



## CHILD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, INC

999 Crupper Avenue · Columbus, Ohio 43229 · (614) 431-2186

Brenda Rivers, CEO

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Date: 02/24/2025

Dear Members of the Proposal Review Committee,

As the Health Services Director for the Child Development Council of Franklin County, Inc., I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal submitted by St. Vincent Family Services (SVFS) to expand social-emotional learning to support early childhood kindergarten readiness. Expanding these early childhood mental health services will continue to help our children develop skills to understand and manage their emotions, set goals, and build relationships with peers and teaching staff.

Our organization has partnered with SVFS for the past few years to provide early childhood mental health services to our children and families. We meet with staff from SVFS regularly to discuss the mental health needs of our community, develop strategies, and set goals to meet those needs. From my experience with this partnership, I am confident that SVFS is a community expert in evidence-based social-emotional learning services with a specialized focus on trauma-informed care. SVFS's Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation program has served children ages 0-6 in early learning centers, and Head Start centers across Franklin County for over 15 years and currently provides consultation to 35 early learning centers. Furthermore, SVFS uses a trauma-informed social-emotional skill development approach built on safety, connection, and problem-solving, providing services rooted in quality, evidence-based models.

In conclusion, SVFS is uniquely experienced in collaborating with community partners to deliver high-quality social-emotional services to early childhood programs and at-risk populations, and approving their proposal would be crucial to supporting kindergarten readiness for children. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support their proposal.

Thank you for considering this important proposal.

Sincerely,

**Moussa Cisse**, Health Services Director

Child Development Council of Franklin County, Inc.

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