



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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The Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) is offering a new round of early care and education grants to support 501(c)3 nonprofit service organizations directly serving our southwest Minnesota communities.



The Southwest Initiative Foundation is committed to supporting early childhood efforts. Our goal is that all children in southwest Minnesota are ready to learn and succeed at their full potential.



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for
U.S. Community Foundations

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

One Connection. Unlimited Possibilities.

Request for Proposals Early Care and Education Grant

AREAS OF FOCUS

- **PreK-3rd Grade Alignment** – enhancing the continuity and consistency of learning for children ages birth to age 8.
- **Social and Emotional Development** – systems-building through the development of education, trainings and programs which continue to have a far-reaching impact.
- **Early Care and Education** – helping to increase access to and availability of high-quality early care and education environments.

Funding requests of up to \$5,000 will be considered. We expect that the project will be completed within 12 months of the grant award date.

This is a competitive grant program. It is our expectation that these funds will help our regional nonprofits address early care and education. Grants will be awarded in April 2016.

Questions can be directed to Jodi Maertens at 320-587-4848 or jodim@swifoundation.org.

Applications Due by 5 pm on March 17, 2016



Application Process

- Applicants must complete the pre-application questionnaire found at: swifoundation.org/grow
 - ❖ *Complete this **before February 17, 2016**. Please identify “Early Care and Education Grant” in the project title.*
- You will receive an e-mail confirming our receipt of your pre-application questionnaire.
- If you meet the criteria for the program, we will send you the full application, for you to complete and return. Remember, the **deadline is 5 pm on March 17, 2016**.
- Upon receipt, your full application is assigned to a staff grant reviewer. They will contact you with questions and schedule a site visit, if deemed necessary.
- You will be informed after the final decision is made on **April 1, 2016**.

Grant Guidelines

- All proposals must demonstrate a benefit within the following 18 counties in southwest Minnesota: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine.
- Proposals must be submitted by an independent 501(c)(3) organization, a unit of government, or by a public agency.
- Funding requests of up to \$5,000 will be considered. Matching funds are not necessary.
- Projects must be completed within 12 months of the grant award date.
- Only one grant application may be submitted per organization.

Grant Exclusions

Ineligible organizations or activities include:

- Individuals, businesses, or other for-profit organizations
- General operating expenses
- Capital funding, campaigns or endowments
- Funds for re-granting

Early Care and Education Grant Award Selection Criteria

**Proposals that are in line with the criteria below will receive priority consideration in our grant review process.*

- Applicant organization meets all eligibility criteria and any other requirements specified in this RFP
- Applicant organization’s mission and primary programs, services, and/or activities strongly align with the Southwest Initiative Foundation’s mission
- Impact — projects that demonstrate an overall impact within Southwest Initiative Foundation’s 18 county region through an evidence-based approach
- Collaboration/partnership — projects that work with other organizations in unique and impactful ways
- Community need — projects that successfully address an identified need and/or opportunity
- Measurable results — projects that can show quantitative results in this grant’s areas of focus
- Asset-based approaches — projects that maximize the strengths, talents and resources of the local community
- Replicability – projects that can easily be replicated throughout the SWIF region