

Call for Proposals

Developmental Evaluation

Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS) is seeking a consultant to conduct a developmental evaluation of the Mobile Childcare Project.

Background

The Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS) is a non-profit organization established in 1975 with the goal of addressing the needs of immigrant and refugee women and their young children. PIRS scope of work originally focused on providing ESL programs for Cantonese mothers and their children in the Strathcona Community School. Early on, the founders recognized the need for childcare so that immigrant moms could participate in programs. PIRS has continued to expand in scope and offered child-minding for all programs so that immigrant mothers get the opportunity to socialize with the community and learn English.

Over the years, PIRS has found innovative methods to reach out to isolated immigrant women from many communities including the Italian, Greek, Punjabi, Khmer, Somali, Spanish, Kurdish, Pashto, Arabic, Farsi, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Mandarin speaking communities, among many others. PIRS programs generally fall into four areas which include: Children and Parenting, Language Skills, Community Development, and Employment Readiness and Leadership.

Project Objectives

PIRS has secured Service Delivery Improvement funding from the Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to address the issues of childminding, access to services, living wage and women's work within the settlement sector.

Settlement service providers who receive limited funds to provide on-call occasional child care are struggling to recruit and retain qualified staff. Immigrant and refugee women present a potential solution to improving access to quality child care. Newcomers who choose to work in the childcare sector deserve training that considers their circumstances and stable work that pays a living wage.

Immigrant women with young children remain at a disadvantage. The settlement sector reflects both historical Canadian values, and the values of countries of origin of newcomers. The male head of household remains the primary focus for settlement. Systemic barriers, such as funder policies around support services, licensing regulations and standards of care for children and the perception of childcare as lower valued women's work, hold the problem in place.

Access to quality child care is key to immigrant and refugee women gaining access to language and settlement programs that move them along the continuum of settlement. Program models and approaches need to be rooted in caring for and empowering women and their families.

Childcare centres are struggling to find qualified childcare staff.

This project

- Engages service users with innovators and experts in an exploratory process that uses social innovation techniques to understand underlying systems affecting immigrant women's settlement outcomes, and building knowledge and capacity around new service delivery models
- Adapts the delivery of settlement childminding services to more effectively meet the specific needs of immigrant and refugee women. Service users (immigrant women and settlement service providers) will explore the underlying systems, assumptions, and root causes that impact immigrant women's settlement outcomes.

While a Mobile Childcare service could address the issue of access to service and prepare children to succeed in school, it would be difficult for such an enterprise to break even. Entrepreneurs are good at making a profit. We will use a Hack-A-Thon to engage business, tech sector, start-ups and social entrepreneurs to crowdsource innovative business models.

Childcare requires specialized recruitment, knowledge, careful planning, and risk management that imposes an administrative burden on settlement service providers. In addition, childcare for newcomer children should include trauma-informed practices that allow for early identification, intervention and support for newcomer children who may have experienced trauma. In order to create administrative efficiency, a Mobile Childcare social enterprise service would coordinate delivery of settlement childminding service, and ensure consistency and quality.

A Developmental Evaluation approach will be used to support ongoing monitoring of outcomes and feedback that informs the process. The evaluation report will cover the entire contract term from October 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020. The evaluation will provide insight into how successful the project is in meeting its stated goals and recommend iterative changes to the process.

The total project budget over 3 years is \$1.1 million.

Contents of the proposal

The proposal should be concise and include the following components:

Experience of the consultant with similar projects:

Description of previous experience in similar projects if you are applying as an individual consultant. If applying as a group or firm, please provide your company profile including previous experience in similar projects with examples of projects worked on in the past.

Experience of the consultant with similar client groups:

For this section include a description of previous experience working with immigrant and refugee women, English as an Additional Language speakers and those who have experienced trauma.

Preliminary description of methodology and implementation plan:

Please provide the following:

- a) A description of the proposed methods/tools/information sources to be used to conduct the stakeholder consultations.
- b) A description of how each of the proposed methods/tools/information sources will achieve project objectives.
- c) A detailed work plan, including tasks, timelines and responsibilities. The consultant will include, at minimum, the following tasks:
 - Document review
 - Four meetings with PIRS staff
 - Develop questions and focus group procedures
 - Conduct focus groups and/or phone interviews with stakeholders (participants, partner agencies, funders, program staff, other stakeholders)
 - Conduct focus groups and/or phone interviews with program Alumni
 - Interim report and final report

Report of Results

Please provide a description of the main content components of the report, display of data and results. We will be seeking two concise and informative documents: an interim report at midway through the project and a final report.

Project Budget

To be negotiated with funder. Please provide an estimated budget + GST.

Proposal Submission

Proposals are due by August 16, 2018.

Proposals should be submitted by email to Mariam Bouchoutrouch, Executive Director at ed@pirs.bc.ca.

The consultant must be ready to initiate the project by September 1, 2018 with expectation to produce an evaluation report by June 30th, 2020.