



Fact Sheet — 2015-2016 Grantees

What Is a Sheltering Arms Foundation Grantee?

In fiscal year 2015-2016, 40 nonprofit organizations across the state of Minnesota will use a total of \$455,000 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 2015-2016

Aitkin	Douglas	Lake	St. Louis
Becker	Grant	Otter Tail	Stevens
Carlton	Hennepin	Pope	Traverse
Clay	Itasca	Ramsey	Wilkin
Cook	Koochiching	St. Croix	Winona

Towns Served by or Headquartering Sheltering Arms Grantees in 2015-2016

Duluth	Grand Rapids	Plymouth	St. Paul
Fergus Falls	Maplewood	Roseville	Stillwater
Golden Valley	Minneapolis	St. Charles	Winona

Ethnic Populations Served by 2015-2016 Programs

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

The grantees and the programs supported by SAF

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 support capacity building in technology and infrastructure. Amaze will build online networking and peer-learning opportunities and provide ongoing support and coaching for those isolated in rural areas or representing communities of color.

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 a new mentoring program, the Art Buddies, in which metro area children will explore community and culture through a diverse range of arts

(more)

– visual, literary, and performing – all with the goal of encouraging youth to explore their creativity and find a healthy means of expressing themselves. The program will include ongoing lessons and classes with partner organizations, attending local art productions, visiting local museums, and referrals to summer arts programs and camps, as well as three school-based programs that will have a series of art activities with local artists.

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

Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Grant supports expansion of their programming to a new affordable housing community, Sienna Green in Roseville, and continue programming in Portland Gardens Apartments in Minneapolis’s Phillips neighborhood. Camp Fire will provide quality year-round out-of-school-time programming to 35 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. A new Somali staffer will help to connect to the mostly Somali families at Sienna Green.

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

Located in south Minneapolis. Grant supports creation of a permanent literacy coordinator position for their after-school program’s literacy program, ¡Andalé! Readers. The position will be dedicated to building on the program’s current design and implementing the activities in a way that is culturally and developmentally appropriate for its students. The after-school program serves Latino youth ages 5-15 from low-income families, all of whom are English language learners.

Children’s Theatre Company (<http://www.childrenstheatre.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in South Minneapolis. Grant supports the creation of the Arts As Intervention pilot, a program of play-based activities involving storytelling, music, and movement for children ages 0-5 experiencing toxic stress. In this early phase, CTC will engage an early childhood trauma consultant to help to develop the curriculum. CTC’s teaching artists will receive training on the science of brain development, the effects of trauma, building resilience and the ways that caregivers can build skills of executive function and self regulation. CTC will work with community partners such as Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, the Jeremiah Program, People Serving People, St. Stephen’s and Way to Grow.

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

Located in Duluth. Grant supports the creation of a new summer program serving 3- to 6-year-olds among the community of the Steve O’Neil Apartments, CHUM’s new permanent supportive housing development for formerly homeless families. CHUM is a coalition of 40 member congregations that offers emergency food, shelter, advocacy, support and outreach throughout Duluth to those who are homeless or with very low incomes. The program will use the nature-based playground at the housing development and natural areas in the region as the basis for its curriculum. It intends to host an Early Head Start program on-site that would serve the younger siblings of the preschoolers in the summer program. CHUM is also implementing the Circles of Security program to support its families.

CLUES (<http://www.clues.org/>)—\$11,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves the Twin Cities metro area. Grant supports expansion of the new program Creando Juntos, a Latino culture-based youth program developed to build capacity for youth while their parents participate in language classes utilizing a two-generation approach. The program is shifting from a start-up using AmeriCorps VISTA workers to being a part of CLUES strategic operations with a dedicated staff person. Funding will establish a youth program position and move its current part-time staff person up to full time.

ComMUSICation (<http://www.commusicationmn.org/>)—\$7,500 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports expansion of ComMUSICation, the new afterschool choral-based program inspired by the Venezuelan El Sistema program that uses music to inspire and motivate at-risk youth. It serves families in the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood, a low-income area where few students are

able to afford a high-quality music education. The program has two choirs and includes field trips to music community partners, mentorships for students with practicing musicians, and homework help. Funding will support adding a percussion component and adding a fifth day of programming that would make participants eligible for bus transportation.

Emerge Community Development (<http://www.emerge-mn.org>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in Minneapolis. Grant supports expansion of EMERGE Link, a program to enhance the social and academic skills of mostly African-American pre-K to 12th-grade youth who have experienced multiple incidents of homelessness and who participate in two of EMERGE's north Minneapolis housing developments. Funding will help EMERGE increase emphasis on community service through a volunteerism program utilizing a partnership developed in 2012 with EDIT (Equity Diversity Inclusion Together). With guidance, children will explore needs in the community and together identify a targeted social justice issue, develop a plan, serve in their community, and reflect on the experience.

Emma Norton Services (<http://www.emmanorton.org>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves St. Paul and Maplewood. Grant supports expansion of ENS's out-of-school-time offering for formerly homeless children ages 5-12 through increased staffing and activities focused on academic and social-emotional success. The program will happen on-site at ENS's housing facility in Maplewood, Emma's Place, which serves families with children; at any given time, Emma's Place houses 65-80 youth.

Family Housing Fund (<http://www.fhfund.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Public policy/advocacy grant supports the 2015-16 advocacy work of the Visible Child Initiative, a joint initiative between the Family Housing Fund and the Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota created to influence public policy on behalf of homeless children. Research shows that homelessness is a triggering factor for developmental delay. The State of Minnesota does not currently define homelessness as a condition for Part C services, but there is momentum for making this change at both a legislative and departmental level. The policy goal is to connect homeless infants and toddlers and their families to early intervention services by advocating for legislative action to establish categorical eligibility for homeless children in Minnesota's Part C/Help Me Grow Program. This change has the potential to impact over 3,500 homeless children across the state.

The Family Partnership (<http://thefamilypartnership.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in Minneapolis. Grant supports adding a math and literacy component to its multicultural preschools in its locations in North Minneapolis and in the Phillips neighborhood in south Minneapolis. The math/literacy component would include teacher training, enhanced classroom learning for children, and developmental assessment of children to address their readiness for the learning process by identifying underlying developmental delays. The program will serve 100 very low-income children. Bilingual teaching in Hmong and Spanish helps children learn English prior to kindergarten and promotes positive interactions with limited-English-speaking parents. The south Minneapolis location near Little Earth has two Native language immersion classes, one in Ojibwe and one in Dakota.

FamilyMeans (<https://www.familymeans.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in Stillwater, serves the Twin Cities metro area, southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Grant supports creation of new out-of-school-time programming for older youth, in grades 4-6. FamilyMeans provides the only out-of-school-time opportunities for a high-poverty group of children in the two manufactured homes communities that it serves in St. Croix County, Landfall and Cimarron. The new programming will help the older children develop social, emotional, and cognitive skills that will help them navigate middle school. High-school-age youth who have grown up within this program will be engaged as interns.

Hmong American Partnership (<http://www.hmong.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves the Twin Cities metro area. Grant supports a new staff position at the dual-language Montessori pre-school run by HAP to serve in the classroom and with family engagement. The new staff member is currently finishing his Montessori certification and is bilingual in Hmong and English. The center recently received a 4-star Parent Aware rating and is preparing to take advantage of early learning scholarships for those families that meet the income requirements.

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

Located in Minneapolis. Grant supports implementation of ICT's Kidspeed tennis program to Bdote Learning Center, a K-3 Dakota/Ojibwe charter school in south Minneapolis that ICT began partnering with last year to deliver a multi-dimensional physical and educational program to address significant academic, health and opportunity disparities among Native American children in Minneapolis. The program will serve 100 Native American children ages 5-9 and is the only physical education offering available for the children at Bdote. ICT will also deliver the nationally accredited Academic Creative Engagement (ACE) math/literacy and wellness curriculum to the children at Bdote.

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

Based in Plymouth, serves 8 suburban communities in west Hennepin. Grant supports the introduction of the AMAZE early childhood curriculum in three of IOCP's partner early childhood programs to pilot early bullying prevention programming. This will be delivered within IOCP's Caring for Kids Initiative, a partnership working with school districts and child care providers to strengthen the quality of early childhood programs for children ages 0-5 from low-income families and address children's mental health issues.

Itasca County Family YMCA (Get Fit Itasca) (<http://www.getfititasca.org/>)—\$8,000 grant

Based in Grand Rapids, serves Itasca County. Grant supports creation of a learning lab for youth at youth garden sites in Deer River and Grand Rapids in conjunction with the U of MN Extension's Master Garden programs. Get Fit Itasca has been working with area partners to coordinate three youth garden sites for the past four years, providing gardening education to 700 mostly low-income students in Itasca County. Produce from the gardens is prepared and served at snack time, and excess produce is sent home to families or donated to community food shelves.

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

Located in south Minneapolis. Grant supports expansion of the mental health services component of this bilingual preschool's home visiting program for low-income Latino preschoolers and their families. Last year, Joyce began contracting with Comunidades Latinos Unidas en Servicio (CLUES) for flexible units of service for a full range of bilingual mental health and wellness services. Because they are flexible, Joyce Preschool is able to respond to the needs that emerge during home visits. Linguistically appropriate mental health services that offer a sliding scale and are accepting new patients are difficult to find, so with the CLUES partnership, Joyce Preschool has established the relationship in advance for a referral.

Keystone Community Services (<http://www.keystonecommunityservices.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports the Ignite Quality project – four program enhancement and quality improvement projects involved in merging the two youth programs of the Keystone Hmong Youth Program and West 7th Community Kids. The enhancements build on the strengths of each site and will help these two strong programs mentor each other in implementing best practices that will benefit youth in both programs. These program enhancements include: piloting the evidence-based Sunday System literacy program used by the Hmong Youth Program at the West 7th site, piloting an evidence-based math program and a social-emotional learning curriculum now used at the West 7th site with the Hmong Youth Program, and finally, enhancing STEM opportunities at the West 7th site. The STEM program will expand to the Hmong Youth site in 2016.

LDA Minnesota (<http://www.ldaminnesota.org>)—\$7,500 grant

Based in Golden Valley, serves the Twin Cities. Grant supports expansion of the Early Literary program, whose objective is to increase reading readiness of 120 children ages 3-5 in low-income families in inner-city locations in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The program, based on the Raising a Reader model, is also working to build parents' awareness of the important role families and the home environment play in fostering reading readiness. It will expand from Head Start sites at Fraser and Park Place in Minneapolis to a third Head Start site. This year, half of the books ordered will be in Spanish and half in English to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking families.

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

Based in St. Paul, serves Ramsey County. This public policy/advocacy grant supports continuing 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, using New Mexico's work as a guide. The effort partners with the Department of Health (MDH) and the Department of Education (MDE). The best time to prevent achievement/opportunity gaps for children is ages pre-natal to three. The adoption of standards and practices will ensure higher quality home visiting and set the stage for greater public funding of these efforts.

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

Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. This advocacy grant supports MPM's advocacy work to act on policy issues for the 2016 legislative session. It will continue 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. On the federal level, it will support the Child Protection Improvements Act, the Transition to Success Mentoring Act and several other bills. Engaging in advocacy is a best practice that many mentoring organizations don't feel equipped to do. MPM will hold trainings and webinars for its statewide network of 400 youth mentoring and development programs, and it will work with these organizations to build relationships with their policy leaders and engage their stakeholders in advocacy.

MN Assoc. for the Education of Young Children (<http://www.mnaeyc-mnsaca.org>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. This advocacy grant supports expansion of the Care Fellows Initiative, which develops advocacy skills in emerging early childhood educators and motivates them to engage in advocacy to strengthen public and political support for investment in high quality early childhood programs and systems. Participants will be expanded from early childhood students to also include those early in their early childhood careers, particularly focusing on providers of color. Funding will support staff time to develop and lead a series of training sessions, expert speakers, discussion and networking among students and professionals. The ultimate goal of the project is to create a system of professional development in advocacy as a way to create lifelong advocates for their chosen profession.

Montessori American Indian Childcare Ctr (www.americanindianmontessori.net)—\$10,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports growth of the recently opened 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 engages young children and their families in strengthening their cultural wellness through language acquisition (Ojibwe and Lakota) and culturally appropriate parenting practices. The center just earned a 4-star Parent Aware rating, enabling it to accept early learning scholarships, which will make its program more affordable for families.

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

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports implementation of the Circles of Security (COS), a relationship-based early intervention parenting program, with parents at two of MTCM's early childhood program sites. The

program will be piloted in the fall at Ames Lake Community Center, where its Birth to Five Early Childhood Program sessions are already taking place and in the spring at Cornerstone Montessori School, a pilot site for the Montessori Partners Serving All Children program. The COS program will help parents address attachment issues that have lifelong impacts for their children. Three MTCM staff who are already fully trained in COS, one of whom is fluent in Spanish, will be responsible for implementing the pilot program sessions. Later, staff from other Montessori Partners Serving All Children staff will go to COS trainings and be mentored by MTCM staff in sharing it with their centers.

Myers-Wilkins Community School Collaborative (<http://www.m-wcsc.org>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in Duluth. Grant supports expansion of the collaborative's out-of-school-time programming, serving 90 low-income youth ages 5-12, to include STEM programming. This will coordinate with Myers-Wilkins Elementary School's process of becoming a STEM certified school; the out-of-school-time programming will align with the school-day STEM curriculum. Funding will support school-year programming integrating STEM programming such as Lego Robotics and Mythbusters Science, COMPASS Academy for the most at-risk youth in the school and a 6-week summer enrichment camp using STEM principles.

Northland Foundation (<http://www.northlandfdn.org/>)—\$20,000 grant

Based in Duluth, serves northeastern Minnesota. Grant supports expansion of the Parent Aware Pathways Initiative, an initiative designed to help increase the number of Parent-Aware-rated childcare providers who are serving families in the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis. Funds will help provide free trainings aimed at engaging licensed family- and center-based childcare providers in the Parent Aware system across rural northeastern Minnesota. Objectives include increasing awareness among the providers on the importance of school readiness, increasing access to Parent Aware trainings and increasing support for licensed providers to earn Parent Aware trainings.

Patchwork Quilt (<http://patchworkquilt.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in north Minneapolis. Grant supports the development of its cultural curriculum in partnership with the Second Step social-emotional curriculum. PQ is adding both an education specialist and a social worker to its staff, both of whom will be involved in the new components. African-American culture is woven into all components of PQ's curriculum – cultural pride as an essential part in developing self-esteem, self-control, and self-determinate behaviors. The cultural curriculum focuses on helping children recognize the contributions of their culture. It is part of an overall approach that is child centered and specific and supports the social and emotional development of children.

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 community in early childhood programs. The area has seen rapid growth in Hmong and Latino families in recent years. The Learning Together Program consists of a year of programming with large group sessions held every other month, parent mentoring sessions, and site visits to early childhood programs in the community. This year, the focus of the program is on areas identified by parents: literacy and language skills.

Project for Pride in Living (<http://www.ppl-inc.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves inner-city neighborhoods of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and first-ring suburbs. Grant supports expansion of programming for youth ages 5-12 to 12 housing units at Prosperity Village in north Minneapolis. Expansion targets 35 children, primarily African American, who are chronically homeless and have one family member with a disability. Students in the school year program will be paired one-to-one with tutors/mentors who commit to working with the same youth two days per week (four hours per week). Summer programming focuses on outdoor enrichment and academics to help at-risk children explore beyond their regular world.

Simpson Housing Services (<http://www.simpsonhousing.org>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in Minneapolis. Grant supports expansion of SHS's Family Housing program's early childhood program, which provides in-home support to families with children ages 0-5 to ensure healthy development, overall well-being and school readiness while assisting parents to become their child's strongest advocate. The program was featured in a recent Start Early forum on best practices for working with homeless children and has seen very strong outcomes for children who are coming from situations of extreme trauma. Funds would increase the hours of the early childhood specialist leading the program and allow for deeper engagement with families.

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. Designated early childhood staff will be increased by a family social worker who focuses on trauma care. These homeless parents, and their children, are under a huge amount of stress and this program will help them to manage their stress and learn critical parenting skills, and it may be helpful in breaking the generational cycle of homelessness for these families.

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

Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. This public policy/advocacy grant supports expansion of the Voices of Parents Advocacy Program, which is building a trained group of parents who can tell their own story and help to advocate for more resources for quality early childhood programs. The program includes development of a set of practices to engage the 15,000+ parents it reaches through its other programs in advocacy training. New this year is a series of Parents Voices trainings that will be conducted based on peer-relationship models. These trainings are a next step in "building ladders of engagement", moving parents' interest to active engagement such as meeting with legislators or giving testimony.

Twin Cities Housing Development Corp. (<http://www.tchdc.org>)—\$8,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves Twin Cities metro area. Grant supports piloting a STEM-based component as part of TCHDC's PLUS-Time afterschool program at Liberty Plaza, with close collaboration of St. Catherine's University. The children served range from kindergarten to grade 5 and are primarily from East African families who live in Liberty Plaza and other housing complexes managed by TCHDC. The curriculum allows for an increasing level of complexity in the project for varying abilities and also for older children to mentor the youngest ones.

Urban Strategies (<http://www.urbanstrategiesinc.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in St. Louis, MO, serving the Heritage Park affordable housing in near north Minneapolis. Grant supports expansion of their youth programming called Dream, Explore, Connect. The Heritage Park neighborhood is home to 600 mostly Somali and African American youth under age 19 and 300 children between the ages of 8 and 12. Funds will expand the Dream component, from what began as a summer program to year-round programming. Dream will serve 100 elementary age students in hands-on, experiential learning around the topic of health and nutrition, science and engineering, creative arts, and entrepreneurship.

West Central Initiative (<http://www.wcif.org/>)—\$20,000 grant

Based in Fergus Falls, serves the counties of Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin. Grant supports introduction of Circles of Security (COS) program to early childhood programs in west central Minnesota. COS is an evidence-based, behavior-modifying program that trains professionals who work with both the parent and the at-risk child. The West Central Initiative sees COS training as the next step in continuing its work around trauma and pre-K alignment. Funds will help WCI host two COS overview sessions to promote the concept of the program to acquaint decision-

makers in programs throughout the region with the program and then to host one intensive four-day COS training in west central Minnesota.

Wilder Foundation (<http://www.wilder.org/>)—\$5,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports replicating Wilder's successful model of engaging families whose young children are in need of mental health services by partnering with the Jeremiah Program's Child Development Center, a program that serves very young mothers and their children. Currently, Jeremiah makes referrals to Wilder's Child Guidance Clinic. To facilitate a smooth transition to mental health services for families and to help them overcome reluctance to therapy, the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Program coordinator from Wilder's Child Guidance Clinic will provide services onsite at Jeremiah's Child Development Center. By engaging families in settings in which they feel comfortable, mental health professionals are able to establish trusting relationships with families, who are then more likely to follow through on recommended mental health interventions for their children.

YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities (<http://www.ymcatwincities.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. Grant supports expanding the Beacons after-school program's peer reading mentor initiative, providing an opportunity for 3rd-5th grade students to serve as mentors for younger students. The program benefits both mentors and mentees as the older students develop leadership skills and improve their own reading while the mentees improve their reading skills and see themselves as future mentors and leaders. The program serves over 300 children and will be piloted at Beacons sites at Anne Sullivan/Anishinabe Academy in south Minneapolis and Sheridan Elementary and Nellie Stone Johnson School in north Minneapolis.

Youth Farm & Market (<http://youthfarmmn.org/>)—\$10,000 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, adding its two newest program sites, Hawthorne and Frogtown, after last year's successful implementation in Lyndale, Powderhorn, and the West Side. YFMP's program engages 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 Duluth (<http://www.ywcaduluth.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in Duluth. Grant supports fully integrating the Circles of Security method into all aspects of the early childhood program at its Spirit Valley housing complex, which provides supportive housing to very low-income young mothers and their children. Staff will develop their skills through both training and ongoing reflective practice, including reflective supervision. Parents in the program will be trained through a parent circle employing the same methods as staff training. The YMCA will add a part-time clinician who will work with families requesting intervention both in their home through home visits and in the center using videotaped sessions.