

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE LETTER OF INTENT



OVERVIEW

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will support Start Early Washington (SEWA) by providing guidance, insights, and strategic advice on SEWA's programmatic and policy efforts. This will include things like new home visiting models, innovations and improvements to existing models, strategies to effectively meet the needs of communities beyond home visiting and expanding support to the early learning workforce. While SEWA has historically focused our program work on home visiting practices, we are intentionally broadening the focus of this advisory committee's scope to include the early learning systems that support families with young children. Our goal is to create a community with common goals and interests, and we highly encourage "outside of the box" thinking!

THE OPPORTUNITY

Start Early Washington (SEWA) centers the voices of early learning professionals and individuals with experience supporting children and families across the state. This inaugural community advisory committee will provide an opportunity for SEWA to gain insight into the experiences of families in Washington and help SEWA in identifying policy priorities.

COMMITMENT

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members will be asked to participate in a one-time orientation call/webinar to review the role.

There will be approximately 4-6 CAC meetings scheduled per year. The cadence of meetings will be determined by the committee. Meetings will typically be no more than 2 hours and will be most frequently offered virtually.

- Quarter 1 – Monthly for one hour to provide time for rapport building among the CAC members
- Quarters 2, 3 + 4 – Quarterly Meetings

The first meeting is planned to take place in March of 2025.

All CAC travel costs incurred will be reimbursed, and stipends are available to participants. A complete compensation guide will be shared with all members outlining the compensation structure.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Individuals representing diverse backgrounds, cultures, and languages

Start Early is committed to cultivating an environment built on the values of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. We recognize that generations of institutional racism and long-tolerated inequities have negatively impacted the children and families we serve. Among the longstanding inequities include things such as a lack of economic opportunity, over-policing and police brutality, inaccessible healthcare, housing instability and environmental inequities. We are devoted to ensuring diversity in the voices that have input into our work.

2. Geographical Representation

Start Early Washington supports professionals across Washington State. We understand that no two communities are the same. Some communities may have existing early learning programs, or some may have experienced barriers and challenges in accessing resources and in implementation. As a statewide organization, we want to ensure diversity in geographic representation on the committee.

3. Diversity of Knowledge and Experiences

SEWA is looking for individuals that have broad experiences in early learning. This can include but is not limited to home visiting, Early HeadStart/HeadStart, child welfare, childcare, Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers, etc.

SUBMISSION TIMELINE

Application Due	January 10, 2025
Eligibility	Individuals with interest and experience in working with or advocating for families with young children (see "Selection Criteria" below) are encouraged to apply.
Members Selected	8
Selection Notification Date	February 5, 2025
Term Limits	Professionals will serve for 2 years with opportunity to renew membership by submission of a new LOI.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Interested individuals should submit a LOI using the **template linked [here](#)** by **Friday, January 10, 2025 to startearlywa@startearly.org**. Current connections with SEWA are not a prerequisite to submitting an LOI.

Start Early Washington team members will review applications and will select up to eight individuals to participate in this inaugural committee.

Applicants are encouraged to send questions to Alex Patricelli at apatricelli@startearly.org by Monday, January 6, 2025.