Request for Applications

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is partnering with Sparkler to improve early child development outcomes by using the Sparkler mobile application to enhance developmental screening, surveillance and promotion. Specifically, OEC is providing Sparkler in targeted communities to provide improved access to developmental screening and referral services, deliver a library of off-screen developmental promotion activities, and connect caregivers and support services through messaging and data sharing.

OEC is currently piloting the Sparkler mobile application in two communities, Bridgeport and Hartford. In these communities OEC, Sparkler, and the Child Development Infoline have partnered with early care and education providers to help bring the app to families with young children at no cost to parents or providers.

Through this Request for Application, and OEC’s support, Sparkler is seeking to expand the Connecticut pilot project to 3 or more interested communities. This RFA intends to identify communities who present innovative and integrated strategies to screening and promotion for families with young children ages 0-5, with an emphasis on families 0-3.

Sparkler’s mobile platform (available in English/Spanish) has the following capabilities:

- **Screening and Referral**: Mobile delivery of the ASQ®, including the ASQ-3 and the ASQ:SE-2 (licensed from Brookes Publishing Co.), including reports for parents and providers. Integration with Connecticut’s Child Development Infoline to flag and follow-up on parental concerns;
- **Coaching**: In-app follow-up with families when needed to supportive interactive exchanges of questions and ideas between parents and early childhood professionals;
- **Content**: Personalized libraries of engaging, off-screen activities (including adapted ASQ intervention activities), aligned with early learning standards and informed by the latest advances in brain science; platform for adult learning to promote understanding of child development;
- **Data Sharing**: Dashboard access for providers to screening and engagement information, and the potential for API sharing data to link source systems.

To learn more about the Sparkler app, please consult the attached presentation, and/or contact Garth Harries at garth@playsparkler.com or 475-414-6576. To sample the Sparkler app:

1) Search “play sparkler” in the App or Play Store;
2) Create a new account;
3) Use the registration code 1203 to access the CT Sparkler Environment;
4) Follow the registration process to create a child using the “CT Admin and Test Account” group and skipping the provider key;
5) Including a birthday that puts the child between 0 and 6 years old.

The application process involves two steps:

- Written applications due by **June 3rd, at 5pm** and emailed to: connecticut@playsparkler.com;
- Applicants will be selected for a phone interview to assess readiness and capacity for implementation.

Applicants will be considered and evaluated on a rolling basis. Questions may be submitted to connecticut@playsparkler.com.
Request for Application
(total application should be no more than three pages)

Name of Lead Agency:
Address of Lead Agency:
Community Name:

Name of Contact Person:          Contact Person Phone:
Contact Person Email:

List of Project Partners other than Lead Agency:

Intended population focus in the community (i.e. ECE Center parents, WIC programs, etc):

Approximate number of children/families ages 0-3 in proposed focus population:
Approximate number of children/families ages 4-5 in proposed focus population:

Please describe the current state of developmental screening in your community:

Please describe your planned dissemination approach for Sparkler in your community. Include factors and/or program elements you think would encourage families to complete screenings and/or engage in developmental promotion through Sparkler:

Briefly describe your (lead agency) experience/expertise as an influencer with the population you are proposing to serve with Sparkler: