



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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The Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) is offering a second 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 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 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 through (including, but not limited to) staff development, curriculum and/or assessment implementation, Parent Aware rating attainment, expansion of number of children in care, etc.

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 at which time a final report will be due.

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 May 2017.

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

Applications Due by 5 pm on April 21, 2017



Application Process

- Applicants must complete the pre-application questionnaire found at: <https://swifoundation.org/grow/grants/pre-application-questionnaire/>
 - ➔ Please select *Early Childhood Initiative* as the funding priority you are applying for
- You will receive an e-mail confirming our receipt of your pre-application questionnaire
- For consideration of the Early Care and Education grant RFP, please complete the additional questions below in a word document and email them to grants@swifoundation.org with the subject line "2017 Early Care and Education Grant Additional Questions" by the grant deadline of **5 pm April 21, 2017**

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

1. Describe the need for engaging in the proposed early care and education project.
 2. Describe how your approach is based on established best practices in early care and education that will most likely lead to the desired outcomes for the organization.
 3. Describe how this project impacts southwest Minnesota children and families.
 4. List any other organizations you are collaborating with on this project.
- Upon receipt, your pre-application questionnaire and additional questions will be filed together and 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 after the final decision is made on **May 19, 2017**

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

Have you included everything?

- Pre-Application Questionnaire
 - Selected *Early Childhood Initiative* under funding priority
- Completed additional questions in a word document
- Submitted additional questions to grants@swifoundation.org with subject line "2017 Early Care and Education Grant Additional Questions" prior to **5 pm on April 21, 2017**