## Guiding Questions for Developing the Application (OPTIONAL)

Guiding questions for each component of the application are presented below to help you think about how to respond to the criterion. It is not necessary to answer all of the guiding questions.Rather,use the questions to help address each component in a way that best describes how it applies to your proposed Community Network Pilot. Do not type the guiding questions into the application.

### *Guiding Questions for Application Component A – Network Partners*

1. Who are the stakeholders in the community that are providing early childhood care and education services? Are all included as partners?
2. Who are the supporting partners? Are there any supporting partners that are not included now but will be recruited later? Are higher education, your area’s Workforce Investment Board, Resource and Referral Centers, and private funding organizations included?
3. How will this Network involve special population stakeholders and service providers?
4. How do/will these stakeholders work together to develop the Pilot and ensure regular, ongoing communication and shared learning? How do/will the stakeholders resolve disagreements?
5. How did your Network make the decision about designating the “coordinating agency”?
6. Is this partner experienced in fiscal matters, capable of receiving and tracking project funds?
7. Will this partner have staff capacity to serve as the fiscal agent?

### *Guiding Questions for Application Component B – Committed Leadership from Partners*

1. What organizations will likely lead change? What should their roles and functions be?
2. How will top leaders work together regularly to improve outcomes for young children in your Network?
3. How do you see evidence of committed top leaders – do they regularly attend meetings, follow through on commitments, work through challenges openly?
4. Are there existing examples of what top leaders have already accomplished to increase capacity, improve the quality, and facilitate access to early childhood services?
5. How will local networks address tension between collaboration and competition?
6. What will it take to implement the new Birth to Five Early Learning Standards across all programs in the proposed Pilot Network?
7. What information is currently available about the quality of the programs in your proposed Pilot Network?
8. How will your Pilot Network leadership address improving program quality?
9. How do you share data collection, reports, or information across organizations? If not currently doing this, how this could be done?

### *Guiding Questions for Application Component C – Leveraging and Sharing Resources to Increase Capacity*

1. What critical elements are required to build and sustain a local early childhood network?
2. What kinds of leveraging or sharing strategies are used in your Network now?
3. Are diverse delivery strategies currently in use?
4. Moving forward, how might organizations work together on any of the strategies?
5. If not currently leveraging or sharing resources, how do you imagine your Community Network Pilot would benefit from support to implement resource-sharing strategies?

### *Guiding Questions for Application Component D – Professional Development*

1. What is the state of your existing early childhood care and education workforce? Consider education, credentialing, experience and quality evaluation or assessment?
2. How should the need for intensive support be determined? What drives this need (i.e., factors in workforce profile that predict need for more/less support)?
3. Is there currently an active Learning Community anywhere in the proposed Pilot Network?
4. What needs to happen to establish a local Learning Community?

### *Guiding Questions for Application Component E – Ease of Access for Families*

1. Is the current system effective for informing parents about program availability and quality for all age groups?
2. What would be required to create a seamless process for families to access programs and services?
3. How will your Community Network Pilot make it easier for parents to learn more about the programs available and their quality?
4. What are the best approaches for communicating information about program quality with families?