



Fact Sheet — 2014-2015 Grantees

What Is a Sheltering Arms Foundation Grantee?

In fiscal year 2014-2015, 38 nonprofit organizations across the state of Minnesota will use a total of \$450,000 in grant money awarded by the Sheltering Arms Foundation (SAF) for programs benefiting children and their families in Minnesota who are most vulnerable, have least access to resources, and are least likely to have a wide array of choices about their future. For more, visit <http://sheltering-arms.org/>.

Counties Served by Sheltering Arms Grantees in 2014-2015

Aitkin	Dodge	Martin	Rice
Beltrami	Freeborn	Mille Lacs	Scott
Blue Earth	Goodhue	Mower	St. Louis
Brown	Hennepin	Nicollet	Steele
Cass	Hubbard	Olmsted	Waseca
Clearwater	Itasca	Pine	Winona
Cook	Le Sueur	Ramsey	Yellow Medicine
Crow Wing	Mahnomen	Redwood	

Towns Served by or Headquartering Sheltering Arms Grantees in 2014-2015

Austin	Geneva	Minneapolis	Plymouth
Blooming Prairie	Grand Rapids	Minnetonka	Rochester
Duluth	Kasson	New Prague	St. Charles
Ellendale	Mankato	New Richland-	St. Paul
Fairmont	Mantorville	Heartland	Winona
Faribault	Medford	New Ulm	

Ethnic Populations Served by 2014-2015 Programs

African	Asian/Pacific Islander	Latino	Somali
African American	Hmong	Native American	

The grantees and the programs supported by SAF

A Chance to Grow (<http://www.actg.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves 11-county metro region. Grant supports expansion to southern Minnesota of ACTG's SMART program, which uses sensory/physical activity modules to provide brain stimulation associated with improved learning ability. SMART is designed for pre-k and elementary children, especially children with learning differences and low-income children; it is already used in more than 20 Head Start centers in northwest Minnesota and classrooms in the Twin Cities area. ACTG plans to take SMART statewide, beginning 17 pre-schools through the Southern Minnesota SMART Pre-K alliance.

(more)

Amaze (<http://www.amazeworks.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Grant supports expansion of collaboration between Amaze and the Minnesota Tribal Resources in Early Childhood Care (MnTRECC) to expand reach of the Native-centered version of Amaze's Families All Matter early childhood curriculum. Amaze originally trained early childhood staff from each of Minnesota's Native communities (9 reservations and 3 urban communities in the Twin Cities) to implement the curriculum. Expansion will develop a new 20-hour "train the trainer" program, enabling 15 new trainers to reach and train a second cohort of 160 providers, with subsequent multi-day visits to each of the new sites to support providers with the curriculum.

Appetite for Change (<http://www.afcmn.org/>)—\$11,000 grant

Located in north Minneapolis. Grant supports a new project integrating the Community Cooks and Fresh Start garden programs. Fresh Start Garden's program builds community and serves preschoolers through a gardening and cooking program. Community Cooks is a nutrition education program that brings people together to grow, cook, eat and talk about the issues that matter to the people served.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities (<http://www.bigstwincities.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves the Twin Cities metro area. Grant supports expansion of a new mentoring program for Hmong elementary school children, developed in response to risk factors such as low high school graduation rates and high teen birth rates. Adult and high school volunteers from the Hmong community have already been recruited to be mentors, with matches beginning to be made. BBBS will develop a culturally competent mentoring program for these children and BBBS mentoring materials will be translated into Hmong.

Bridges Kinship Mentoring (<http://bridgesmentoring.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Grand Rapids, serves Itasca County. Grant supports expansion of site-based mentoring, where adults meet youth ages 5-12 at the Grand Rapids Area YMCA to spend time together building friendships and exploring new interests. It will also establish a similar site-based program in the neighboring community of Deer River in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. Kinship is the only mentoring program in Itasca County.

Bright Water Montessori School (<http://www.brightwatermontessori.org/>)—\$8,000 grant

Located in north Minneapolis. Grant supports new Infant Parent Classes, to be offered to low-income and at-risk families with very young children (6 weeks to 2 years old), in order to empower parents earlier in their children's lives and create a pathway into the pre-school's Toddler Community. Bright Water is one of the few remaining accredited childcare centers on the north side of Minneapolis; it serves children 16 months old through 5 years old.

Camp Fire Minnesota (<http://www.campfiremn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Grant supports expansion of their programming to 2 new Minneapolis-based affordable housing communities – Portland Gardens Apartments in the Phillips neighborhood and Chicago Avenue Apartments in the Central neighborhood. Camp Fire will provide quality year-round out-of-school-time programming to 40 low-income African/African-American youth ages 5-12 to help them gain skills and experiences that prepare them for success in school and life.

Centro Guadalupano (<http://www.guadcenter.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in south Minneapolis. Grant supports expansion of their after-school program's literacy program, ¡Andalé! Readers. The after-school program serves Latino youth ages 5-15 from low-income families, all of whom are English language learners. Last school year, Centro Guadalupano implemented a pilot literacy software program for 4th to 6th grade students. Because that software focuses on phonics and oral fluency, this year Centro Guadalupano will broaden the literacy program by adding the Sound Reading online software for all of its students.

Centro, Inc. (<http://centromn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in south Minneapolis. Grant supports enhancement of Centro's dual-language Spanish-English Montessori early childhood program, Siembra Montessori, through the launch of the Family Resource Circle. Created due to parent requests, this new program will provide support and information to parents and guardians through monthly morning meetings, outside educators and experts, and several field trips. Siembra opened in 2013, quickly earned AMI accreditation, and is already seeing positive results of children doing well on kindergarten readiness assessments and high levels of parent involvement.

Child Care Aware of Minnesota (<http://www.childcareawaremn.org/>)—\$20,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. This public policy/advocacy grant supports increasing awareness of the Parent Aware rating system, particularly in rural communities where childcare programs are just becoming eligible to participate in 2014-2015, and reducing barriers to participation so that two-thirds of eligible providers are participating. A particular concern is to increase the numbers of family childcare providers participating. Federal rules through the Race to the Top grant mandate that by 2015, 48% of all childcare centers must be rated on the Parent Aware system and 22% of family childcare providers must be rated. A high rating on the Parent Aware system benefits both childcare providers and families, as it is a determining factor in whether a childcare center can receive the new MinneMinds scholarships, and it determines the level of subsidy a family can receive through CCAP.

Children's Theatre Company (<http://www.childrenstheatre.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in South Minneapolis. Grant supports expansion of CTC's Early Bridges early childhood initiative, which brings high-quality theater arts learning experiences based on best practices in early education to early learners ages 2-6 from low-income families in the Twin Cities. CTC will partner with 4 more early childhood centers, in addition to its current 12 partner sites. Also, as a direct result from parent feedback, CTC will bring children from these centers and their families to its theater to participate in its performances and early learning programs.

Duluth Area Family YMCA (<http://www.duluthymca.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in Duluth. Grant supports program enhancement of the Little Treasures Childcare Center to increase Little Treasures' current 2-star rating to 3 stars on the statewide Parent Aware quality ratings system. Funding will support staff development, including training on child development, nutrition, and a Parent Aware-approved curriculum called Creative Curriculum. The ultimate goal is to attain a full 4-star Parent Aware rating.

Hope Community Inc. (<http://www.hope-community.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. Grant supports expansion of the Learning In Community literacy program for children ages 6-9 and their families in Hope Community, an innovative affordable housing development, to add a parent component. Hope will work with parents to help them learn skills related to improving their child's literacy. They will hold parent trainings to support learning at home and strengthen the connection between what children are learning in in the program and what they are reading/writing at home.

InnerCity Tennis Foundation (<http://www.innercitytennis.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in Minneapolis. Grant supports implementation of a new education program created by National Junior Tennis and Learning, called the Academic Creative Engagement (ACE) program – a nationally accredited, research-based curriculum that blends academics with social-emotional skills and health. Founded in 1952 to make the sport of tennis accessible to young players with limited funds, ICT now provides educational programming, physical activity, and tennis to low-income Minneapolis youth ages 4-17, predominantly Latino.

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners (<http://www.iocp.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Plymouth, serves 8 suburban communities in west Hennepin. Grant supports the Caring for Kids Initiative to expand provision of mental health services for children ages 0-5 from low-income families in early childhood education programs. IOCP estimates that less than one third of the low-income children with documented mental health issues are receiving support, so this expansion will allow increased staff time to help families with insurance, transportation to appointments, and other support.

Joyce Preschool (<http://www.joycepreschool.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in south Minneapolis. Grant supports expansion of this bilingual preschool's home visiting program to include mental health services for low-income preschoolers and their families. Joyce will contract with Comunidades Latinos Unidas en Servicio (CLUES) for flexible units of service for a full range bilingual mental health and wellness services. Linguistically appropriate mental health services that offer a sliding scale and are accepting new patients are difficult to find. With the CLUES partnership, Joyce Preschool has established the relationship in advance for a referral.

Keystone Community Services (<http://www.keystonecommunityservices.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports expansion of the tutoring component of Keystone's Hmong Youth Program to include a summer term and to strengthen partnerships with participating schools to ensure curriculum alignment. An additional 10-12 youth will be served during the school year, in addition to the 28 currently enrolled and an additional 20 for the summer program. The St. Paul Public Schools Foundation is viewing the tutoring project as a pilot that could expand to other out-of-school-time partners in St. Paul.

LDA Minnesota (<http://www.ldaminnesota.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Golden Valley, serves the Twin Cities. Grant supports the Early Literacy program, which aims to increase reading readiness of children ages 3-5 in low-income families in inner-city locations. The program is also working to build parents' awareness of the important role families and the home environment play in fostering reading readiness.

Lifetrack (<http://www.lifetrack-mn.org/>)—\$18,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves Ramsey County. This public policy/advocacy grant supports a campaign by the Minnesota Targeted Home Visiting Coalition (MTHVC), for which Lifetrack is the fiscal agent, to develop a statewide set of practice standards and a coordinated system of tracking and measuring outcomes for home visiting professionals. Home visiting is the main strategy for reaching Minnesota's youngest children, especially those in families dealing with toxic stress, and an organized, statewide system will help organizations more successfully advocate for more resources.

MACC Alliance of Connected Communities (<http://www.maccalliance.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves the Twin Cities. Grant supports the Healthy Eating Healthy Minds initiative, which brings together 6 childcare centers in inner-city Minneapolis to enhance early childhood nutritional outcomes. Serving 400 children, the collaboration will use common curricula, a shared dietician, common food and product suppliers and shared programming space.

Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota (<http://www.mpmn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Grant supports MPM's advocacy work to act on policy issues for the 2015 legislative session. It will strengthen its partnership with Youthprise and Ignite Afterschool to educate the MN legislature about the social, emotional and financial benefits to young people when they participate in programming outside of the classroom and connect with caring adults. Engaging in advocacy is a best practice that many mentoring organizations don't feel equipped to do. MPM will hold trainings and webinars to share tips and best practices in advocacy and policy; and it will work with organizations to build relationships with their policy leaders and engage their stakeholders in advocacy.

Miller-Dwan Foundation (<http://www.mdfoundation.org>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in Duluth. Grant supports the creation of a new program for children birth to 5 years old at the Amberwing Center for Youth and Family Well Being, which serves children and families seeking mental health and substance abuse care. Funding will help create screening tools, provide emergency assessment services, parenting education, transportation costs, follow-up services and more.

MN Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (<http://www.mnaeyc-mnsaca.org>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. This public policy/advocacy grant supports Emerging Leaders in Advocacy project, which will train and motivate students of early childhood development to engage in advocacy work. MnAEYC recognized a need to develop advocacy skills in emerging early childhood educators to strengthen public and political support for investment in high quality early childhood programs and systems.

Montessori American Indian Childcare Ctr (www.americanindianmontessori.net)—\$15,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports the newly open childcare center's parent education program, called Family Language Nest. The program provides parents with supports they need to create a stable home environment that complements the time their child spends in the MAICC. The program will engage young children and their families in strengthening their cultural wellness through language acquisition (Ojibwe and Dakota) and culturally appropriate parenting practices.

Montessori Training Center of Minnesota (<http://www.montessoricentermn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports expansion of MTCM's parent education initiative to promote early literacy development, positive parent-child interactions, family health and stability, and increased school readiness. The expansion will increase the licensed social worker and parent educator staff time working with MTCM and the families from the adjacent housing project and the Montessori Partners Serving All Children community outreach program.

Neighborhood House (<http://www.neighb.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports expansion of the Skills for Schools program, a part of its early childhood program. Funds will enable the program to add 2 more days to its current 3 days per week, so that it is offered 5 days a week. Funding will also support the addition of a classroom aide to support students with disabilities.

Project FINE (<http://www.projectfine.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Winona, serving Winona and surrounding area. Grant supports expansion of the Learning Together Program, a coalition effort focused on introducing refugee and immigrant parents and their young children to opportunities available in the area in early childhood programs. The program will add a physical activity or game for parents and children during each large group session – many of the families served come from cultures that do not include early childhood education or the need to play outside with their children.

Resource, Inc. (<http://www.resource-mn.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Grant supports expanding the Building Resilient Families program, which works with children aged 0-5 whose parents are seeking treatment for chemical dependence, to provide services to the school-age children of parents within BRF and to include education, counseling and healthy child development opportunities in an effort to assist the children in their own recovery process. The out-of-school time programming will promote increased school attendance rates, academic growth and a life skills curriculum that encourages healthy habits, and increased engagement in afterschool activities including sports, arts and dance.

ServeMinnesota (<http://www.serveminnesota.org>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Grant supports the program that brings the Reading Corps model into family childcare settings and works with children, parents and caretakers. ServeMinnesota plans to add 9 childcare sites, for a total of 18 sites metrowide. Funding will support the expansion of the program in Minneapolis's Northside Achievement Zone and the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood. One criteria in selecting providers to participate is that they cannot be currently rated in Parent Aware; by participating, providers will receive a minimum rating of one star and will have elements to support achieving a higher rating in their second year.

So How Are the Children? (<http://www.shac4youth.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in Faribault. Grant supports expanding the summer programming for low-income youth to include 2 mobile home parks serving primarily Latino families. The programming will include math and literacy components as well as social emotional learning that will positively impact school success and improve behaviors that affect interactions with friends, family and at school. By providing the programming on site, the families are more apt to sent their children.

St. Anne's Place (<http://www.ascensionplace.org/stannesplace.html>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in north Minneapolis. Grant supports expansion of the emergency shelter's capacity of the center to engage preschoolers and their mothers in activities that promote healthy development, improve parenting skills, mitigate the adverse effects of trauma, prevent abuse, and help prepare children for school. These homeless parents, and their children, are under a huge amount of stress and this program will help them to manage their stress as well as learn critical parenting skills.

St. David's Ctr for Child & Family Development (<http://www.stdavidscenter.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in Minnetonka, serves the Twin Cities metro area. Grant supports expansion of a multidisciplinary mental health assessment team with a particular focus on increasing access to early assessment services for Somali children in northeast Minneapolis. Objectives are to increase access to assessment in children facing a barrier to services and identify root causes of challenging behaviors. There is a growing need for complex assessments in the Somali community, which has seen unusually high rates of autism and other mental health issues.

St. Stephen's Human Services, Inc. (<http://ststephensmpls.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in central Minneapolis. Grant supports alteration of the Incredible Years program to meet the needs of participants who have previously been homeless. The program will emphasize home visiting and individual family counseling, as opposed to only on-site group participation. Groups will also be modified to have more flexible settings. These changes contribute to St. Stephen's being able to more directly address the needs of homeless children and build capacity within its staff.

Think Small (<http://www.thinksmall.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. This public policy/advocacy grant supports the Voices of Parents Advocacy Program to build a trained group of parents who can tell their own story and help to advocate for more resources for quality early childhood programs. Think Small will train 60 parents—trainings that are a next step in "building ladders of engagement," moving parents' interest to active engagement such as meeting with legislators or giving testimony.

Way to Grow (<http://mplswtg.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. Grant supports expanding Great By 8, a program that helps children continue the gains in literacy made in pre-school through 1st grade. Great By 8 was launched in 2010 in response to growing research that confirms that academic achievement by third grade often predicts a child's future social, academic, and economic success. Expansion will include a new Early Childhood Nutrition Education Program and create a Parent Education Council to engage and empower families to advocate for better educational outcomes for their children.

Youth Farm & Market (<http://youthfarmmn.org/>)—\$11,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves Lyndale and Powderhorn neighborhoods in Minneapolis, and Frogtown and the West Side in St. Paul. Grant supports expansion of its Family Engagement Program, beginning with the Lyndale and Powderhorn neighborhoods and then expanding to the 3 newest program sites. YFMP will engage families by including them in harvests, cooking events, sending food home, community meals and individual contacts by phone and in person. The program uses urban farming and food education as a vehicle for community engagement.

YWCA of Mankato (<http://www.mankatoywca.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in Mankato. Grant supports expansion of Ready To Learn, an early-childhood education program for immigrant and refugee children ages birth to 5, providing summer programming to include group activities for immigrant families with children under age 5 in neighborhood parks. Activities would focus on early-childhood development and social/emotional development. Funding would also provide expansion of the program to include new populations of Sudanese and Latino families.

YWCA of Minneapolis (<https://www.ywcampls.org/>)—\$12,000 grant

Located in Minneapolis. Grant supports the YWCA's public policy program. The Y has worked closely with Think Small on early childhood advocacy issues and is proposing to expand that partnership with a series of 3-4 advocacy trainings of 20-25 parents each. Each training will engage parents from both organizations with 60 parents coming from Think Small and 20-30 parents coming from the YWCA's Children's Centers. The advocacy training content will be co-developed and co-presented.