

PACER Center
U310A180001
State Served: MN

PACER Center, a statewide nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis, MN with 40 years of experience in family engagement, is delighted to be submitting this proposal to serve as Minnesota's Statewide Family Engagement Center (SFEC). PACER will partner with the Minnesota Department of Education; urban, suburban, and rural school districts; and community organizations serving culturally and racially diverse, low-income and other disadvantaged families to build a statewide infrastructure for family engagement.

PACER's SFEC project design was developed around 5 goals:

- Goal 1. Partner with Minnesota Department of Education, local school districts, and community organizations to build statewide infrastructure for family engagement in education. PACER will maintain a project advisory committee; collaborate with state and others on systemic policy and practice initiatives; and provide technical assistance to state on effective family engagement strategies.
- Goal 2. Provide technical assistance to districts, schools, and community organizations on best practices in family engagement, especially for culturally and racially diverse and low-income students. PACER will present professional development trainings and provide individual technical assistance to districts and schools, with a focus on serving culturally and racially diverse and low-income families.
- Goal 3. Provide direct services to parents, with a focus on culturally and racially diverse and low-income families, to assist them to be more engaged in their children's education and help students reach challenging academic standards. PACER will conduct trainings, provide individual assistance, and develop resources to support families to have high expectations for their children leading to improved academic outcomes.
- Goal 4. Conduct outreach to culturally and racially diverse and low-income families and disseminate new resources and project information statewide to increase impact of project. PACER will partner with community organizations and diverse media to conduct outreach to families; develop and translate print and electronic resources; and disseminate project information through newsletters, websites, and social media.
- Goal 5. Conduct thorough evaluation of all project activities in order to provide periodic performance feedback, measure progress toward achieving intended outcomes, and produce promising evidence of project's effectiveness. PACER will collect data on numbers of people served; conduct evaluations of all training activities; and implement pre- and-post surveys to measure project impact.

PACER's project design addresses two competitive preference priorities: 1(a) Provide direct services to parents and families through evidence-based activities; and (2) Provide families with the information and tools they need to make important decisions regarding the educational choice that is most appropriate for their children.

Expected project outcomes include: increased family and school staff capacity to effectively work together to meet academic and developmental needs of children; increased parent knowledge of how to understand education system and support children's academic achievement; sustained statewide infrastructure of systemic family engagement; and improved student academic achievement and development.