

Request for Proposals
Early Childhood Advocacy
September 2019

Introduction

A group of private and public charitable foundations dedicated to improving the lives of babies, young children, and their families are seeking grantees to advocate for early childhood in New Mexico. Funders for this project include Brindle Foundation, Santa Fe Community Foundation, R.T. Keeler Foundation, and Thornburg Foundation. Our 2019 policy agenda is: “Adequate, sustainable funding to increase equitable access to the full continuum of early childhood programs (child care, FIT, PreK, home visiting, and workforce development).”

This policy agenda builds upon both the funding strategy laid out in the statewide “Early Childhood Business Plan” (<https://nmeccd.org>) and the new early childhood department. Our hope is that with an accountable, well-run early childhood system in place, the state will prioritize additional investments to expand effective programs.

Who should apply?

We will award grants to nonprofit organizations with demonstrated experience and capacity to engage diverse audiences. The group is most interested in new voices in advocacy on this topic and innovative ideas that educate and engage a diverse array of New Mexico citizens and policymakers around the importance of early childhood care and education.

Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status may apply for one-time grants of up to \$15,000.

Application

Proposals that demonstrate the following elements will receive the highest priority:

- Bring non-traditional voices in support of the early childhood policy agenda;
- Demonstrate ability to interpret and explain evidence-based research around early childhood education in a non-partisan and consensus-driven manner; and
- Include a realistic plan for evaluation of project impact.

Types of advocacy activities may include (but are not limited to);

- Drafting op-eds for local media;
- Organizing legislative briefings for media, members of the New Mexico Legislature and their staff, and the public;
- Participating in individual meetings with key stakeholders, including but not limited to members of the New Mexico Legislature; and
- Organizing advocacy events.

Applicants should submit a proposal according to the specification below:

- Cover letter on organization’s letterhead and signed by director; and

- Brief narrative with project description, goals, activities, timeline, key staff, and plan to measure results (not to exceed three pages).

Please also include the following attachments with the letter

- Project budget;
- Organization background; and
- IRS determination letter.

Funds cannot be used for lobbying as defined by the Internal Revenue Service.

Deadline and Grant Requirements

The application deadline is October 10, 2019. Selections will be announced by October 18, 2019. Please email your completed application to Diane Hamamoto at the Santa Fe Community Foundation (DHamamoto@SantaFeCF.org).

The grant period is October 2019 to March 2020. Each organization may only submit one grant request. Grant recipients agree to participate in a kick-off meeting in November 2019 as well as regularly scheduled conference calls.

Grants will be awarded through the Early Childhood Fund at Santa Fe Community Foundation.

For more information, please contact Michael Weinberg at Michael@thornburgfoundation.org