



2017 GRANT GUIDELINES

MISSION

The Sheltering Arms Foundation invests in the lives of Minnesota's children to help them reach their full potential. We fund non-profit organizations and support policies that benefit children and their families who have the least access to resources.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

We support high quality direct service programs for children ages 0-12 in the areas of early childhood and youth development as well as advocacy efforts that raise the level of public awareness and commitment to the well-being of children.

FUNDING GUIDELINES

- Present some component of innovation – new or existing programs that anticipate program expansion, change in program design, outreach to a new population, defined quality improvements, or significantly leverage other resources.
- Promote the healthy development of children and are preventive and/or intervene early through innovative and effective strategies for delivering high-quality programs.
- Involve the population who will benefit from the project in its planning, implementation, governance, and/or ongoing evaluation and have a strong base of community support.
- Provide opportunities for family engagement in programming.
- Has a culturally appropriate program design.
- Have an ongoing commitment to continuous quality improvement.
- Demonstrate sound governance, management and good fiscal health.
- Partner with other organizations to avoid duplication and maximize efficiencies.
- Use clear methods to evaluate the program's outcomes and impact.
- Are in compliance with all federal, state and local non-discrimination ordinances.

DEADLINE

Online applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 24, 2017. After that time the application form link will be deactivated.

Prior to submission of a funding request, **organizations are required to contact Foundation staff** at (612) 871-9210 or by email at info@sheltering-arms.org to talk about how a project fits with the Foundation's guidelines. Foundation staff can provide technical assistance throughout the process and respond to questions about the application review process, timeline or budget items.

GRANT SIZE

The Foundation accepts grant requests up to \$20,000 with an average grant award of \$10,000. Please review the Online Application Instructions & Tips to begin your application process.



ELIGIBILITY

- You have an IRS classification as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that is not a private foundation.
- You are located and provide services within the state of Minnesota.
- Request is for an innovative project or expansion, not general operating or ongoing program support.
- Activities benefit children **ages 0-12** and their families who are most vulnerable with limited access to resources.
- Organization is not a charter school, individual public agency or school district.
- Organization is not requesting funding for an individual, one-time event, overnight camps, scholarships or a capital campaign.

GRANTS REVIEW PROCESS

The Grants Committee of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation's staff review applications, and may ask additional questions to clarify aspects of the funding request during the review process or request further information. A site visit may be requested of organizations whose proposals best match the interests of the Foundation; site visits do not constitute a grant commitment. Knowledgeable people in the field may be consulted for their confidential comments about a pending funding request.

Those applications which demonstrate the greatest potential for carrying out the mission and funding priorities of the Foundation are recommended to the Board of Trustees at its annual May Board meeting where funds are allocated. Grant payments begin the following July.

Grant recipients are asked to sign a grant agreement which includes submission of a final project report describing their progress in meeting goals and expenditure of funds. At the completion of the grant period, all unexpended money must be refunded to the Foundation unless prior approval has been given to extend the grant period.

WHAT WE FUND

ADVOCACY

The Sheltering Arms Foundation's vision of success is that the opportunity gap will be significantly diminished because broad public will exists to make investments to assure that all Minnesota children succeed in school and life.

To achieve this goal, we fund advocacy efforts that increase access to high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood care and education and youth development/out of school time opportunities.

We fund political networks, coalitions and campaigns that lobby, advocate and organize for children's early learning and life success. We also support training to help parents become advocates for their children's early learning and out of school time success.



EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Sheltering Arms Foundation's vision of success is that all Minnesota children with the least access to resources are socially and emotionally, as well as physically and cognitively ready for kindergarten.

To achieve this goal, we fund high quality culturally appropriate **early childhood programs** that support children's social, emotional, physical and academic development with strong family engagement strategies. Eligible programs include innovative early care and education, targeted home visiting and parent education, or early childhood mental health programs.

A high quality **early care and education** program has the following elements:

- A 3 or 4 star Parent Aware rating or is on a pathway to attain it
- A research based high quality curriculum
- Opportunities for family engagement in programming
- Quality assessment tools where data informs program improvement
- Access to professional development for staff that supports growth in their job in areas such as: program design, evaluation and assessment, inter-cultural skills, and child development.

A high quality **parent education and targeted home visiting** program has the following elements:

- A focus on strength-based whole child and family development that includes cognitive, physical, social and emotional development
- A research based high quality curriculum and evidenced based model
- A parent-child interaction component
- Active involvement of parents/caregivers in their child's learning process
- Intensity and duration of contact appropriate for goals of the program
- Quality assessment tools where data informs program improvement
- Access to professional development for staff that supports growth in their job in areas such as: program design, evaluation and assessment, inter-cultural skills, and child development.

A high quality **early childhood mental health** program has the following elements:

- Priority given to mental health programs that align with high quality early care education and targeted home visiting programs.
- Primary focus on Relationships
- Culturally appropriate interventions
- Research based high quality methodology
- Opportunities for family engagement in programming
- Initial assessment of each child including for trauma and chronic stress
- Intensity and duration of client services appropriate to the goals of the intervention
- Quality assessment tools where data informs program improvement
- Access to professional development for staff that supports growth in their job in areas such as: new developments in early childhood mental health treatments, program design, evaluation and assessment, and inter-cultural skills.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Sheltering Arms Foundation's vision of success is that all Minnesota children are socially and emotionally, as well as physically and academically prepared to succeed by 7th grade.

To achieve this goal, we fund high quality culturally appropriate **youth development programs** for 5-12 year olds that support children's social, emotional, physical and academic development with strong family engagement strategies.

Eligible programs are out of school time and mentoring programs in school based settings, community settings or affordable housing locations.

A high-quality youth development programming should include the following elements:

- Sequential activities that teach skills
- Active and experiential learning
- Focused and explicit skill development
- Developmentally and culturally appropriate program design
- Intensity and duration of contact
- Social and Emotional Learning competencies (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making)
- Opportunities for family involvement and participation in programming
- Quality assessment tools where data informs program improvement
- Access to professional development for staff that supports growth in their job in areas such as: youth programming, evaluation and assessment, inter-cultural skills, and program design.