Quality Enhancement Grants
2022
Kauffman Foundation’s Inclusive Prosperity Framework

Vision

A society of economically empowered individuals contributing to the improvement of their communities.

Mission

We seek to prepare people for success in their jobs and careers, so that everyone has the opportunity to achieve economic stability, mobility, and prosperity. Our work is grounded in the principles of racial equity, diversity, and inclusion and is consistent with the aspirations of our founder, Ewing Marion Kauffman.
Kauffman Foundation’s Early Education Strategy

Priorities

1. Supportive, coordinated **policies** and **systems** for child well-being
2. Equitable, affordable, and convenient **access** to programs that meet all families’ needs
3. Early learning settings possess **high-quality** environmental and instructional conditions that advance child-development
4. **Families** can access and utilize resources that enable them to effectively foster child development
Quality Enhancement Grants Program

Supports quality improvement efforts in early learning programs serving children birth to five in the Kansas City region.

- Schools and centers
- Support organizations working with schools and centers on quality improvement initiatives

Organizations can apply for up to $100,000 per year.

Grants will be awarded for a two-year period.
What types of projects will be funded?

Quality improvement projects might include:

- curriculum enhancements (e.g., training or new implementation)
- teacher-child interactions (e.g. training or coaching)
- social-emotional learning (e.g. training or coaching)
- child screening and assessment (e.g. training or new implementation)
- organizational strengthening (e.g. board development, strategic planning, fund development, program evaluation)
What types of projects will be funded (con’t)?

The Kauffman Foundation will not consider:

• requests for building/construction/renovation
• indirect costs
• supply and equipment costs as the central focus
• general operating support requests
  • Non-profit organizations can request up to 20% of the project budget for operating costs
Eligibility Requirements

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 percent of enrolled children from lower-income households*; or

• For-profit applicants serving at least 90 percent of enrolled children from lower-income households.*

• Organization must be located in Cass, Clay, Platte, or Jackson Counties in Missouri or Johnson or Wyandotte Counties in Kansas.

• School and center providers must enroll at least 30 children ages birth to five.

• 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.).
Support Organizations

- Non-profit organizations working directly with early learning schools and/or centers on quality improvement initiatives qualify for funding.
- Organizations should have partner sites identified prior to submitting an application.
- Partner sites should meet Quality Enhancement Grants eligibility requirements.
Application Process

- Application opened March 1 and will close on April 5, 2022 at 11:59pm CT.
- Application and important program information can be found at rfp.kauffman.org.
- Applicants will be notified of their application status by June.
- Applicants are limited to one application per organization.
Early Learning Program Profile (ELPP)

- The ELPP collects data on process and structural quality measures for early learning programs that lead to better outcomes for children.
- Programs observed using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), a nationally recognized classroom quality assessment tool.
- Programs self-report information on seven key structural quality elements (e.g., family engagement, curriculum, teacher qualifications, etc.).
- Several programs currently participate through Mid-America Regional Council with opportunities for quality improvement support based on ELPP results.
- Schools and centers will be asked about the ELPP on the application.
- Programs not currently participating have the opportunity to engage.
- ELPP programs will be prioritized in the review process.
Application Submission

• Grant guidelines, scoring rubrics, and application can be found at rfp.kauffman.org

• Nine sections:
  o Consent and authorization
  o Organization and contact information
  o Organization’s demographic information
  o Quality Enhancement Grants eligibility
  o Quality Enhancement Grants application
  o Target beneficiaries
  o Program enrollment verification upload (schools and centers only)
  o Socio-demographic verification upload (schools and centers only)
  o Terms and conditions

Click “REVIEW & SUBMIT” once all sections are complete.
Questions?

Schedule a 15-minute phone call at rfp.kauffman.org

or

Email Halley at hfrench@kauffman.org