



PARENT CHILD COALITIONS: PROGRAM AND FUNDING CRITERIA

HEALTHY CHILD MANITOBA PARENT CHILD COALITIONS PROGRAM AND FUNDING CRITERIA

Introduction

We know that children who grow up in safe, nurturing environments have better success throughout their lives. Parents have the most important impact on their child's healthy development. There is strong evidence that healthy brain development relies on positive stimulation and nurturing, proper nutrition and good health in the earliest years of life. We recognize that addressing early childhood care and learning works best when parents, communities and governments work together in partnership.

In Manitoba, this understanding has led to a child-centred policy framework built on two foundations: economic justice through financial supports; and social justice through community-based family supports.

Healthy Child Manitoba Vision

The best possible outcomes for Manitoba's children.

Healthy Child Manitoba Mission

Healthy Child Manitoba works across departments and sectors to facilitate community development for the well-being of Manitoba's children, families and communities.

Based on current research on the critical importance of the early years, the priority focus is on conception through infancy and the preschool years. Research has shown that the growth and development of the brain during this period is rapid, extensive and has profound effects for children's intellectual, physical and social-emotional health. Brain development also depends upon the nurture and nutrition that children receive. The impact of the early years lasts for life.

Healthy Child Manitoba Goals

To their fullest potential, Manitoba's children will be:

- Physically and emotionally healthy;
- Safe and secure;
- Successful at learning; and
- Socially engaged and responsible

Guiding Principles

■ **Community-based**

Communities are partners with government in the governance and delivery of supports for children and families. Partnerships and collaboration for service delivery builds on existing community networks and foster new networks. The most effective approach for building self determination and healthy communities is developing services sensitive to the local capacities and needs of children and families

■ **Inclusive**

Programs and services invite and welcome the participation of all children and their families, sensitive to their traditions, culture, language and abilities.

■ **Comprehensive**

A spectrum of services, across sectors, is available to support families and the healthy development of children

■ **Integrated**

Program and planning and service delivery are coordinated across sectors to provide the best possible integration of supports for the specific needs of each child and family. Local community agency networks are utilized for integrated service delivery. To the degree possible, programs should be harmonized with Federal, Aboriginal and Municipal initiatives.

■ **Accessible**

Services and programs are available and accessible to families and their children across Manitoba.

■ **Quality Assurance**

Services will be based on local, national and international best practices. Government will develop and maintain standards for service excellence. Programs will have clearly articulated and measurable outcomes with ongoing evaluation.

■ **Publicly Accountable**

Governments and communities share responsibility for ensuring that programs achieve their outcomes and are delivered in a cost-effective manner.

What is a Parent Child Coalition?

“A diverse group of individuals and organizations who work together to reach a common goal.”

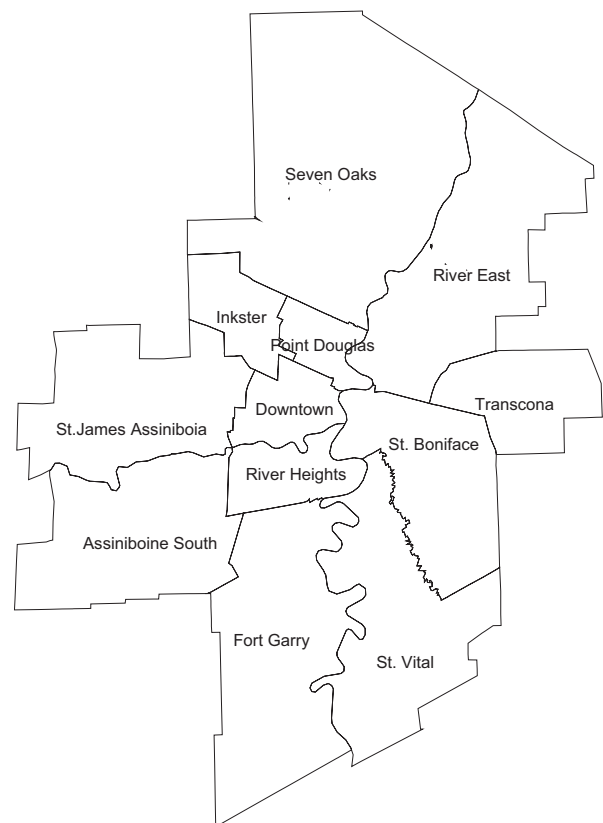
The Parent Child Centred approach brings together community strengths and resources within a geographic boundary through partnerships or coalitions of groups from different sectors. This approach promotes and supports community-based programs and activities for children and families. The parent child coalitions support existing activities and initiate new activities that reflect each community’s diversity and unique needs.

There are 26 funded coalitions province-wide: 23 regional coalitions (11 regions outside Winnipeg and 12 community areas within Winnipeg) and 3 cultural organizations. Additionally, a number of family resource centres across the province receive parent-child funding under this initiative. The Parent Child Centred approach includes community-based initiatives offering programs that provide support and education to families with young children.

RURAL



WINNIPEG



Membership

Healthy Child Manitoba supports the development of cross-sectoral partnerships and regional coalitions within a geographic boundary. Coalitions are encouraged to engage a variety of community partners:

- Parents and community members;
- School Divisions, Regional Health Authorities, Child Care Community;
- HCM Partner Departments, Friendship Centres, Child and Family Services, Aboriginal people and organizations, police services, advocates for children with disabilities;
- Business or civic leaders, cultural organizations, faith organizations;
- Local political leaders and others in policy making positions

Program Goals

- To engage community partners from the public, private, volunteer and other sectors in a shared vision to support healthy children, families and communities.
- To establish a working coalition of community stakeholders to share expertise, experience and resources and to identify needs and priorities and develop a sustainable plan for addressing those needs in a manner appropriate to the community.
- To support early child development and parenting activities that complement, build upon and enrich existing programs or introduce new programs to address identified gaps in services or resources.
- To promote healthy outcomes for children and families through the priority activities of positive parenting, nutrition and physical health, learning and literacy, and community capacity building.
- To demonstrate the impact of the initiatives through measuring and monitoring program outcomes.
- To share local level Early Development Instrument (EDI) results with coalition partners to help communities make informed decisions about how to support the development of their children.

Priorities

Parent Child Coalitions support programs and services for families with young children with an emphasis on activities that involve both parents and children. A variety of child-centred and/or parent-oriented activities are encouraged.

Parent Child Centred activities build healthy child development through the core activities of:

- **Positive Parenting:** Activities to support and enhance parents' ability to nurture the healthy development of their young children. (ex: parent education programs, parent support groups, information and referral services, parent-child groups and activities, toy and resource libraries, drop in activities.)
- **Nutrition and Physical Health:** Activities to promote healthy lifestyles through education and community supports. (ex: parent education programs, nutrition guidance, community kitchens, activities promoting physical activity and fitness, injury prevention)
- **Learning and Literacy:** Activities to support the learning success of children through opportunities to improve family literacy and participate in quality early childhood experiences. (ex: creative play and recreation programs, reading, writing and storytelling activities, parent-child drop-in programs, lending libraries.)
- **Community Capacity-Building:** Activities to build community capacity through leadership opportunities, volunteering and community service. (ex: education, networking, exchanging information on research and best practice, engaging community in planning programs and services)

Evaluation

Measuring outcomes is an important component of the parent-child centred approach. HCMO is working with coalitions to develop a common evaluation framework, share best practices and support local evaluation interests.

To date, the parent child coalition evaluation has included:

- consultations with the coalitions; and
- the distribution, collection, and analysis of process surveys (including measures of community context, parent-child activities, and system integration).

Funding Criteria

To receive annual funding support, Parent Child Coalitions will:

- Reflect the vision, mission, and guiding principles of Healthy Child Manitoba
- Demonstrate a focus on positive parenting, nutrition and physical health, learning and literacy, and capacity building
- Develop Terms of Reference
- Ensure that funding to outside organizations is provided to non-profit, incorporated organizations.
- Ensure that all funded organizations meet the program guidelines as outlined by HCMO
- Involve community residents and stakeholders in the planning and implementation of the programs
- Demonstrate the existence of community capacity to support the program
- Agree to participate in a common evaluation framework and share learning.
- Submit an annual Status and Activity Report outlining their previous years' activities and their plans for the coming year

Eligible Expenses

- Personnel costs
- Honoraria
- Rental of space
- Utilities
- Insurance
- Maintenance
- Program materials
- Program and office equipment
- Travel expenses
- Training
- Snacks for participants
- Audit and bank charges
- Advertising
- Community assessments

Non-Eligible Expenses

- Capital purchases such as land or buildings
- Major renovations
- Major equipment
- Budget deficits
- Replacement of government funding

Role of the Banker

- Organizations (Bankers) responsible for financial management on behalf of a regional coalition must be an incorporated organization or agency, and must ensure proper financial management.
- Coalitions should request that Bankers provide any internal policies and procedures that may have implications for the transferring of funds.
- Coalitions should appoint no fewer than two signing authorities at any time and inform the Banker by letter of any changes.
- Coalitions should provide to the Banker copies of their annual Status and Activity Report as submitted to HCMO as well as an updated copy of their Terms of Reference

Coalition Staff

If a coalition chooses to hire a coordinator to conduct the business of the coalition and /or offer parent child programming, the contract or employment agreement must be with a non-profit, incorporated member of the coalition. As the coalition is not a legal entity, there cannot be a legal employment agreement between the coalition and the coordinator.

It is recommended that the coalition Banker assume the role of employing authority on behalf of the coalition. The Banker should have the infrastructure to support the human resource needs of the position. The coalition will be responsible for developing the job description and providing direction and supervision to the coordinator.

Indemnification of Manitoba Parent Child Coalitions

Healthy Child Manitoba will provide legal indemnification until March 31, 2009, to all unincorporated regional Parent Child Coalitions (and their members) funded by HCM, against any civil liability claims that may arise in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Province. The indemnification will be re-evaluated in 2009, and may be extended.

This indemnification would apply to any individuals carrying out activities on behalf of the coalitions including paid staff and /or volunteers, and is limited to civil liabilities only. This indemnification does not apply to outside organizations funded by the coalitions; these groups must be non-profit, incorporated bodies and hold adequate liability insurance. Indemnification would not apply to direct employer liabilities, or charges under the Criminal Code of Canada, or the Highway Traffic Act.

For more information or if you have any questions:

Healthy Child Manitoba Office
219–114 Garry Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 4V6
Tel: (204) 945-2266 • Fax: (204) 948-2585
Toll Free: 1-888-848-0140

Or visit the Healthy Child Manitoba website at www.gov.mb.ca/hcm