Fact Sheet — 2026-2027 Grantees

What Is a Sheltering Arms Foundation Grantee?

In fiscal year 2026-2027, 55 nonprofit organizations across the state of Minnesota will use a total of $577,500 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. Funding priority areas are early childhood, youth development, and advocacy. For more, visit https://sheltering-arms.org/.

Counties Served by Sheltering Arms Grantees

Anoka	Douglas	Olmsted	St. Croix	Wright
Benton	Goodhue	Otter Tail	St. Louis	
Becker	Grant	Pope	Stearns	* 11 grantees work on
Carver	Hennepin	Ramsey	Stevens	projects benefiting
Chisago	Isanti	Rice	Traverse	every county in MN
Clay	Koochiching	Scott	Washington	* 1 grantee serves in
Dakota	Lake of the Woods	Sherburne	Wilkin	32 counties

Towns/Reservation Headquartering or Served by Sheltering Arms Grantees

Aurora	Cimarron	Landfall	Northfield	St. Louis Park
Babbitt	Duluth	Maplewood	Red Wing	St. Paul
Bloomington	Eveleth	Minneapolis	Richfield	Stillwater
Brooklyn Center	Fergus Falls	Minnetonka	Rochester	Virginia
Brooklyn Park	Hopkins	Moorhead	Shoreview	White Earth
Chisholm	International Falls	Mountain Iron	St. Cloud	Nation

The grantees and the programs supported by SAF

A Chance To Grow (www.actg.org)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves 11-county metro region. Established in 1983, ACTG provides brain-centered programs and services that help children and adults, from those with developmental and learning difficulties to those who experience common learning struggles, reach their highest potential.
- Grant supports expanding SMART Steps, an innovative learning readiness program, and the training for it is a self-paced virtual system that teaches providers about brain development and how to integrate SMART Steps activities into their daily routines. This year, ACTG is bringing SMART Steps training to Early Head Start programs and to Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) care. To accommodate more families, handouts have been translated into 4 languages currently required for families enrolled in the ACCAP Early Head Start program: Arabic, Russian, Somali, and Spanish.

(more)

ACES (https://aces4kids.org/)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Founded in 1994, ACES (Athletes Committed to Educating Students) works to reduce Minnesota's academic opportunity gap and improve the chance of success for students in underserved communities by providing exceptional math and social-emotional education through the lens of sports. More than 10,000 4th-8th graders have participated in ACES programming at schools and community centers across the state. It has the direct support of every major Minnesota professional sports team, as well as the U of MN's Athletic Department. For the 2025-26 school year, ACES worked with 6 partner schools in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Richfield.
- Grant supports two ACES sites, Northeast College Prep and Hennepin Schools, serving 4th-6th grade students throughout the school year. Programming takes place onsite at these 2 partner schools, after school for 2 hours per day, 4 days per week. Sports content is woven throughout programming as a hook to inspire student interest and as a valuable basis for subject and concept learning. Over the school year, these students will receive more than 200 hours of additional academic instruction, reinforcing key math, science, and social-emotional skills beyond their regular school day.

ARTS-Us (https://www.arts-us.org/)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in St. Paul. Founded in 1992, ARTS-Us is a community-based organization created by a group of African American artists and multicultural educators with a mission to develop young leaders through the arts, culture, and sciences of the African Diaspora. Using the experiences of the African Diaspora at its core and collaborating with artists, educators, and communities of other backgrounds and cultures, ARTS-Us offers "edutainment" programs to schools, business, and community environments. ARTS-Us provides the students it serves a rare space where their heritage is treated not as background but as the foundation of academic life.
- Grant supports the Black eSTEAM Series, which weaves West African arts, intergenerational mentoring, and hands-on STEM exploration into a unified learning experience for 25 youth in grades 1-4 within the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood. Seven professional teaching artists guide students through visual art and STEM workshops in which clay, paint, and percussion become tools for understanding scientific concepts, culminating in an Exhibit and Presentation Night where students demonstrate their learning to the community.

Baby's Space (http://www.babyspace.org)—$15,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in south Minneapolis. Baby's Space is a nationally accredited, 4-Star Parent Aware-rated child development center for families living in poverty. Founded in 2000 as an age 0-3 childcare facility for families in the Little Earth of United Tribes development and surrounding Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. The majority of staff are Native American, and the program is highly culturally responsive. It offers child and family services from pregnancy to 3rd grade, including year-round, full-day childcare and public K-3 education through Tatanka Academy.
- Grant supports the program Building Parent and Caregiver Capacity, which blends the Conscious Discipline Parenting Curriculum, the Rise curriculum, and education about trauma and brain development to give parents practical self-regulation skills and connects families to mental health and behavioral health services as needed. SAF funding will support parent empowerment meetings addressing ongoing stressors and weekly drop-in sessions.

Banyan Community (https://www.banyancommunity.org/)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. Banyan is a faith-centered youth serving agency that works to strengthen Phillips by offering programs focused on developing youth, strengthening families, and creating community. It operates a successful out-of-school-time program that serves 150 children in grades k-college. Banyan makes a deep commitment to its families, supporting their children from kindergarten through college. In addition to its core programming, it also provides home visits and planning to get its children into quality schools, and then supports their application to college and continues to provide support to college students who attend local colleges.

- Grant supports expansion of Banyan's Seedlings program, an early childhood and family education program that serves children ages 0 to 5 from the Phillips neighborhood and uses evidence-based practices to prepare children for academic success and to break cycles of generational and immigrant poverty. Parents and their children attend the program twice a week, in two-hour sessions with one hour together and one hour separate. Expansion allows Seedlings to go beyond the traditional school calendar, operating year-round and growing enrollment.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities (http://www.bigstwincities.org)—$10,000 grant (youth devel.)

- Based in St. Paul, serves the Twin Cities area. BBBS matches youth facing adversity with positive volunteer mentors to positively impact the youths' lives. After Free Arts MN dissolved in 2017, BBBS adopted its curriculum and hired three of its staff. Free Arts of BBBS uses arts as a tool to support social-emotional development, providing arts education and mentoring for youth facing homelessness, mental health treatment, and therapy for abuse and extreme poverty.
- Grant supports implementing the Free Arts program with 15-20 partner organizations serving more than 800 children ages 3-12, engaging at least 100 volunteer mentors to provide 2-4 volunteers per program. The program will have 3 sessions per year, each lasting 12 weeks, often with multiple programs at each site serving different age groups. High-quality teaching artists and disciplines will be identified that reflect the interests of youth and partner sites.

Boys & Girls Club of Rochester (http://www.bgclubroch.org/)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in Rochester. Established in 1999, BGCR is an out-of-school time youth development program, serving kids ages 5-18 at four locations across the city: The Place (their main site), Longfellow, Gage, and Riverside Elementary Schools. In 2025, BGCR had a daily attendance of more than 300 kids, serving almost 1,000 different kids throughout the year. BGCR has 4 core program areas: Academic Success, Character & Leadership, Healthy Lifestyles, and The Arts.
- Grant supports continuing BGCR's Healthy Lifestyles curriculum called Triple Play: Mind, Body and Soul. The program includes 3 integrated components: Healthy Habits (mind) that addresses how health behaviors are influenced by personal beliefs; Daily Challenges (body) focused on physical literacy in the areas of ability, confidence, and motivation; and Social Recreation (soul) that emphasizes social-emotional development.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities (https://boysandgirls.org/)—$10,000 grant (youth devel.)

- Based in St. Paul, serves Twin Cities metro. With 13 metro locations serving kids ages 5-18, BGCTC works in under-resourced communities in the Twin Cities to provide kids and teens with out-of-school time academic, career-focused, and life skills programming. They provide a K-5 literacy program that takes a holistic approach incorporating positive youth development and social-emotional methods with literacy instruction.
- Grant supports BGCTC's K-5 Literacy Program for the Little Earth community in Minneapolis. All kindergarten through grade 5 children attending the Little Earth Club will participate in hands-on, multi-sensory activities designed to strengthen reading skills while building confidence and engagement. The program is a comprehensive initiative that integrates literacy instruction with positive youth development and social-emotional learning.

Catholic Charities Twin Cities (https://cctwincities.org/)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro. Since 1869, Catholic Charities has directly served the Twin Cities' most vulnerable populations: individuals and families experiencing homelessness, hunger, and employment challenges; children in need of care and educational opportunities; and isolated older adults needing support as they age. Catholic Charities partners with local organizations to manage 24 service programs at sites across the Twin Cities metro, delivering essential services including affordable housing, emergency shelter, nutritious meals, mental health care, addiction resources, and more.

- Grant supports the Summer Performing Arts Program at the Northside Child Development Center (a program of Catholic Charities Twin Cities). A high-quality arts enrichment series, this summer program engages 50 youth ages 5-12 in North Minneapolis in a full production of The Wiz. The artistic partnership is with Afrocontigbo Dance Company and brings culturally grounded movement instruction rooted in Afro, jazz, and contemporary dance traditions. Professional dance instruction, theater rehearsals, set design, costuming, and character development culminate in a live performance at a professional venue, where students present their work to families and the broader community.

Centro Tyrone Guzman (http://www.centromn.org)—$12,500 grant (early childhood)

- Located in south Minneapolis. Begun in 1974, Centro is the oldest and largest multi-service Latine organization in Minneapolis, serving low-income Latine families in the Twin Cities. Centro's services include health, wellness, and education, including Siembra, a dual-language 4-Star Parent Aware-rated Montessori early childhood program serving children ages 3-6 that incorporates elements of Latine culture. Siembra Montessori has achieved a 100% kindergarten readiness rate since 2012.
- Grant supports a series of monthly parent education workshops, intended to support the current student population, which is experiencing an increased presence of developmental delays. The workshops address the additional challenges that children ages 1-3 currently face and provide support to help address any developmental delays that may arise.

Change, Inc. (https://www.thechangeinc.org/)—$10,800 grant (youth development)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves the Twin Cities area and southern Minnesota. Change Inc. uses the power of relationships and community to create educational, training, and healing opportunities for children and families so they can achieve their highest ambition. More than 60% of Change's staff come from many different cultures and speak more than 10 languages. On July 1, 2026, another Sheltering Arms grantee, Watercourse Counseling, merged with Change, Inc., with the unified focus on providing culturally responsive and trauma-informed clinical, school-based, and related therapies and services. Founded in 1999, Watercourse served the mental health needs of people of all ages in Minneapolis. Watercourse committed to ensuring the staff, agency leaders, and board reflect the community, and ensuring that no school-based clients were turned away from receiving services.
- Grant supports the CIRCLE, a program created by Watercourse and dedicated to healing from trauma and resettlement stress among children and their families in Minneapolis who have moved here from other countries. The CIRCLE addresses systemic barriers – such as linguistic gaps, affordability, and stigma – that may prevent immigrant and refugee families from accessing mental health care. It is carried out in partnership with 6 Minneapolis public schools with the help of "cultural brokers" who assist with family engagement, promote self-advocacy, and help improve understanding of the family's specific situation, needs, cultural factors, and societal pressures.

Child Care Aware of MN (http://www.childcareawaremn.org)—$10,000 grant (advocacy)

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Established in 1992 to raise the standards in care for children and childcare providers, Child Care Aware provides technical assistance to 14 childcare resource and referral agencies around Minnesota, collects data regarding the supply and demand for childcare, and creates and manages statewide projects. It has been integral in the piloting and expansion of Parent Aware, the state's quality improvement framework for early care and education programs.
- Grant supports advocacy efforts toward the goals of the Transforming Minnesota's Early Childhood Workforce project, which focuses on creating a qualified, supported, and equitably compensated early childhood work force that can support the economy and build future academic and life success for Minnesota's youngest children. While other organizations focus on improving access to high-quality care for families, TMECW is the only collaborative in Minnesota focused on the early childhood workforce itself. It is anticipated that a major overhaul of the child care licensing and regulation system will be before the Legislature in 2026 and will have many impacts on the workforce, particularly in training, education, and other professional development supports. TMECW will work to connect its team to the administrative side of this work in 2026-27.

Children's Theatre Company (http://www.childrenstheatre.org/)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in south Minneapolis. CTC is the nation's largest and most acclaimed theatre for young people and serving nearly 275,000 attendees annually. CTC's engagement and learning programs annually serve more than 85,000 young people and their communities through Theatre Arts Training, student matinees, Neighborhood Bridges, and early childhood arts education programs.
- Grant supports CTC's Creative Play program at the Rainbow Child Development Center in St. Paul, providing a 30-week Creative Play residency for 1 infant, 1 toddler, and 2 preschool classrooms, from October 2026 to May 2027. Designed specifically for children who have experienced trauma, CTC's Creative Play workshops use storytelling, movement, and theater arts to promote emotional and cognitive growth. The program is built upon 4 trauma-informed principles: sensory integration, choice, emotional literacy, and mind-body practices. As a result, children will develop the skills necessary to form health relationships, understand emotions, think critically, and solve problems effectively.

CHUM (http://www.chumduluth.org)—$8,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in Duluth. CHUM is a coalition of 40 congregations that offers emergency food, shelter, advocacy, support, and outreach throughout Duluth to those who are homeless or very low income. CHUM is a service provider for the Steve O'Neil Apartments, which offers permanent supportive housing for families with children who were previously unhoused.
- Grant supports the Steve O'Neil Apartments' licensed Early Childhood program, which provides extra support to children ages 0-4 to promote social-emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Infants and young children receive quality care, assessment, and support services that connect the children and their parents to services they may need to ensure proper development and to ensure their safety in their homes.

CommonBond Communities (http://www.commonbond.org)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in St. Paul, serves 52 cities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Established in 1971, CommondBond is the Midwest's largest nonprofit provider of affordable housing with services. More than 10,000 people live in CommonBond housing, more than 2,800 of whom are children.
- Grant supports the Study Buddies program, a free, out-of-school-time mentorship program serving youth in grades K-5 in Commonbond's 5 affordable housing communities in the Twin Cities metro area (2 locations in Minneapolis, 2 in St. Paul, and 1 in Edina). Youth are paired with volunteer mentors who meet weekly during the school year to strengthen reading skills, increase engagement, and build supportive relationships. The program integrates literacy development with social-emotional learning, using inclusive, culturally relevant materials that reflect students' identities and experiences.

ComMUSICation (https://www.commusicationmn.org/)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in St. Paul. ComMUSICation is an intensive afterschool choral-based program inspired by the Venezuelan El Sistema program that uses music to inspire and motivate at-risk youth. Founded in 2013 and located in the Frogtown neighborhood, it serves families in 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.
- Grant supports the RISE Choir program, a free music education initiative for low-income children in grades 3-5. Through a curriculum focused on musical literacy, vocal technique, social-emotional learning, and leadership, the children will build artistic skills, self-confidence, and a deeper understanding of identity, social justice, and cultural diversity. In this program, students choose music, lead rehearsals, introduce performances, and even conduct. Grant funds will support staffing and transportation for children, two of the most significant expenses with the RISE Choir program.

Divine Konnections Inc. (https://www.divinekonnections.org/)—$11,200 grant (early childhood)

- Located in Duluth. Launched in 2022, DKI is a BIPOC-woman-led organization dedicated to transforming the lives of BIPOC youth and young adults through affordable housing and comprehensive support. DKI takes a person-centered approach, meeting with families to identify barriers, assets, and goals. Their comprehensive support includes housing, health and recovery services, advocacy, and holistic interventions. DKI's mission is to create a model of community care that encourages those who have been helped, to give back, fostering a cycle of service and support.
- Grant supports Heather's Happy Days Daycare, which provides affordable, high-quality childcare for low-income BIPOC families and young mothers living in DKI's supportive housing programs. The program being supported focuses on infants and toddlers ages 0-3 who experience significant behavioral and social-emotional challenges rooted in trauma, poverty, and chronic stress. The initiative includes comprehensive staff development that prepares educators to deliver consistent trauma-informed, culturally grounded care, as well as robust family engagement to support parents and caregivers navigating significant stress and limited support systems.

Domestic Abuse Project (http://www.domesticabuseproject.com/)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in Minneapolis. DAP provides programming to end the inter-generational cycle of domestic violence, working with all affected members of the family to stop domestic violence as it occurs and prevent it in the future. It is the only agency in the Twin Cities that offers trauma-informed therapy for all family members affected by family violence.
- Grant supports expanding access and improving DAP's Early Childhood Program by funding staff training in Early Childhood Therapy and Emotion-Focused Therapy for Kids to better support young children affected by domestic violence. Staff will dedicate time to implementing these practices through direct sessions, parent engagement, and ongoing program evaluation to ensure comprehensive mental health support.

EdAllies (https://edalliesmn.org/)—$10,000 grant (advocacy)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Founded in 2016, EdAllies partners with schools, families, and communities to ensure that every young Minnesotan has access to a rigorous and engaging education. Their mission is to advance policies that put underserved students first, remove barriers facing successful schools and programs, and foster an inclusive conversation about what's possible for students.
- Grant supports advocacy and communications work for strengthening early learning access and belonging for Minnesota's youngest learners. EdAllies operates from the belief that equitable early childhood education requires attention to two connected realities: Children must be able to get in the door, and once inside, they must be safe and supported. This program pursues both goals through two strategies: advocacy to restore sustainable funding for Minnesota's Early Learning Scholarships, and a communications initiative aimed at reducing exclusionary discipline practices in private early childhood settings.

Ellison Center (http://www.ellisoncenter.org)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in St. Cloud. Ellison Center was founded in response to the lack of appropriate services and resources for early childhood mental health in the area, and developed out of a dream of what could be. Ellison's mission is, when young children and their families are facing challenges, to nurture hope and joy and provide support to strengthen families, while enriching the surrounding communities through responsive and innovative programs in a safe and secure environment.
- Grant supports expanding Ellison's early childhood mental health program by training staff in two evidence-based models that support mental health services for young children and families: Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC) and Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP). This initiative focuses on relationship-based, trauma-informed care that is grounded in research and cultural relevance and includes targeted professional development to build staff expertise.

Emma Norton Services (http://www.emmanorton.org)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in St. Paul, serves St. Paul and Maplewood. ENS supports women and their families who are recovering from homelessness and experiencing the challenges of mental and/or chemical disabilities at two housing facilities: Emma's Place in Maplewood, and the new Restoring Waters in the Highland Bridge neighborhood of St. Paul. Most of the clients at Emma's Place are women with large families in which at least one member has some kind of disability.
- Grant supports expanding early childhood education and parent support/education at its supportive housing sites: Emma's Place, which serves 13 to 15 large families at any given time, and the new Restoring Waters, which can serve 60 women and some small families and is Minnesota's first trauma-informed supportive housing development. The funding will strengthen Emma Norton's early childhood efforts, equipping parents with the knowledge and resources to best support their youngest children.

The Family Partnership (http://www.thefamilypartnership.org)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in Minneapolis. Founded in 1878, TFP is a multi-service agency that works to close opportunity and achievement gaps for children and families living in deep poverty and experiencing high levels of trauma by providing counseling, education, and advocacy programs and services.
- Grant supports Four Directions, an NAEYC-accredited, 4-Star Parent Aware-rated therapeutic preschool previously located across from Little Earth and now located inside TFP's new headquarters in south Minneapolis. The preschool offers year-round, full-day early education. Children enrolled in the preschool receive free developmental screenings and access to on-site therapies, including mental health, speech/language, physical, and occupational services. Far surpassing state averages, 100% of the program's 2025 graduates tested kindergarten ready. TFP is in partnership with Wicoie Nandagikendan, an Indigenous-led organization offering Ojibwe language immersion for toddlers and preschoolers, and is exploring the addition of Dakota immersion in Fall 2026.

FamilyMeans (https://www.familymeans.org/)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in Stillwater, serves the Twin Cities metro area, southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. FamilyMeans provides the only out-of-school-time opportunities for a high-poverty group of children in the two mobile home communities that it serves in St. Croix County, Landfall and Cimarron.
- Grant supports daily programming at both the Cimarron and Landfall locations, giving underserved youth access to academic, social-emotional, and wellness supports. This programming will help prepare youth between the ages of 5-11 for success in their middle and high school years. New this fall will be a collaboration with Zephyr Theatre for drama and storytelling programming.

First Children's Finance (https://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/)—$12,500 grant (advocacy)

- Located in Minneapolis, serves statewide. FCF is a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that lends capital exclusively to childcare businesses. With their national headquarters Minnesota, they work on initiatives and projects across the country. They provide financial and business assistance to high-quality childcare businesses serving low- and moderate-income families.
- Grant supports continuing an initiative that provides advocacy training to Black, Indigenous, and providers of color in the 7-county metro area. This year FCF plans to move about 10 providers from peer support and business development into structured policy engagement. The program will prepare providers with policy knowledge, messaging skills, and direct policymaker access, culminating in a Day on the Hill at the 2027 Minnesota Legislative Session. BIPOC childcare providers operate at the intersection of multiple systemic inequities: chronic underfunding, inequitable access to capital, insufficient reimbursement rates for providers serving low-income families, and historic exclusion from policy spaces where decisions about their industry are made. FCF's long-term goal is to ensure BIPOC childcare providers are heard by policymakers regarding systemic barriers to successful business ownership.

Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center (http://www.fwtec.org)—$10,000 grant (youth develop.)

- Based in St. Paul, serves Twin Cities. Opened in 2002, dedicated to making tennis more accessible to everyone in the community, especially youth from under-resourced communities. The center provides affordable courts, junior and adult tennis programs, and youth outreach programs. TennisWorks is their primary outreach program, pairing youth in grades 3-8 with tennis instruction, life-skills education, and academic support. Staff receive trauma-informed coaching and have access to mental health resources for youth who have experienced trauma. It has been recognized by the Aspen Institute for the work it is doing to break down barriers in sports.
- Grant supports the TennisWorks Youth Development program, a free, trauma-informed program for children in grades 3-8 primarily along the Lake Street corridor in Minneapolis, from neighborhood schools in areas of concentrated poverty. To meet growing participant numbers and maintain a high level of program quality, TennisWorks will be adding staff and increasing its after-school partnerships. Grant funds will support an expanded partnership between Fred Wells and YMCA Beacons in St. Paul for its extended summer program and the expansion of its after-school program to one new school.

Friends of the Children Fargo-Moorhead (https://friendsfm.org/)—$8,000 grant (youth develop.)

- Based in Fargo, serves the Fargo-Moorhead region. Friends of the Children is a national organization that is the country's first and only long-term professional mentoring program, working with children from as early as age 4 to high school graduation. Their work is grounded in evidence-based research on child development and mitigating the impacts of toxic stress on a child's brain development. The professional mentors at Friends are often former teachers, social workers, and youth leaders, with vast experience with youth and families facing the challenges of intergenerational poverty.
- Grant supports professional mentoring for youth in Moorhead, Minnesota, with high-quality, culturally appropriate youth development activities. The Friends' model works within each child's home, school, and community, applying trauma-informed, culturally aligned practices to allow their youth to cultivate the resilience needed to overcome barriers.

Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (https://gmcc.org/)—$15,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in Minneapolis, serves metro area. Founded in 1905, GMCC is an interfaith and intercultural organization that provides programs and services, including advocacy and education around equity and poverty, volunteerism and service learning, mentoring and youth development, and food security.
- Grant supports GMCC's LakeStreet Youth Labs, a STEAM-focused academic and recreational program for underserved children ages 6-12 in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. It is an 8-week, full-day (9 am to 5 pm) summer program that supports school readiness, well-being, and academic enrichment to curb summer learning loss and decrease educational disparities. Daily breakfast and lunch are served.

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (http://www.crisisnursery.org/)—$15,000 grant (early child.)

- Located in Minneapolis. Opened in 1983, the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery is committed to ending child abuse and neglect and to creating strong, healthy families. The Nursery offers free services to parents and children, with core services that include a crisis helpline, crisis counseling, education and connection to community resources, a home visiting and mental health program, and overnight residential care for parents to place their children voluntarily (newborn to age 6) for up to 3 nights while they address their crisis. Today, the Nursery answers approximately 4,000 crisis calls annually and shelters up to 20 children per day, providing over 5,000 nights of care each year.
- Grant supports GMCN's Targeted Home Visiting program, in which certified parent educators deliver 2-4 home visits per month for up to 2 years. The program uses the Parents as Teachers curriculum with Blue Ribbon Affiliate fidelity, supplemented by Circle of Security Parenting and the Mothers and Babies curriculum for caregivers experiencing depression or anxiety. Visits center on parent-child interaction, child development coaching, emotional support, developmental screening, and connection to resources. Monthly group connections reduce isolation and build peer community among caregivers.

Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (http://www.gtcys.org)—$10,000 grant (youth develop.)

- Located in St. Paul. Founded in 1972, GTCYS is a youth orchestra serving over 1,000 students in the Twin Cities. In 2016, in response to a request from parents in St. Paul's West Side, GTCYS launched the Harmony program to serve youth with music opportunities not otherwise available to them. Harmony is offered as a before-school program in partnership with Riverview Spanish-English Dual Immersion School.
- Grant supports expansion of the Harmony program, which offers high quality violin and cello instruction for 120 2nd-5th graders. During the school year, students meet 3 days a week before school, learning with talented teaching artists in small and large groups. They perform in various concerts throughout the year, including at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis and in collaboration with GTCYS' orchestras. Harmony is expanding to a new site at L'Etoile du Nord school. The grant also supports a week-long Harmony orchestra camp and a week-long Mariachi camp for all Harmony students.

Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County (www.hispanicoutreach.org)—$15,000 grant (youth devel.)

- Based in Red Wing, serves Goodhue County. Created in 2006 to target the needs of the county's rapidly growing Hispanic population, HOGC serves the Latinx community through support services including mental health, advocacy, and education to ease their integration into the community while preserving their culture.
- Grant supports HOGC's Summer Program, which serves 40 Hispanic children ages 5-11 with daily academic instruction, English language learning support, social-emotional programming, and culturally enriching field trips. All programming is design around the specific linguistic, cultural, and trauma-informed needs of families who have made extraordinary journeys to reach this community. Two licensed teachers design and adjust the curriculum annually based on pre- and post-test data. Transportation and meals are provided free of charge.

Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul (https://interfaithaction.org/)—$12,500 grant (youth devel.)

- Located in St. Paul. Interfaith Action uses an interfaith, multiracial, inter-generational approach to relieve the effects of poverty, address its causes, and build a more just, safe, and livable East Metro for all. With thousands of volunteers from faith communities, it focuses on increasing economic mobility in the East Metro, activating and educating members of faith communities, and equipping faith communities with pathways for their congregants to engage in effective action.
- Grant supports the American Indian Youth Enrichment program, the only year-round program serving Indigenous youth in St. Paul. Designed for children in grades 1-5, it consists of an afterschool program and a summer program. The grant supports hands-on reading and literacy skills as part of a holistic and culturally specific program developed and taught by Indigenous educators; learning and engaging in cultural lessons and activities that explore Indigenous history, language, ceremonies, arts, drumming, dance, and humor; and, participating in activities that increase cultural awareness, social-emotional learning skills, and self-esteem.

Jeremiah Program Rochester-Southeast MN (https://jeremiahprogram.org/campuses/rochester-southeast-mn/)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in Rochester. The Jeremiah Program was founded in Minneapolis in 1993, and in recent years has expanded nationally; in 2020 JP established the Rochester campus to serve Rochester and southeastern Minnesota. JP's mission is to disrupt the cycle of poverty for single mothers and their children, two generations at a time. JP provides the necessary support for moms in pursuit of economic mobility, including providing transitional housing for those who need it on 9 campuses nationwide. The Rochester program serves 40 single mothers and their children. The campus includes an onsite childcare center operated by Head Start.
- Grant supports expanding on-site mental health services through 2 partnerships: Fernbrook, which would embed clinicians directly in classrooms 2-3 times a week for observation, assessment, and individualized therapeutic support; and Coping Copilots, providing child life services as an immediate bridge for children experiencing acute trauma while awaiting longer-term care.

Liberty Community Church (https://libertychurchmpls.org/)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in north Minneapolis. Liberty opened as the first African American led Presbyterian congregation in Minnesota in 2002. Its mission promotes community, justice, social change, and empowerment for the children and families of north Minneapolis. Rooted in loving relationships, lived experience, and evidence-based practices, their initiatives move the needle on maternal and infant health outcomes, students' math and reading achievement, and college and career readiness.
- Grant supports the 21st Century Academy, Liberty's year-round afterschool program that serves up to 100 youth ages 4-21, K-12. The program is designed around three integrated pillars: healing-centered engagement, healthy activities, and homework and learning supports. Each child receives at least 30 minutes each day of individual time with a caring adult. The program embeds an on-site licensed therapist, school-based staff advocacy, and family home visits as core elements.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (http://lssmn.org)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Begun in 1865, LSS is one of Minnesota's largest nonprofit social service organizations, providing a comprehensive range of innovative services in all 87 counties. It recently merged with Lifetrack (a previous SAF grantee), incorporating that agency's programs into its offerings. LSS's Early Learning Centers in St. Paul serve 42 children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, many from families experiencing trauma, chronic stress, or developmental delays.
- Grant supports weekly music enrichment delivered by an instructor from Walker West Music Academy, a St. Paul institution rooted in African American cultural experience. These sessions will be integrated into existing classroom curricula and designed so teachers can reinforce songs and activities throughout the week, extending each session's benefits into daily rhythms. The program's trauma-informed approach integrates therapeutic support from mental health, occupational, and speech therapists alongside classroom instruction.

Mentor North (http://mentornorth.org/)—$13,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in Duluth. Established in 2019, Mentor North offers one-on-one mentorship and community engagement. Mentor North is based in the Damiano Center, a full-service social service center in a low-income neighborhood of Duluth, and Damiano helps provide wrap-around services for the youth if they need it. It works closely with 2 area schools and has relationships with school counselors who help provide support to the youth.
- Grant supports Mentor Duluth, a program that pairs children ages 7-12 with adult mentors in safe, supportive one-on-one relationships that emphasize well-being and are intended to last at least one year. The program ensures children are paired with mentors who reflect their interests, needs, and identities. Through individual consultations, trauma-informed training, and participation in the Mentor MN Mental Health Initiative, the program ensures accessible mental health resources for mentors, youth, and families. Intentional mentor recruitment and inclusion plans support BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, neurodiverse, and disabled youth.

Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting (https://www.mnfamilyhomevisiting.org/)—$10,000 grant (advocacy)

- Serves statewide. MCFHV represents a statewide group of practitioners and leaders of targeted home visiting programs, services, and systems. It advocates to secure statewide funding for targeted, intensive home visiting, increase political support for home visiting as a core early childhood service, and collaborate to improve the quality of home visiting services. St. David's, a children's mental health organization based in Minnetonka and serving the Twin Cities metro area, is the fiscal sponsor.
- Grant supports advocacy work for the upcoming 2026-27 legislative session, prioritizing 2 issues based on impact to families: defending state and federal funding for family home visiting services, and defending Medicaid coverage and continuous eligibility coverage for children up to age 6. The coalition will also work to expand support for families receiving home visiting services by: 1) expanding Medicaid payments, or partial payments, for family home visiting services; and 2) expanding funding for the Community Solutions Fund, to increase access to mental health services.

Minnesota Prenatal to Three Coalition (https://www.childrensdefense.org/cdf-in-the-states/minnesota/minnesota-prenatal-to-three-pn-3-coalition/)—$7,500 grant (advocacy)

- Serves statewide. Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition (PN-3) represents local, regional, and statewide early childhood stakeholders. Children's Defense Fund-MN is the fiscal host and co-chairs the PN-3 Coalition with West Central Initiative (located in Fergus Falls, MN). The coalition strives to ensure all children will have healthy births, supportive families, and communities with resources to develop, grow, and flourish without being defined by their income, race, ethnicity, or zip code. PN-3 believes that by focusing on children facing racial, geographic, and economic inequities, all children in Minnesota will be able to thrive within their families and communities. The coalition's purpose is to: 1) Raise awareness among policy and decision-makers about the importance of these early years and to ensure our youngest children are meeting important developmental benchmarks and are ready for kindergarten. 2) Increase smart investments in Minnesota's young children and their families.
- Grant supports two primary activities this year – a 2027 Legislators Academy for newly elected and returning lawmakers, and advocating to defend and expand funding across three domains: health and wellness (including infant and early childhood mental health), early care and learning, and family economics.

Northeast Youth and Family Services (www.nyfs.org)—$15,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Shoreview, serves northeastern metro area. NYFS is a nonprofit, community-based and trauma-informed mental health and community services organization serving the northeastern St. Paul suburbs since 1976. NYFS partners with 16 municipalities and 4 school districts to provide comprehensive and cost-effective support to clients at all ages and stages of life. Support from municipal partners and donations from community stakeholders allows NYFS to remove financial barriers and provide services to many who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford this help.
- Grant supports building NYFS's capacity to offer early childhood mental health services at their clinic sites, and eventually also in a home-visiting model. Early childhood mental health services at NYFS will be based on evidence-based practices – Circle of Security Parenting and Child/Parent Psychotherapy. These interventions, grounded in attachment theory, support the mental health of 0-5-year-olds and their caregivers. The program aims to address the urgent mental health needs of young children in Ramsey County, a region where services for this age group are scarce.

Plymouth Christian Youth Center (http://www.pcyc-mpls.org)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in north Minneapolis. Founded in 1954, PCYC runs a youth program, charter school, and the Capri Theater in north Minneapolis. Its after-school program serves 70 mostly African American youth ages 5-12. It is a key partner in the Northside Achievement Zone and has been very focused on helping children achieve academic goals in alignment with NAZ concerns about academic outcomes.
- Grant supports PCYC's Bright Futures Freedom Schools, a free and culturally relevant summer program for 40 students in grades 1-5. The program uses the Integrated Reading Curriculum to prevent summer learning loss, while promoting literacy, self-awareness, civic engagement, and decision-making through activities such as journaling, group discussions, and role-playing. They also offer daily enrichment activities including arts, STEM, social-emotional learning, nutritious meals, and field trips, all supported by trained staff and interns. Funding will support PCYC staff receiving comprehensive professional development led by BIPOC experts from CDF, designed to ensure high-quality, culturally responsive programming.

Project Friendship (http://www.projectfriendshipmentoring.org/)—$8,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in Northfield. Originating in 1965, PF provides mentoring relationships with college students from St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges, serving children in 2nd-7th grade from the Northfield School District identified as needing a mentor. Half the children served are eligible for free or reduced lunch, and 15% are Latino or African American in a community where the total population is 3.8% Latino and .8% African American. Youth are matched with mentors from similar backgrounds or with similar interests, with a focus on building confidence, inspiring character, and creating connections.

- Grant supports expanding mentor training grounded in social-emotional learning, goal-setting, and trauma-informed approaches, as well as a new Spanish Community Liaison Intern to strengthen engagement with Spanish-speaking families. The program is grounded in the MENTOR Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring.

Relentless Academy (https://www.relentlessacademy.org/)—$12,500 grant (youth development)

- Located in Brooklyn Center. Founded in 2019, Relentless Academy provides affordable and accessible S.M.A.R.T. (Science, Math, Art, Reading, Technology) programming that includes music and financial literacy instruction for youth. Their mission is to close the academic achievement and wealth gap among families in underserved communities.
- Grant supports the SMART summer program, which launched in 2021 with 25 kids and this year will serve 75 students in grades K-4, with a waitlist. The program runs five days a week, 8 am to 5 pm, for 10 weeks from June to August, and takes place at Brookdale Covenant Church in Brooklyn Center. This program is designed to curb the learning loss that happens over the summer break. It uses a holistic, engaging, and student-centered approach, incorporating academic support, social-emotional development, opportunities for creative expression, STEAM and technology lessons, and culturally relevant student experiences.

Rise Early Learning Center (https://www.riseearlylearningcenter.org/)—$10,000 grant (early child.)

- Located in St. Louis Park. Rise Early is an innovative high-quality childcare center in the Rise on 7 affordable housing development in St. Louis Park, which was built by Commonbond Communities. Rise Early has joined with CommonBond and Way to Grow to support child development and provide housing, wellness, and education resources for the families served. Scholarships and childcare slots are prioritized for children from families with fewer resources and who are residents.
- Grant supports the Rise Early childhood program, which aims to provide holistic support to young children from families of varying incomes, religions, and cultures. Rise Early has developed a robust professional development program for its staff, with the goal of reducing staff turnover through ongoing coaching and training opportunities. Rise Early actively supports its staff in pursuing ongoing education through certifications, degrees, and licensure, leveraging a variety of funding to make these opportunities accessible.

Saint Paul Urban Tennis (https://www.stpaulurbantennis.org/)—$12,500 grant (youth develop.)

- Located in St. Paul. Established in 1991, Saint Paul Urban Tennis (SPUT) was created by a group of dedicated tennis enthusiasts and community leaders who came together to bring the transformative power of tennis to underserved youth in Saint Paul. By providing accessible tennis programs, academic support, and leadership development, SPUT creates opportunities for young people to build confidence, develop critical life skills, and pursue their potential both on and off the court.
- Grant supports SPUT's Summer Enrichment Series. The program pairs weekly tennis instruction with distinct enrichment themes, including cooking, visual art, wildlife education, Muay Thai, leadership development, STEM, and basketball, creating an integrated learning experience that builds skill, identity, and connection simultaneously. Central to the model is a team of teen and young adult youth coaches, 70% of whom are former SPUT participants themselves. These coaches are not just instructors; they are neighborhood role models whose presence communicates to younger youth that belonging and leadership are possible for them too.

ServeMinnesota (http://www.serveminnesota.org)—$12,500 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Launched in 1994 as the Minnesota Commission on National and Community service, ServeMinnesota oversees Minnesota's AmeriCorps programs. ServeMN was the first in the nation to develop the Reading Corps program, which has since expanded to 13 other states. Across Minnesota, its Early Learning Corps provides high-quality Pre-K education and literacy- and math-rich learning environments to young children who otherwise couldn't access it.

- Grant supports Early Learning Corps programming in West Central Minnesota, where 16 locally recruited AmeriCorps tutors work across 12 partner sites. Every child receives evidence-based whole-class support, and those who need more receive tailored one-on-one or small-group attention. Each tutor is guided by an Early Learning Corps expert and a host-site supervisor to ensure every child receives the right support all year long. Tutors receive training in relationship-building, social-emotional skill development, and trauma-informed approaches.

Simpson Housing Services (http://www.simpsonhousing.org)—$12,500 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves the metro area. Simpson houses, supports, and advocates for youth, single adults, and families experiencing homelessness. It operates under the Housing First model that moves families into housing first and then provides services. Rooted in compassionate accountability, self-determination, and transparent communication, Simpson's family-support model fosters strong relationships with families and prepares them for life beyond supportive housing.
- Grant supports the Family Spirit Home Visiting program, an evidence-based, culturally tailored home visiting initiative designed to support families with children from prenatal to 5 years old. The program serves about 200 children and 155 parents/caregivers annually, focusing on promoting child development, reducing parental stress, and preparing children for kindergarten. The approach is strengths-based and aims to break generational cycles of homelessness and poverty.

Southside Family Nurturing Center (http://www.ssfnc.org/)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. SFNC has been providing services to families in south Minneapolis experiencing trauma for the past 45 years. Its mission is to deliver a holistic, two-generation model that integrates therapeutic early childhood education, including play therapy and music therapy, with evidence-based intensive home visiting services and family support services. Through this approach, SSFNC works to break intergenerational cycles of poverty, abuse, and neglect, while promoting long-term health and educational equity.
- Grant supports expanding access to the Therapeutic Early Childhood Music Therapy program, serving children ages 15 months to 5 years, by providing weekly group music therapy across all three classrooms for preschool, toddler, and pre-K age groupings. Additionally, 5-10 children with a specific identified developmental concern receive individual music therapy.

St. David's Center (http://www.stdavidscenter.org/)—$12,500 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Minnetonka, serves the Twin Cities metro area. St. David's is a long-established children's mental health organization serving more than 2,500 children, adults, and families each year. Several years ago, St. David's launched the Family Place program in St. David's Harmon Center in downtown Minneapolis. The center reaches out to East African families as an expansion of work around autism in that community. The Family Place works in classroom and home settings with children who either have a mental health diagnosis or are in a high stress environment to help cultivate critical skills that are the foundation of early learning and kindergarten success.
- Grant supports the coordination time required to support the Family Place's integrated model. The program's two-generation approach centers the parent-child relationship within each family's cultural and historical context, and its all-under-one-roof model directly reduces the systemic barriers that disproportionately burden families from culturally marginalized communities. This supported coordination time allows therapists across disciplines to align strategies and deliver truly integrated care, rather than siloed services that put the burden of coordination on already-stretched families.

Think Small (http://www.thinksmall.org/)—$10,000 grant (advocacy)

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Think Small is a leading early education organization that supports families in accessing quality care and education, helps to build quality within the field, and improves the early learning system. It operates the Small Talk series, educating community and professionals about early childhood policy issues.

- Grant supports building a new statewide coalition, conducting education campaigns, performing family voice surveys, and advocating for statewide systemic change. Think Small will lead a new approach to early care and education regulation and quality assurance in Minnesota. The goal is to stop tinkering with the current system and start transforming it to take the burden from families and support early childhood educators in their quality care journeys. The coalition will include parents, educators, early childhood coalitions and nonprofits, state agencies, and elected officials.

This Is Me (https://www.idoexist.org/)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in Northfield, serves the surrounding communities. Established in 2024, This Is Me believes every young person within the foster care system deserves to see themselves reflected in a world full of possibilities. The organization empowers foster youth through mentorship, creative expression, and community connection. From photoshoots that celebrate identity to programs that build confidence and life skills, This Is Me aims to be the bridge connecting spaces where young people are seen, heard, and valued for exactly who they are.
- Grant supports one-to-one trauma-informed mentoring for 130 foster youth ages 7–12 across 32 counties in southern Minnesota, matching youth and mentors by shared interests, personality, and lived experience. Mentors commit to a minimum of one year, building the consistent, trustworthy relationships that foster-impacted children rarely experience. The program is grounded in the MENTOR Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring and shaped by technical assistance from Silver Lining Mentoring, a national organization focused exclusively on foster-impacted youth.

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (https://www.unitedwaynemn.org/)—$10,000 grant (youth)

- Based in Chisholm, serves the Iron Range, Koochiching County, and Lake of the Woods County. Established in 1966, UWNEMN is a volunteer-based organization serving individuals and families in the northeastern region of Minnesota. The organization supports more than 30 nonprofit partner agencies as well as its own initiatives.
- Grant supports Lunch Buddies, a trauma-informed mentoring program that matches elementary school children who need additional positive adult role models with screened, trained, caring adults from the community. They meet one-on-one once a week during lunch throughout the school year. The program was designed with guidance from MENTOR Minnesota to ensure a culturally sensitive and responsive program, and staff and mentors receive regular training. The program operates in 11 schools in Mountain Iron, Babbitt, Aurora, Eveleth, Virginia, Chisholm, and International Falls.

Voices and Choices for Children (https://www.voicesandchoicesmn.com/)—$5,000 grant (advocacy)

- Based in the Twin Cities, serves statewide. V&C was launched in 2014 by the Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota as a direct response to systems that were failing to close the opportunity gap for BIPOC populations. The coalition includes organizations, professionals, and parents of color and American Indians working across early childhood sectors such as government, philanthropy, and nonprofits. V&C is dedicated to fundamentally transforming Minnesota's early childhood landscape, by focusing on shaping more equitable practices and policies that support better outcomes for children of color and American Indian children prenatal to 8 years old across Minnesota.
- Grant supports organizing Black, Indigenous, and communities of color to shape Minnesota's early childhood policy landscape. Funding will support coalition coordination and convening.

Walker West Music Academy (www.walkerwest.org)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in St. Paul, serves St. Paul and Minneapolis. Established in 1988, Walker West may be the oldest community music school in the nation founded by African American musicians. It is an out-of-school-time, nonprofit music school based in the African American community in St. Paul that teaches instrumental and vocal music to students ages 5 to adult. It teaches all styles of music, but is especially known for jazz, gospel, and other styles of improvisational music. It provides affordable, quality music instruction inspired by the African American cultural experience. Many of its students have gone on to study at top music conservatories and perform professionally.

- Grant supports bringing Walker West's Early Childhood Music Exploration Program to two partner sites: Phyllis Wheatley Community Center in North Minneapolis and St. Peter Claver Catholic School in St. Paul's historic Rondo neighborhood. The program provides culturally grounded, play-based music classes, rooted in African American musical traditions. Teaching artists facilitate 30-minute weekly classes across about 30 weeks per year.

Way to Grow (http://www.waytogrow.org)—$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. Way to Grow is a collaborative home-visiting-based program whose goal is to help very vulnerable families get their children ready for school. Working closely with parents and communities, Way to Grow ensures that children within the most isolated families are born health, stay healthy, and are prepared for school.
- Grant supports Great By Eight, a multi-generational family engagement program for families with children ages 0-8. During home visits, family educators model techniques for playing and learning, teaching parents how to support growth at home and providing them with a trustworthy source of personalized information. Also, funding will expand Together We Grow groups for caregivers of children ages 0-5, which focus on cognitive development, social-emotional learning, early literacy, and child health. Sessions are offered in families' home languages, with Parent-as-Teacher materials provided in English and Spanish. Together, this funding helps bring these programs to more neighborhoods in Minneapolis, Brooklyn Park, and Brooklyn Center, while increasing access for families in Richfield, Bloomington, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, and other communities with demonstrated need.

West Central Initiative (http://www.wcif.org/)—$9,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Fergus Falls, serves the 9 counties of Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin, as well as White Earth Nation. WCI is a regional organization foundation that works through funding, programs, and technical assistance to strengthen the economy of west central Minnesota so its families, communities and businesses can thrive.
- Grant supports providing early childhood providers Conscious Discipline, a research-based social-emotional learning framework built on the belief that if you want to help children, start with the adults. Caregivers learn to recognize and regulate their own emotional state first, creating conditions for children to build executive functioning, empathy, and health relationships. WCI has been working over the past 3 years to embed this framework across its nine-county region through training events, a 12-member action team, and a statewide network of 50 endorsed facilitators authorized to train within their own organizations. Funding will support training events to introduce new educators, reengage past participants, and deepen implementation across the region.

Wilder Foundation (http://www.wilder.org)—$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in St. Paul, serves the east metro. Founded in 1906, Wilder helps children, families and older adults through direct service programs, research, leadership development and community building. It operates a 4-star Parent Aware certified childcare program that takes a whole-family approach to the families it serves. Wilder is part of the Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood (https://saintpaulpromiseneighborhood.com/), an educational partnership launched in 2010 focused on the Frogtown, Rondo, and Summit-University neighborhoods that works to facilitate a long-term cradle-to-career initiative supporting a child's life and family in meaningful, measurable ways.
- Grant supports Thrive by Five, an initiative that aims to improve early childhood development and kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood. It helps parents and caregivers through one-on-one coaching, home visits, navigating early childhood education options and resources, and building social capital through group connections with other parents and caregivers. Grant funds will support the child-centered activities that directly engage parents and caregivers and their children through the Parents as Teachers home-visiting model.