the 3.2 million-member professional organization for educators, education support professionals (ESPs), administrators and other education professionals for grades Pre-K through 12. We have conducted numerous nationwide research studies for NEA and its professional development arm, the NEA Academy, including a needs assessment concerning professional development opportunities and options available for educators and ESPs for grades Pre-K through 12.

## **Contact Information**

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