

LIVE UNITED



United Way of King County

**United Way of King County
Early Learning
Racial Equity Innovation Challenge Fund
Funding Announcement**

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Overview

NOTE: This process represents a new approach to grant making with a different timeline and expectations than other Early learning funding processes. As part of efforts to ensure we are making the greatest impact in reducing racial disparities that exist in kindergarten readiness, we will invest in innovative work led by communities of color that advances racial equity in an accelerated and replicable way. The Racial Equity Innovation Challenge Fund will include investment and partnership with selected projects that directly address program, organizational, or systems wide change needed in order to improve outcomes for children and families of color and reduce racial disparities in kindergarten readiness.

Dollars Available: A total of \$100,000 is available for the Racial Equity Innovation Challenge Fund.

Award range: A total of 2 grants will be awarded within the award range of \$40,000-\$60,000.

Funding period: This is a focused one-time 12-month grant with the primary project activities taking place between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. Following successful completion of the year's activities, innovation fund grantees will be offered an additional \$5,000 grant for work with United Way between July 1 and December 31, 2018 on dissemination of the project's results.

Timeline – Note different timeline and process from other United Way applications

January 24, 2017	Intent to Apply due
February 17, 2017	Brief Project Proposal due
February 24, 2017	Invitation for follow-up project dialogue with review team
March 6-10, 2017	Follow-up project dialogue with review team
April 30, 2017	Applicants notified of funding decisions
July 1, 2017	Contracts begin
October 2017	First quarter meeting with United Way staff
January 2018	Second quarter report/meeting with United Way staff
April 2018	Third quarter meeting with United Way staff
June 2018	Fourth quarter meeting/project presentation to community and End of Contract Report

Strategies/Services

Projects should center around an innovative strategy focused on action to promote change and progress within early learning to eliminate racial disparities. Projects can be specific to work within one or more communities of color most impacted by racial disparities. These communities include low-income families of color and immigrant and refugee families with children birth to kindergarten entry. Particular interest in impacting African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and/or Latino families/children.

Projects can include efforts that make an impact on direct service, organizational and/or systems level work to address racial disparities in kindergarten readiness, with an understanding of the institutional and systemic nature of racism. Projects will build upon existing work and community knowledge to further advance racial equity. They will develop processes and tools that are shared and sustainable in order to maximize long-term results through replication. Scope of projects include:

Programs and Services- Improving early learning program and service delivery for children and families of color.

- Does not include funding for-
 - Existing program and service delivery
 - New program and service delivery that overlaps with Support for Parents, Quality Early Care and Education, or Early Intervention
 - Professional development of program staff
 - Program assessment or evaluation

Organizations and Institutions- Improving the ways in which organizations operate (policies, and practices) so that they are more equitable for children and families of color.

- Does not include funding for-
 - Organizational Assessments

Community-wide and Systems- Improving the ways in which two or more organizations/institutions in and across early learning (for example, health care, child care, parent support, early intervention, child welfare, housing, K-12 education, etc.) work together to better support children and families of color.

- Does not include funding for-
 - Community Needs Assessments

Focus Population

Projects must be led by and focus on communities most impacted by racial disparities in kindergarten readiness, including African American/Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and/or Latino communities.

Information & Technical Assistance

United Way of King County staff are eager and available to hear your ideas and answer any questions you might have. Individualized technical assistance is available at each applicant's request. To schedule technical assistance, contact Hannah Locke, hlocke@uwkc.org (206) 461-5021.

Reporting

A mid contract progress report as well as an end of contract final report are required, providing a summary of goals/milestones met to date including narrative descriptions of highlights, successes and challenges encountered and resolved. At the end of the contract year, project representatives will present their project to the community, including United Way staff and volunteers, to share project outcomes, lessons learned, potential next steps or replication ideas.

Partnership with United Way of King County

Funded project(s) will be expected to participate in quarterly Community Learning Partner Meetings in which they will engage in open and transparent communication of progress and learning results from this project with and between other project leaders and United Way of King County representatives (may include staff, and other stakeholders) with the purpose of learning together and supporting one another's work.

Application Process

We are requesting interested applicants to submit an Intent to Apply via e-mail by January 24, 2017 to Hannah Locke at hlocke@uwkc.org. This will give us an idea of potential applicants and to connect agencies with interest in partnering. To apply, submit a Brief Project Proposals via e-mail by February 17, 2017 to Hannah Locke at hlocke@uwkc.org. Refer to the next page for the application forms and instructions.

Instructions for submitting Intent to Apply

In an email response, include responses to the following questions.

1. **Name(s) of lead and/or partnering agencies/groups** At least one partner/lead agency must meet United Way funding eligibility criteria: _____
2. **a. Name(s) of project leaders:** _____
b. Is project leadership is a person(s) of color? *Project leadership must be a person of color*
____ Yes
____ No
3. **Main contact person** please include phone number and email: _____
4. **Are you interested in connecting with other agencies to partner on a potential project and learn about their ideas?** If yes, we will attempt to connect you with other interested agencies
____ Yes
____ No
5. **Will your project proposal likely include work affecting *programs and services, organizations and institutions or community-wide and systems?***
____ Yes
____ No
6. **In 1-2 sentences, what ideas are you most interested in for your project?**

An Intent to Apply should be submitted as soon as possible via e-mail, no later than January 24, 2017 to Hannah Locke at hlocke@uwkc.org. United Way staff are eager and available to hear your ideas and answer any questions you might have.

Instructions for Brief Project Proposals

In 1-2 pages, please provide a concise description of your project, including **BRIEFLY** addressing the following items.

- 1. Describe who will lead this project.** Identify the project leader's relationship with communities of color.
- 2. Rationale or context for the project.** Discuss how the project responds to the specific challenges affecting your community related to kindergarten readiness and how it builds upon existing strengths, resources, knowledge or best practices currently working successfully in your community.
- 3. Description of proposed work.** Explain what you are planning to do within the 12-month period. Include a timeline for your work. Is there a plan to continue this work beyond this one-year project?
- 4. Anticipated Impact.** Share what you expect to learn and accomplish through your project and how it will help reduce racial disparities in kindergarten readiness. How can your project be replicated in other communities? What tools or processes can be shared with others? How do you plan to sustain the anticipated impact?
- 5. Estimated budget for project.** State the amount of funding you are requesting from United Way of King County, followed by estimated costs of major components.

Completed Brief Project Proposals should be submitted via e-mail by February 17 to Hannah Locke at hlocke@uwkc.org.

A Strong Project Proposal will:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of structural racism.
- Demonstrate clear vision for how work builds on current community strengths, resources, knowledge or best practices and previous work to eliminate racial disparities.
- Demonstrate project leadership's connection to the community as well as expertise and capacity to lead the project.
- Clearly outline the various partners involved and/or impacted through the project.
- Clearly define an outcome for this project that addresses structural racism and/or leads to eliminating racial inequity in the community as it relates to early learning.
- Include processes and/or tools that can be shared with others in the community to eliminate racial inequities.
- Include a plan to sustain the impact of the work accomplished in this proposal.
- The proposed work, timeline and estimated budget should align with the rationale or context for the project and your anticipated impact.