



Great Start Collaborative of Kent County

2021 Request for Proposal for Local Program Funds Grant

Great Start Kent Vision: Every young child in Kent County will enter Kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed in school and in life.

Goals:

- 1) Promote healthy beginnings
- 2) Nurture strong families
- 3) Promote quality early learning
- 4) Build an infrastructure to support an early childhood system

INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

The Great Start Collaborative (GSC) of Kent County through funding allocated in the FY22 (October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022) 32P block grant from the Michigan Department of Education Office of Great Start is holding a request for proposals for Kent County agencies, service providers, and private organizations to address the guiding principles and strategic goals of the GSC of Kent County by working to assure that all children have access to an aligned high-quality P-20 system from early childhood to post-secondary attainment and to ensure parents/guardians are engaged and supported partners in their child's education.

The Great Start Collaborative local program funds should provide for programs and services that will lead to better outcomes for children, specifically, those outcomes designated for the Office of Great Start:

- 1) Children born healthy.
- 2) Children healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.
- 3) Children developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry.
- 4) Children prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

Proposals should focus on families with children prenatal to 8 years, in low-income households (200% of federal poverty level and below).

This RFP is open to a variety of projects/programs with the potential to impact early childhood development in Kent County. Preference will be given to proposals that are centered on evidence based research and programming. Preference will also be given to proposals that will be implemented with fidelity and are sustainable beyond the project timeline.

Funds from this award may not be used for capital improvements, equipment, general donations, loans, student aid, college scholarships, indirect or administrative costs.

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be a non-profit organization or have a fiscal sponsor that is a non-profit.
- Applicants must demonstrate a history of addressing the needs of low-income residents.
- Applicants must serve the population of Kent County with award funds.
- Applicants must demonstrate that an infrastructure and expertise is already in place to execute and support the proposed program.

Applicants will be scored on: innovation; reporting practices; evidence based programing; implementation; sustainability; potential collaboration; and the degree to which funding will contribute to the capacity of program participants. Applicants will be required to report on income levels of families served.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE/AMOUNT OF AWARD

\$40,000 is available with awards ranging from \$10,000 - \$40,000. Please indicate if partial funding would be acceptable.

LENGTH OF AWARD

The funding cycle for the proposed activities will begin on October 1, 2021 and continue until September 30, 2022. Activities should begin as early as possible but must begin no later than January 1, 2022. Grant is renewable for up to two additional funding cycles, pending GSC funding from MDE/OGS. Each grant proposal must include a sustainability plan to ensure continuation of the project after the grant period.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The grantee will be required to request funds as needed for reimbursement of expenses. Funds will be paid out quarterly in equal installments upon the receipt of quarterly expenditure reports.

FINANCIAL REPORTING

A final report of expenditures will be required within 30 days of the grant ending date, showing all bills paid in full for all projects funded under this grant program. It is expected that programs have standard account audits completed prior to the submission of the final expenditure report. All financial reports are to be submitted to the Great Start Collaborative director.

BUDGET

In this section, provide information to demonstrate that the project has an appropriate budget for the program and is cost-effective. Applicant must submit budget detail that provides a budget summary narrative and justification for each proposed cost included in the budget.

The budget detail must provide as much detail as possible regarding the line totals presented in the budget summary. If in-kind costs are included and/or other resources (not required), these must be included in the narrative to assist with an understanding of the sustainability plan.

Each application will be reviewed for information that shows the project has an appropriate budget for the scope of the work and is cost-effective. Budgetary detail for estimated expenditures must be provided. In making this determination, the GSC will look at:

- how the budget relates to the proposed activities and various project components; and
- whether the estimated costs are reasonable and justified.
- What percentage of this grant is of your overall program budget?

GRANT SUBMISSION AND REVIEW:

Application must be typed in an 11point Verdana font with 1-inch margins and be no more than 6 pages in length, not including attachments.

Submit applications electronically to the Great Start Collaborative of Kent County director, Paula Brown at pbrown@successstartsearly.org. All submissions must be time stamped by midnight June 11, 2021.

Applications will be reviewed by members of the GSC, GSC Executive Team and parent representatives.