



### **Request for Inquiries First Years First Early Childhood Initiative**

In 2005, the CFGNB established the First Years First Initiative, a long-term investment aimed at preparing young children for success in school by enhancing early childhood development experiences and fostering school readiness. Some examples of what our work and funding has helped to accomplish includes:

- Family Resource Centers, literacy initiatives and community partnerships made possible largely through Foundation leadership and funding are helping more local children than ever enter kindergarten ready to learn.
- Support of two local coalitions are helping to improve the lives of young children within their communities.
- Work with the Office of Early Childhood is helping to create a coordinated system of early care, education, and child development in Connecticut.
- Increasing the number of pre-school slots in local communities is making high quality early learning opportunities for more young children.
- Full-day kindergarten is a reality in all four towns we serve, and early childhood education has been made a priority at the state level, thanks in part to our advocacy.
- A Foundation-inspired regional consortium of early childhood educators is supporting the training and accreditation of pre-school educators to a new level.
- Our early childhood education efforts in New Britain are contributing to a rapid decline in chronic school absence in the earliest grades and a significant upswing in reading scores.
- Our support of a Summer Enrichment Experience for students in grades K-3 is helping to reduce summer learning loss among New Britain students.

In 2015, the Foundation revised its FYF goal and strategies. The overarching goal now is to increase the school readiness skills of young children so they may progress successfully from pre-k through grade 3 via the following three strategies:

- Skill Development: Improve literacy, early learning and development skills for families with young children.
- Parenting Education: Improve parenting education and skills that increase parents' knowledge of child development, the importance of early education, and enhance their skills so that children are supported and ready to learn and succeed in school.
- Advocacy/Public Policy: Support advocacy and public policy that promotes the importance of and access to high quality early childhood outcomes and leverage resources to support this work.

**We are interested in learning about projects and programs for possible funding that will help us fulfill the Parenting Education FYF strategy described above. Proposed projects or programs should be evidence based and with a proven track record. Programs can be universal (designed for any parent) or they can be targeted to the needs of a specific population. Programs can be group based or home based; they should be culturally sensitive to the families served and delivered by trained professionals or trained facilitators. Funding per project is expected to be in the \$10-\$25,000 range.**

**If you are interested in having us consider inviting a proposal for a particular project or program in this strategy area, please submit an LOI (maximum 2 pages) that answers the following questions:**

1. In a brief statement tell us the primary mission and purpose of your organization.
2. In 1-2 sentences, describe the purpose of the proposed project or program aimed at improving parenting education and skills and/or knowledge that will support the school success of their child(ren). What is the basis for the program/why is it needed for those you seek to serve?
3. What specific outcome(s) will be achieved and for how many?
4. How will this outcome(s) be achieved and success verified?
5. What is the total cost to achieve this result and how much are you asking from the Foundation? Please provide us with a project budget.
6. How will the project continue once the grant is complete?
7. List any additional funding sources and amount of requests submitted for this project. Please include status of requests and commitments to date.

There is no deadline for submission as we consider grants year-round. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions or wish to discuss further: Joeline Wruck, Director of Community Initiatives, 860-229-6018 x307 or at [jwruck@cfgnb.org](mailto:jwruck@cfgnb.org)

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