

Request for Proposals: Reading Recovery Cost Effectiveness

Statement of Purpose: Cost effectiveness is a concept that often guides policy and decisions that influence the services available for children that struggle with early literacy learning. The federal What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) has tried to evaluate the evidence for effectiveness of various programs, but cost effectiveness still remains a largely subjective judgment. We seek to contract for an analysis of cost effectiveness evidence related to one-to-one and small group early intervention programs.

Background Information: The WWC review of beginning reading programs has demonstrated substantial effects for Reading Recovery. The studies included in this review and additional evidence from sources such as the *Every Child a Reader* initiative in the London public schools and the National Data Evaluation Center's annual reports on Reading Recovery, suggest that early intervention can make a substantial impact on struggling reader's initial literacy achievement. Still, over the past eight years many districts have eliminated their Reading Recovery programs and reassigned their intervention teacher to work in small groups. Schwartz, Schmitt and Lose (2008) examined the effectiveness of Reading Recovery trained teachers working with either one-to-one, or with groups of two, three, or five children. This study suggested that only the one-to-one condition had a substantial impact in returning children to the average of their peers on a measure of text reading. We believe that one-to-one intervention is a critical component in a system that also includes small group and effective classroom instruction. We are seeking an analysis of cost-effectiveness evidence related to this type of comprehensive literacy support for beginning readers.

Scope of Work: The selected provider will:

1. produce a review of the cost-effectiveness literature related to early literacy intervention,
2. gather and analyze data on the effectiveness of Reading Recovery and other relevant interventions, including but not limited to the Schwartz, Schmitt & Lose (2008) study, in terms of cost effectiveness.
3. Consult and report on the progress of this analysis with a team from RRCNA.
4. Produce and submit one or more manuscripts suitable for publication in journals intended for literacy researchers, policy makers and/or school administrators.

Outcomes and Performance Standards: The award will be distributed in three periods. The first period will be on acceptance of the RFP. The second will be made based on determination by the RRCNA team of significant progress on items one and two in the above scope of work. The final period will follow the acceptance by the RRCNA team of one or more manuscripts judged to meet the goals in item four of the scope of work.

Deliverables:

1. An interim report on the effectiveness data gathered on Reading Recovery and other intervention approaches. This report will indicate how this data will be used in the cost effectiveness analysis and the planned approaches to cost effectiveness.

2. Manuscripts suitable for publication in journals intended for literacy researchers, policy makers and/or school administrators.

Terms of Contract: The contract should be completed by April 2010. The maximum award is \$30,000.

Requirements for Proposal: Explain your:

1. Approach to cost-effectiveness analysis.
2. Perspective on early intervention effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.
3. Plan to meet the scope of work.
4. Qualifications of the team to perform the scope of work.

Provide vitae for key personnel. Please limit the proposal to 10 pages, not including the vitae.

Submission: Please e-mail your proposal to the contacts listed below.

Evaluation and Award Process: We will evaluate proposals based on the approach to cost-effectiveness analysis described and our judgment of the ability of the research team to complete the scope of work.

Process Schedule:

1. Proposals reviews will begin in December 2009.
2. Selection of contractor by January 2010.
3. Project completion by May 2010

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