

Funding Opportunity: Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregiver Supports

Funding Overview

Family, friend and neighbor caregivers bring many strengths to the support of children including caring relationships, the warmth of a home environment, flexibility and – typically – affordability for the families they serve. Now more than ever, family, friend and neighbor caregivers are being called upon to support families as essential workers continue to report to work and hosts of licensed child care sites are closing. At the Foundation, we believe that regardless of child care setting, caregivers should have supports for their own well-being, opportunities to grow their knowledge of child development and access to resources to support healthy child development in support of the social-emotional development of the young children they provide care for.

This funding opportunity will support family, friend and neighbor caregivers to build their networks, increase access to information and resources and provide professional development in support of building stable, responsive relationships with the children in their care. Eligible applicants for this opportunity include community-based organizations, community-based coalitions or public agencies that work with family, friend and neighbor caregivers serving Coloradans living on low income and those historically experiencing less power and privilege. Applicants are eligible to apply for up to two years of support.

Proposed projects must reflect the [Foundation's cornerstones](#), as our work is grounded in serving Coloradans who have low income and historically have had less power or privilege, putting health equity at the center of everything we do, and being informed by the community and those we exist to serve.

Have questions? We're here to talk through your ideas and strongly encourage you to connect with us before applying for funding. If you don't already work with a program officer, please reach out to us by [email](#) or by phone at 303-953-3600, and be sure to note the county you work in and area of interest.

Focus Area

Nurture Healthy Minds

Grant Deadlines

Feb 15, 2021

Jun 15, 2021

We're here to help

Have questions? Contact your Program Officer for more information.

[Contact Us](#)

303-953-3600

Funding@ColoradoHealth.org

Criteria

To be considered for funding, organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Align with the Foundation's [cornerstones](#) and promote conditions for healthy social-emotional development and resilience of young children
- Establish the ability to outreach and engage the family, friend and neighbor caregiver population and utilize strong social and community networks
- Ensure capacity to offer culturally relevant program infrastructure and services
- Include family, friend and neighbor caregivers and/or families who serve in advisory and/or co-designer roles



The Foundation is looking to support efforts that address one or more of the following:

1. Enhance family, friend and neighbor caregiver ability to manage stress and support their own mental well-being
2. Have improved access to culturally relevant resources in their communities to support their work and the families they serve
3. Grow an understanding of healthy child social-emotional development and culturally relevant strategies while children are in their care
4. Establish practices to foster strong partnerships with parents of the children that are in their care

Preference will be given to programs/projects that:

- Focus on building the strength of caregivers as a way to improve the social-emotional development of children.
- Consider family, friend and neighbor caregiver well-being, including understanding and coping with stress.
- Acknowledge and build on the strengths of families and caregivers.
- Consider how trauma may impact families and caregivers and embody strategies that are sensitive to the hard realities and resiliency present in the care setting.
- Are based on input from caregivers, available information about local needs and lessons about what works in other places with similar characteristics.
- Consider multiple ways to reach caregivers to overcome barriers (e.g. online, training during nights and/or weekends, in-home supports, etc.)

Examples of organizations considered for funding:

- Community-based nonprofits
- Community colleges
- Community-based coalitions
- Early childhood councils
- Family resource centers
- Local institutions who are viewed by community as trusted partners
- Public libraries

Examples of efforts we hope to support:

- Knowledge of healthy childhood development, including strategies to advance social-emotional development of young children
- Supporting family, friend and neighbor caregivers' understanding of trauma and mental health, and bolstering their own well-being
- Raising awareness of and connections to available resources to support caregivers and families receiving child care
- Practices to support positive relationships with families and sustainable care delivery



Examples of activities we hope to support:

- Planning and outreach efforts to grow understanding of local family, friend and neighbor capacity and needs
- Established early childhood training programs made available to family, friend and neighbor caregivers
- Strategies that eliminate geographic barriers or barriers to in-person connections as a result of COVID19
- Efforts to leverage existing infrastructure to extend to family, friend and neighbor caregivers
- Home visitation programs for family, friend and neighbor homes (Virtual or in person)
- Group training programs (Virtual or in person)
- Support groups (Virtual or in person)

Definitions

Social-Emotional Development: The Foundation defines social-emotional development as a child's ability to understand the feelings of others, control his or her own feelings and behaviors, get along with other children and build relationships with adults.

Multigenerational: The Foundation defines multigenerational as an approach when programs and policies are designed with the whole family's educational and economic future in mind, and families are assisted to reach the social networks and resources they need to be successful in life, opportunity becomes a family tradition.

We often partner with third-party evaluators, contractors and other organizations over the course of our work with applicants and grantees. Your application and its attachments may be shared with these individuals or entities during the review process and grant cycle. All third-party organizations partnering with the Foundation have signed a confidentiality agreement and will not use or share the information for purposes outside of the scope of work specific to the grant application or grant award. If you have any concerns or would like additional information, please email grants@coloradohealth.org or call our senior director of Grantmaking Operations at 303-953-3600.

Funding Opportunity

Our funding opportunities focus on specific needs aligned with a particular priority within our focus areas. These vary for each funding deadline (Feb. 15, June 15 and Oct. 15). Applicants will be required to address detailed criteria specific to that funding opportunity. Grant funding is highly competitive within the pool of applicants for each individual funding opportunity.

We encourage all applicants to [sign up](#) in our grants portal to confirm registration is complete at least a week in advance of submitting a grant application. Apply for funding by 5 p.m. MDT on Feb. 15, 2021.

Resources

- [Children's Emotional Development Is Built into the Architecture of Their Brains, National Scientific Council on the Developing Child](#)
- [Demographics of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care in the United States, Child Care & Early Education Research Connections](#)
- [Social-Emotional Development in the First Three Years, The Pennsylvania State University and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)

