



Parish of Ascension

CLINT COINTMENT
ASCENSION PARISH PRESIDENT

JIM BURAS
PURCHASING DIRECTOR

February 2, 2023

RFQ - Community Development and Outreach Services

Addendum No. 1

Clarification: Section 2.2: RFQ Inquiries

1. Can the Parish provide more information about the Cradle to Career Foundation and Early Child Education Program for which the selected vendor will provide outreach services?

Nicholls State University in Thibodaux has been instrumental in the launch of the early childhood learning center in Donaldsonville.

NSU has partnered with Ascension Parish government to provide a team of specialists to establish the Smart Start Ascension Early Childhood Learning Academy, which was touted by Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards and several officials at the historic B. Lemann and Bro. building earlier this month.

The center's framework will be centered on promoting children's self-awareness, competence, self-worth and physical well-being, while also providing families support in assisting children to accomplish these goals outside of the classroom. The specialist team will work to develop and support strong relationships with enrolled children, children's families and the local community while embracing diversity, inclusive practices and mutual respect.

Prior to development of the early learning center, families in the Donaldsonville community found it difficult to obtain quality childcare so crucial to child development.

As the permanent site will take an estimated two years to construct, Ascension Parish officials have said the first floor of the historic B. Lemann and Bro. building could be utilized sooner for the program.

The move to the permanent location at 1200 St. Patrick Street would be about January 2025.

The partnership has been a collaborative effort with Ascension Parish government, the Ascension Parish School Board, the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, the Ascension Parish Library, the City of Donaldsonville, and other entities.

2. How are the Cradle to Career Foundation and Early Childhood Education Program funded and what are their respective operating budgets?

Budgets are not provided.

3. What role is the Nicholls State University education team playing as part of the Early Childhood Education Program?

See above item number 1.

4. Is the Early Childhood Program mentioned in the RFQ the same as the Ascension Early Childhood Ready Start Network?

No.

5. What is the budget for this project?

Budgets are not provided.