

LIVE UNITED



United Way of King County

United Way of King County System Improvement Grant: Early Care for Children Experiencing Homelessness

Funding Announcement

Contact: Lisa Brooks, Impact Associate
lbrooks@uwkc.org
(206) 461-5081

Overview:

For families with young children experiencing homelessness, quality early care and education can be a powerful asset in mitigating the challenges of not having a stable place to stay. That's why United Way of King County has invested in direct services to early learners and their families experiencing homelessness and technical assistance to early care and education providers caring for homeless children. Building off what we've learned, we are offering a grant to advance system(s)-wide improvement of early care and education opportunities for children in families experiencing homelessness. The funded project will demonstrate a plan to positively impact outcomes for early learners experiencing homelessness and their families.

What do we mean by "systems"?

By system we mean the network of agencies and programs providing services to a specific community (ie homeless families, or early learners).

Early Care and Education System

King County has a vast network of early care and education providers which make up the early care and education system. Many of these providers are serving increasing numbers of children experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Homelessness System

King County also has a number of homeless service providers (outreach, shelter, housing programs, etc.) that make up the family homelessness system. These programs regularly interact with families who need early care and education opportunities.

Project Approach: Rather than focusing on the direct services of a single provider, we're looking for ideas that have the potential to impact the system of providers as a whole, either within the early care/education system, the homelessness system, or across the two systems.

Dollars Available: Up to \$75,000 is available for one grant to improve access, utilization and/or quality of early care and education opportunities for families with early learners experiencing homelessness.

Funding period: This one-time grant will be made for a one-year period from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.

Ineligible: This funding is not intended for the provision of direct services.

Timeline:

March 9, 2018	Applicant Information Session, 1-2PM, United Way of King County, 720 2 nd Ave Seattle, WA 98104, Boeing Room (Lower Level) Please RSVP to lbrooks@uwkc.org . Joining by phone is an option, please note in your RSVP if you need to call in.
April 4, 2018	Brief Project Proposal due by 5pm by email to Lisa Brooks, lbrooks@uwkc.org and communityservices@uwkc.org .
April 11, 2018	Applicants notified of opportunity for in-person conversation
April 17th-18th, 2018	In-person conversations with selected applicants. Please save these dates.
End of April/ early May 2018	Applicants notified of funding decisions
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	Contract Period

Possible Strategies:

- Convening and facilitating cross-system collaboration among multiple stakeholders serving children experiencing homelessness and their families.
 - *For example a structured coalition including homeless housing providers, early care/education providers and families with lived experience of homelessness, with specific objectives for cross-systems improvement*
- Projects that enhance the capacity of the early care and education provider system to support early learners and their families who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability, **and/or** increase capacity of homeless housing providers to connect families with appropriate early care
 - *For example, development of a toolkit delineating best practices and/or a large-scale training for child care providers with homeless/unstably housed children in their care*
 - *For example, development of a training for homeless service providers designed to increase their capacity to help connect families with early care*
- A partnership focused on improving outcomes for early learners experiencing homelessness from a particular community disproportionately impacted by both homelessness and lower kindergarten readiness
 - *For example a project bringing together provider(s) serving Native early learners and Native families experiencing homelessness or housing instability, with the purpose of cross-system collaboration designed to improve outcomes for children*

Racial Equity:

United Way of King County has a goal of reducing racial disparities. Children of color in King County are dramatically more likely to face homelessness and less likely to enter kindergarten prepared. Successful applicants will demonstrate the capacity to enhance systems in a way that will improve outcomes for children of color and reduce identified racial disparities.

Reporting:

Quarterly reporting will be required, providing a summary of goals/milestones met to date including narrative descriptions of highlights, successes and challenges encountered and resolved. Specific indicators to be measured and reported on will depend on the nature of the project funded.

How to Apply:

In a 3-4 page (or less) Brief Project Proposal, please describe your project. Please include the following:

- An overview of your project idea
- Your agency's experience with early cared and education as it intersects with homelessness
- Any partners that would be involved in the proposed work and the nature of the partnership
- The specific results you would expect from the year of funding
- How the proposed work will impact racial disparities
- A simple budget indicating projected costs
- A timeline of activities.

The Brief Project Proposal should be submitted via email no later than 5pm on April 4, 2018 to Lisa Brooks at lbrooks@uwkc.org and cc'd to communityservices@uwkc.org. United Way staff will respond on or before April 11th to all applicants submitting Brief Proposals to let them know whether they have been selected for an in-person conversation about the proposed project.