Excel by Eight Initiative
Communities Consultant
Scope of Work

The Arkansas Campaign for Grade-Level Reading (AR-GLR) and lead partners Arkansas Children's Hospital, Arkansas Community Foundation, and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation have developed the Excel by Eight (E8) Initiative in collaboration with over 20 statewide entities. Our vision is a state where all children have access to quality health care and education that maximizes their full potential, regardless of gender, income, ethnicity, or geography.

Through E8, AR-GLR will work with communities to build local movements resulting in models for change around the state that dramatically increase health and education outcomes and close equity gaps for children ages birth to eight. These models will fuel a statewide movement propeling Arkansas to the top of national rankings. AR-GLR will support this movement by identifying and addressing policy barriers that make it difficult for communities to build and strengthen the grid of resources that help children and families succeed. AR-GLR will also work with communities to build public understanding of early childhood development and public will to build strong resource grids statewide.

The Communities Consultant will support AR-GLR to design and implement a strategy that organizes and engages individuals and organizations in E8 communities to make the AR-GLR E8 vision a reality. Specific deliverables include:

Communities
1. Develop and maintain relationships with community leaders in five to eight E8 communities around the state.

2. In partnership with community leaders, build a base of community members who demonstrate a commitment to the E8 vision and principles. The base should include individuals and organizations that are engaged in and/or affected by the systems we seek to change. Key stakeholders include parents and families, early childhood educators, schools, health care professionals, business leaders, and elected officials. Members of the base should engage in the decision making and work of the local coalition.

3. Meet regularly with E8 community coalitions to facilitate and/or coach them to collect and analyze data; learn about innovative programs and strategies; set goals and objectives; develop plans; develop funding proposals; implement plans; track data on goals and objectives; evaluate; and update plans as needed.

4. Plan and execute webinars, phone calls, and in-person meetings of the E8 learning community.

5. Facilitate connections between E8 communities and technical assistance, data analysis, grants, and other resources offered by E8 steering committee members and other partners.

Policy
1. Document policy barriers identified by communities, and work with communities and other AR-GLR consultants to identify potential solutions.

Public Will
1. Facilitate E8 communities' participation in the development and implementation of the E8 public will campaign, in partnership with other AR-GLR consultants.

Backbone
1. Participate in regular meetings including the AR-GLR team, the E8 management team, the E8 steering committee, and the E8 data committee.

2. Document progress and challenges in each community, in writing and through photos and video, to help tell the story of the E8 initiative.

3. Contribute to the development of grant reports and funding proposals.

As the initiative develops, other deliverables may be added to the scope of work.

Travel Requirements - The consultant can expect to spend 60 to 80 percent of time on this project traveling the state to work with E8 communities.

Resumes and letters of interest should be submitted to Angela Duran, aduran@ar-glr.net.