



## Request for Proposals (RFP)

April 30, 2025

**From:** Center for Public Justice, faith-based non-profit (501c3)

**Subject:** Colaboración con la Familia, Faith-Based Research Partnership Opportunity

**Submission Deadline:** May 30, 2025

**Performance Period:** Fall 2025 - Fall 2028

### Project Overview

The Center for Public Justice (CPJ) invites proposals from qualified Christian academic institutions and/or research centers to conduct a multi-year, mixed-methods research project as part of *Colaboración con la Familia*, a national initiative exploring faith-formation practices in Hispanic-serving, faith-based child care providers.

This initiative aims to strengthen faith-based parenting and caregiving by identifying and amplifying effective practices that support the spiritual development of children through trusted child care settings rooted in Hispanic faith communities.

CPJ is a nonpartisan, Christian civic education and public policy organization whose mission is serving God by equipping citizens, developing leaders, and shaping policy to advance justice for the transformation of public life.

### Rationale

The *Colaboración con la Familia* initiative emerges from an urgent need to support the faith-formation of children in Hispanic families, particularly those navigating work and caregiving through faith-based child care. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed both the instability of the nation's child care ecosystem and the deep disparities faced by low-wage Hispanic parents—many of whom relied on trusted, faith-based care providers but lacked access to resources that honored their faith and cultural context.

While extensive research exists on family engagement in secular early childhood programs such as Head Start, there is a gap in the literature surrounding how Hispanic-serving, faith-based providers can collaborate with Christian parents to support simple, effective faith-formation practices. CPJ's prior landscape studies in partnership with faith-based researchers have uncovered meaningful practices already in use, yet these practices are often informal and unsupported by research-driven tools.

This initiative seeks to close that gap by identifying, evaluating, and amplifying the most effective faith-formation strategies currently in use—ensuring that working Hispanic parents and their faith-based child care providers can partner in transmitting Christian faith and values to the next generation. Research findings will inform the creation of accessible, bilingual resources and training for providers, equipping them to serve families more effectively and faithfully.

Rooted in CPJ's longstanding commitment to equipping faith-based institutions, advocating for family-supportive public policy, and applying research in service to real communities, this project combines theological conviction with practical action. It reflects CPJ's belief that research should not remain on the shelf—it should be lived out in community, practiced by God's people for the common good.

### **Faith-Based Child Care in Hispanic Communities**

Faith-based child care in Hispanic communities exists within a diverse and often informal ecosystem that includes a wide range of provider types. While *Colaboración con la Familia* will focus on **congregation-based providers**, it is essential to acknowledge that many Hispanic-serving faith-based caregivers operate within **in-home and family settings**, and may be either **licensed or unlicensed**. This diversity reflects a deeply contextualized response to community needs—where trust, flexibility, affordability, and cultural familiarity often outweigh formality.

Congregation-based programs may be housed in churches, but some faith-inspired providers operate from their homes, sometimes without formal recognition or regulatory status, especially in communities where immigration status or bureaucratic hurdles present barriers to licensure. The research *must* attend to these dynamics with cultural sensitivity and awareness, recognizing that providers across this spectrum play a vital role in both caregiving and faith transmission. The study will need to engage this complex landscape to understand and elevate the faith-formation practices that thrive within it.

### **Funding Dynamics and Access**

An essential aspect of understanding the faith-based child care ecosystem involves examining the **financial models** that make this care accessible to families. Many Hispanic parents utilize providers who operate outside of traditional subsidy systems, while others rely on **government-funded child care subsidies**, such as state voucher programs, to afford care. In some cases, **congregation-based providers are subsidized directly by their churches or affiliated ministries**, allowing them to offer more affordable care or to serve families regardless of

immigration status or income documentation. Still, others operate on modest parent fees or volunteer support, often with little financial cushion. As part of this project, we are particularly interested in how **financial arrangements affect the sustainability and accessibility** of faith-based care, and how these models intersect with **trust, faith-formation, and parental engagement**. The research should capture not only how families are paying for care, but also how providers are sustaining their operations—and how those financial structures support or constrain their faith-based mission.

## Research Objectives

The research team will:

- Identify and analyze **key faith-formation practices** used by Hispanic-serving, faith-based child care providers.
- Examine how **Latino parental engagement** with these providers, and vice versa, supports faith and values transmission to children.
- Develop a **taxonomy of faith-formation practices** to inform the creation of faith-based resources and training materials.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of a **two-cohort pilot program** (2026–2028) involving 72 providers who will implement newly developed resources.

## Scope of Work

The selected research partner will:

1. Collaborate with CPJ's project team and **CCLF Advisory Group** to align research activities with program objectives.
2. Design and implement a **mixed-methods study** involving surveys, interviews, and focus groups with child care providers and parents.
3. Analyze data from two pilot cohorts and **evaluate outcomes related to faith formation** and parental engagement.
4. Produce **timely analyses** that inform CPJ's production of research reports and publications.
5. Participate in periodic planning, review, and dissemination meetings.

## Deliverables

- Research design and IRB materials (Fall 2025)
- Quantitative and qualitative research instruments

- Interim reports and thematic analyses (2026–2027)
- Final research analyses and internal reports (Summer 2028)
- Participation in CPJ forum(s) to discuss research findings and reflections

### **Ideal Research Team & Collaboration**

The ideal research team will demonstrate both methodological rigor and cultural fluency, with experience conducting mixed-methods research in partnership with faith-based or community-based organizations. Teams should have a demonstrated understanding of Latino family dynamics, early childhood care, or faith-formation practices, and a commitment to research that informs real-world practice. CPJ values a collaborative research process in which the selected team works in close partnership with CPJ's Director of Faith-Based Policy and Research and the initiative's Advisory Board to shape research instruments, interpret findings, and inform resources for practical application. The team will participate in periodic meetings with CPJ's Director of Faith-Based Policy and Research, *Colaboración con la Familia* Advisory Board, and evaluation consultant, and will be expected to maintain transparency, responsiveness, and adaptability throughout the project. CPJ views this as a mutually respectful partnership, not a vendor relationship—one rooted in a shared commitment to equipping Christian parents and caregivers through actionable, field-grounded research.

### **Timeline**

The research project will run for **three academic years**, beginning **Fall 2025** and concluding **December 2028**. The proposal should reflect alignment with the following phases:

- **Planning & Instrumentation** (Fall 2025 – Spring 2026)
- **Pilot Phase I Evaluation** (Fall 2026 – Spring 2027)
- **Pilot Phase II Evaluation** (Fall 2027 – Spring 2028)
- **Final Evaluation & Dissemination** (Summer 2028 – Fall 2028)

### **Budget Parameters**

The maximum available for this research partnership is **\$400,000 over 36 months**. Proposals should include a detailed budget narrative and timeline aligned with deliverables.

### **Proposal Requirements**

Proposals must include:

1. A project narrative (5–7 pages) describing the research approach, methodology, and alignment with project goals.

2. A proposed timeline of major activities and deliverables.
3. A budget and brief narrative justification.
4. Résumés or CVs of key personnel.
5. A description of the institution's capacity to conduct and support the project.
6. At least one sample of a similar research product (e.g., published report, evaluation, or study).

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated internally based on the following:

- Demonstrated understanding of **faith-based research and Latino communities**
- Strength and clarity of **research design and methods**
- Relevant experience and qualifications of the research team
- Alignment with CPJ's mission and values
- Feasibility of timeline and budget

### **Proposal Submission**

Please submit proposals and any questions to:

**Girien R. Salazar, PhD**

Director of Faith-Based Policy and Research

Center for Public Justice

[girien.salazar@cpjustice.org](mailto:girien.salazar@cpjustice.org)

**Deadline to Submit:** *May 30, 2025*

Shortlisted applicants will be invited for a virtual interview in June. We look forward to receiving your proposals.

CPJ reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal and to cancel the RFP process at any time.