

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregiver Supports Funding Opportunity

What is family, friend and neighbor (FFN) care? Family, friend and neighbor (FFN) care is home-based care – in the caregiver’s or child’s home – provided by caregivers who are relatives (e.g., grandparents, aunts and uncles, elders or older siblings), friends, neighbors, babysitters, nannies or parents supporting other children in addition to their own. This type of child care takes place outside of an early child care center, program or family child care (FCC) home. FFN care is the most prevalent and widely practiced form of child care. Some of the common terms used to refer to FFN care include non-parental child care, informal care, unregulated child care, home-based care, kith and kin care, relative care, legally unlicensed and license-exempt care.

What organizations are eligible? Eligible organizations include community-based organizations (501c3 or public agencies) that establish the ability to outreach and engage the family, friend and neighbor caregiver population and utilize strong social and community networks. Informal coalitions or groups led by family, friend and neighbor caregivers are also encouraged to apply with the support of a fiscal sponsor. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about funding eligibility and who can apply.

What might we do to demonstrate that we offer culturally relevant program infrastructure and services? There are many ways applicants can express this alignment. In general, we aim to support organizations that use the cultural knowledge, prior experiences, frames of reference and home languages of the communities they serve to make programming more relevant and effective. Strong applicants will be able to demonstrate how they have tapped into community connections to inform their design process and to provide ongoing feedback to improve programming. Program staff would ideally be representative of the community served, and has navigated participation barriers related to language, location, child care, transportation or any number of unique barriers or facilitators to participation.

How do you classify low income? As defined by the [National Center for Children in Poverty](#), families and children are defined as low income if the family income is less than twice the federal poverty threshold. Families experiencing low income often face greater barriers to achieving health. The level of income that poses a barrier, in combination to access to other resources, varies by community and family. The percentage of children in a community eligible for child care subsidies, average family income or other indicators your organization may use to determine need may be considered.

Can funding support basic needs of family, friend and neighbor caregivers or the families they serve? The Foundation is interested in building networks among family, friend and neighbor caregivers to support reduced isolation, improved well-being, improved access to resources and professional development related to the healthy social-emotional development of children. Applicants can apply for support to overcome barriers to achieving those goals, which may include transportation, child care, food for gatherings, etc. It may also include educational materials for the home setting that related to activities aligned with professional development. Funding is not available for routine meals for children, diapers or other basic supplies for children in family, friend and neighbor care.

Can funding be used for mental health treatment for family, friend and neighbor caregivers? Funding can be used to bring together groups of caregivers to offer support and reduce isolation. Professional development and coaching opportunities may attend to improved understanding of trauma and effects on children and caregivers, as well as stress and emotion management tools. Efforts may also go toward making better connections to available mental health supports in local communities. Funding for formal mental health treatment is not eligible.

What funding levels will be considered? We anticipate a range of \$50,000 to \$150,000. Proposals outside of that range will be considered.



Will multiyear funding be considered? Applicants can request funds for up to two years.

