

**PROPOSED CONTINUATION OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW
CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Proposed Partner United Way of Greater St. Louis

Investment Outcome 2a Children receive support and are encouraged to learn.

Partnership Target By June 30, 2007, 350 children, age birth to 5 years, of low income working families will be cared for in an accredited child care program in the City.

Purpose of Partnership:

- Ensure that children from low income working families in the City are cared for in a high quality child care program
- Provide partial scholarships for high quality child care for children from low income working families that are not eligible for state child care subsidies

Summary:

All families need access to quality child care, regardless of their ability to pay. Yet the cost of quality care is prohibitive to low income working families. The average cost of child care for an infant in a high quality (accredited) program in the City is \$244/week. In order to assist these “working poor” families access high quality care for their children, the United Way provides partial scholarships for these families at one of their United Way member child care agencies. All of the member child care agencies are accredited, which means that they have successfully completed a rigorous self study process and have met the quality standards established by the accrediting body. The member agencies have indicated that the financial assistance is either a short-term solution for a parent who has lost a job and is searching for employment or is a longer-term solution for families that are not eligible for child care subsidies from the state if they are making more than \$8.00/hour. Thus, these partial scholarships allow self-sufficient families to remain self-sufficient and those that are struggling just above the poverty line to achieve self-sufficiency.

In addition to the financial assistance provided to the families, the children are cared for in a quality child care setting. Studies confirm that the quality of child care has a significant impact on a child’s early learning, and thus their readiness to start school successfully.

Financial Commitments:

The total budget would not exceed \$50,000. The United Way will provide a minimum match of \$104,000.

Duration:

The proposed duration of the partnership will be 1 year from the date of the signed Memorandum of Agreement.