2022 Quality Enhancement Grants Program

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation’s Quality Enhancement Grants program supports quality improvement efforts in early learning programs serving children birth to five in the Kansas City region.

Qualifying non-profit and for-profit programs in Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas and Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties in Missouri are eligible for grants of up to $100,000 per year over two years. Organizations working directly with early learning programs on quality improvement initiatives also qualify for this opportunity.

These grants will enable organizations to improve existing programs through enhancing curricula, teacher-child interactions, social-emotional learning, or child screening and assessment, as well as activities which support organizational strengthening.*

*Organizational strengthening could include board development, strategic planning, program evaluation, accreditation coaching, executive coaching, etc.

Application Process

Applications for the 2022 Quality Enhancement Grants program will open on March 1, 2022 and the deadline to apply is April 5, at 11:59 p.m. CT. The online application can be found at: rfp.kauffman.org.

Kauffman Foundation staff will review all applications and applicants will be notified of their application status by June.

Applicants are limited to one application per organization. Funding for capital campaigns (e.g. buildings) and/or construction is not available through this program. Organizations that received a 2021 Quality Enhancement Grant are not eligible to apply in 2022.

Eligibility

- Two categories of organizations are eligible for this grant opportunity:
  - 501(c)3 public charities, governmental entities (including school districts), or religious institutions serving at least 40% of enrolled children from lower-income households*
  - For-profit applicants serving at least 90% of enrolled children from lower-income households*
- Organization must enroll at least 30 children ages birth to five at the time of application.
• Organization must be located in Cass, Clay, Platte, or Jackson Counties in Missouri or Johnson or Wyandotte Counties in Kansas.
• Funding requested should support children ages birth to five.
• Organization cannot be a recipient of a 2021 Quality Enhancement Grant from the Kauffman Foundation to apply in 2022.

*Lower-income households are defined by eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch, federal/state child care assistance, Head Start, or a public assistance program based on family income (e.g. SNAP, TANF, WIC, etc.).

Initial Application Details

In addition to demonstrating eligibility, the initial application will ask for the following information:

1. Basic Information: Organization name, address, primary leader, and grant contact
2. About your Organization (to be completed by schools and centers only):
   Enrollment information, staff information, teacher and student assessments used, curriculum used
3. Organization’s Demographic Information: complete the race & ethnicity and gender identity of your executive director, board of trustees, and senior staff. We recognize that many applicants are not currently collecting some of these data. If this is the case, please select the “unknown” option in the dropdowns.
4. Partnerships (to be completed by support organizations only)
   Have partner schools and/or centers been secured as part of this project? Include the names of partners and their current birth to five enrollment of children from lower-income families
5. Proposal: Explain the work this grant will support, a few key activities/milestones, and what you hope to achieve as a result of this project. What might make this work more difficult, and what types of support – from your program officer or others – would help? Who will lead this work and what is their experience?
6. Target Beneficiaries: How many children ages birth to five will be directly served by this project? How many of the children impacted by this project receive free/reduced lunch, financial assistance, child care subsidy, or are enrolled in a public assistance program based on family income? How many teachers and/or leaders will be directly served by this project?
7. Impact Metrics: How will you measure the success/impact of this grant?
8. Budget: Funding amount requested, total project budget, and other funding sources. Up to 20% of the grant budget can be in support of general operations for qualifying non-profit organizations. General operations cannot be requested from for-profit applicants due to IRS restrictions.

Questions? Please contact hfrench@kauffman.org