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SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

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swifoundation.org

Early Care and Education Grant Request for Proposals

AREAS OF FOCUS

- **PreK-3rd Grade Alignment**
Enhancing the continuity and consistency of learning for children birth to grade 3 through trainings and professional development, resource development, strategy implementation, quality staff planning time or building community-wide approaches
- **Social and Emotional Development**
Building resilient communities through the enhancement of existing or development of new trainings, prevention, education and programs that continue to have a far-reaching impact
- **Early Care and Education**
Increasing access to and availability of high quality early care and education environments through (including, but not limited to) staff development, curriculum and/or assessment implementation, Parent Aware rating attainment, expansion of number of children in care, provider appreciation, community conversations, etc.

Funding requests of up to \$5,000 will be considered. We expect the project will be completed within 12 months of the grant award date, at which time a final report will be due.

This is a competitive grant program. It is our expectation these funds will help our region address early care and education. Grants will be awarded in May 2019.

Questions can be directed to Jodi Maertens at (320) 583-4775 or jodim@swifoundation.org.

Applications Due by 5 p.m. on April 26, 2019



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Application Process

- Applicants must complete the full application found at swifoundation.org/how-to-apply/grants/early-care-education/.
- You will receive an email confirming our receipt of your application and will be assigned to a staff grant reviewer for consideration. They will contact you with questions and schedule a site visit, if deemed necessary.
- You will be informed by email after the final decision is made on **May 18, 2019**.

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.
- A final report is due following the grant period.

Grant Exclusions

Ineligible organizations or activities include:

- Individuals, businesses or other for-profit organizations
- General operating expenses or specific religious purposes
- 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