



2020 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.

Programs in Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas and Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte counties in Missouri enrolling at least forty percent children from lower-income families 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 teacher and leader development, curriculum enhancements, child screening and assessment, and capacity building.

Application Process

Applications for the 2020 Quality Enhancement Grants program will open on March 2, and the deadline to apply is May 4 at 11:59 p.m. (the application deadline was extended due to the COVID-19 crisis). 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 15, 2020.

Applicants are limited to one application per organization. Funding for building and/or construction is not available through this program. Organizations that received a 2019 Quality Enhancement Grant are not eligible to apply in 2020.

Eligibility

- Organization must be a 501(c)(3) public charity or a governmental, educational, or religious institution.
- At least 40 percent of the children enrolled at the time of application must be receiving free/reduced lunch, child care subsidy, tuition assistance, or be enrolled in a public assistance program based on family income.
- 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.
- Programs are required to use an evidence-based tool to assess kindergarten readiness (or progress toward) or be applying for funding to adopt such a tool as part of the project.

- Organization cannot be a recipient of a 2019 Quality Enhancement Grant from the Kauffman Foundation to apply in 2020.

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. **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 if they are currently participating or willing to participate in the Early Learning Program Profile during the grant period.
4. **Organizational Capacity** (150 words or less): *Describe your organization's competencies and leadership capacity to manage and monitor this grant*
5. **Challenge or Opportunity** (150 words or less): *Include a brief explanation of the challenge or opportunity being addressed by your project.*
6. **Project Description** (500 words or less): *Include a description of the project. Explain why this is believed to be the best approach to address the challenge or opportunity described above. Include any relevant research or evidence that supports your assertions. Explain how this approach supports kindergarten readiness for low-income children ages birth to five.*
7. **Plan for Implementation** (250 words or less): *Provide a brief description of how you plan to complete the work and when major milestones will be completed using specific dates.*
8. **Relevant Qualifications** (150 words or less): *Describe who will be responsible for managing and carrying out the described activities, and what skills and experience they have that demonstrate their capacity to do this work.*
9. **Program Impact:** *How many children ages birth to five will be directly served by this project in the six-county Kansas City metropolitan area? 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?*
10. **Barriers to Success** (250 words or less): *What are the significant challenges to the success of the proposed work (specifically, the organization's ability to achieve the expected outcomes, such as any external factors beyond the organization's control, etc.)? How will these challenges be addressed?*
11. **Project Sustainability** (150 words or less): *How do you plan to continue this work after the grant ends?*
12. **Expected Outcomes:** *List the key expected outputs and outcomes of the grant (5 maximum outputs and 5 maximum outcomes) that will be achieved within the grant period. See the Kauffman Foundation's [metrics guide](#) for further assistance in developing your outputs and outcomes.*
13. **Budget:** *Funding amount requested, total project budget, and other funding sources.*

Questions? Please contact hfrench@kauffman.org