



Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Communities Addressing the Child Care Shortage Grant Guidelines

Effective December 2018

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is a regional development and philanthropic organization that fosters economic and community vitality in the 20 counties of southern Minnesota through a culture of collaboration and partnership.

SMIF's Communities Addressing the Child Care Shortage Grants are designed to assist communities in developing action plans to address local child care needs. Each community is unique in its needs; therefore, finding right-sized solutions to addressing the child care shortage in each community is of the utmost importance.

SMIF invites communities in our 20-county region to apply for this community engagement process. SMIF will develop and implement a unique action plan with each grant recipient community based on their unique needs. Applicant communities should be ready to engage in a process resulting in measurable outcomes. The length of the process will vary from 6-18 months dependent upon community needs.

This community engagement process increases the capacity of local leaders to implement child care solutions. We recommend the following sectors of the community be involved in the initial core team:

- Economic Development (city and county economic development staff)
- Employers (HR or other representatives from small, medium and large local employers)
- Child Care licensing (county staff)
- Child Care assistance (county staff)
- City and County Government (elected officials & administrators)
- Diversity
- Local philanthropy (United Way, Community Foundation, etc)
- Local non-profits working with children and families
- Community Education/School District/School Board
- Child care providers
- Chamber of Commerce
- Service organizations (Rotary, Lions, etc)
- Parents
- Community leaders and influencers
- Others working with or passionate about child care





The core team members will be highly engaged in the entire process and help to recruit and involve others in the community to assist as necessary. We recommend a core team of 10-15 individuals.

As selected communities identify and begin to implement solutions to the child care shortage, small implementation grants up to \$10,000 may be available for implementation.

Grant Guidelines

- Proposals must be submitted by an independent 501(c)(3) organization, a unit of government or a public agency.
- Proposals must demonstrate benefit to communities in SMIF's 20-county region.
- Proposals must include a list of 10-15 core team members and a core team leader.

Application Process

- SMIF awards grants on a competitive basis.
- SMIF will provide a public announcement highlighting the project on behalf of the grant recipient.

Important Dates

Release of application	December 6, 2018
Application due	January 22, 2019 by 4:00 pm
Grant awards made	February 19, 2019
Community Engagement Process Begins	Spring 2019

For grant award consideration, submit a completed application by January 22, 2019 at 4:00 pm via email to jenniferh@smifoundation.org or postal mail to:

Grants Coordinator
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
PO Box 695
Owatonna, MN 55060

All applicants will be contacted via email or telephone to confirm receipt of their application. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by February 19, 2019.

For further information or questions contact Teri Steckelberg, Early Childhood Director, at teris@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7015 or Jennifer Heien, Grants Coordinator, at jenniferh@smifoundation.org or 507-214-7040.

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