



## **START SMART INITIATIVE EVALUATION CRITERIA**

A team from the Department of Economic Development and experts from the field of education will evaluate the proposals on:

- Need – defined as the availability and capacity of early childhood educational opportunities in the proposed service area;
- Impact – defined as the extent to which the proposal will address the documented population of children in the proposed service area without access to quality early childhood education opportunities;
- Efficiency of Plan – defined as the cost per square foot and the cost per beneficiary;
- Capacity– defined as the non-profit applicant’s history and experience in early childhood education and its relationship with the local school district;
- Sustainability– defined as the strength of the plan for ongoing operation beyond the term of the funding requested;
- Quality– defined as a subjective analysis of the curriculum and educational instruction proposed, as evaluated by professionals with expertise in early childhood education;
- Outcomes – defined as the degree of which measures are proposed to effectively and objectively measure project outcomes;
- Beneficiaries – defined as the cost per beneficiary.