

Southwest Minnesota Early Care and Education Request for Grant Proposals

The Southwest Initiative Foundation has an open grant round to support youth ages 0-8 across southwest Minnesota. The average grant award is expected to be approximately \$4,000, however grants with a large impact spanning multiple populations will be considered for amounts up to \$20,000. Not all grant proposals will be awarded, and supplemental information may be requested before an award is determined. Future rounds of proposals may be requested if funds allow.

Grant applications will be reviewed beginning on August 15, 2022, with a final deadline of September 5, 2022. Funds will be awarded by September 30, 2022. Please see below for additional requirements. Awarded projects must be completed by September 30, 2023.

For more information and to access the grant application, visit bit.ly/2022GEERgrant

This special grant program will help fund early care and education wrap around services for children birth to age eight from underserved populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Organizations that work with these children in SWIF's southwest Minnesota region, which includes 18 counties and two Native nations, are eligible to apply.

This grant provides emergency assistance for education agencies and services that have been impacted by the pandemic. Wrap around services, a system of care management which supports children in all aspects of life, are one of many education services that the GEER Fund supports.

Funding from this grant can help cover mental health services and supports, supplemental after-school programs, distance learning programs and social, emotional and physical health supports. Additional allowable uses include training and development to more effectively operate during the pandemic, or other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in early care and education. Applicants must serve children birth through age eight from historically underserved populations.

Reporting information will be required and will include:

- Number of children (ages 0-8) impacted
- Number of parents and/or caregivers impacted
- List of populations served
- Lessons Learned
- Funds Leveraged
- List of partners and collaborators

AREAS OF FOCUS:



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



- High impact projects that will increase child success – including, but not limited to, mental health services, social/emotional support, enrichment programs, distance learning support, access to appropriate virtual platforms, etc.
- Early Learning and Development for youth birth through 8.
- Professional development for 0-8 caregivers or providers of educational, emotional, social, safety, or health needs.
- Supplemental after-school or summer learning activities targeted for youth 0-8.
- Intergenerational mentoring activities targeted for youth 0-8.
- Projects designed to align with the Grow our Own philosophy of building a healthy foundation for youth to thrive.

PREFERENCE GIVEN TO:

- Projects that will serve BIPOC, diverse, or underserved youth.
- Collaborative projects that bring together multiple providers or a broad range of recipients.
- Projects that will have a continued return on efforts.
- Projects with matching funds.
- Projects that can be replicated.
- Projects that maximize strengths, talents, and resources of the community.
- Applicant organization's mission and primary programs, services and/or activities strongly align with the Southwest Initiative Foundation's mission
- Projects that balance predictable returns with new and innovative solutions to challenges of youth and families.

GRANT GUIDELINES:

- All proposals must demonstrate a benefit within one or more of 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; or the Upper Sioux Community or Lower Sioux Indian Community.
- Proposals must be submitted by an independent 501(c)(3) organization, a unit of government, religious institution, or educational entity.
- No grants to individuals, businesses, or other for-profit organizations
- Projects must be completed within 12 months of the grant award date.
- No grants will be awarded for general operating expenses, capital funding, campaigns, religious activities or endowments
- No funds will be awarded for re-granting.
- A final report is due following the grant period.
- Southwest Initiative Foundation reserves the right to make modifications to the program in response to community need and available resources.

Contact Amy Brustuen with questions at amyb@swifoundation.org or (320) 221-4717.