

## Vision

Every DuPage child will be ready to succeed in kindergarten.

## Mission

To build sustainable, coordinated, local early childhood systems that actively work to increase access to quality education and support for at-risk children and families.

## Why Invest in Early Childhood?

*Investing in early childhood development of disadvantaged children will produce great returns to individuals and society in better education, health, economic and social outcomes -- not only saving tax-payers money but increasing our nation's economic productivity,*

James Heckman, Nobel Prize Winner

Research has shown that children who participate in quality early learning experiences during the first five years of life are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten which ultimately puts them on the path for lifelong success. This is especially true for children who are considered at-risk due to issues such as developmental delays, low income, lack of English skills or their parents' lack of education.

From birth to age five, approximately 85% of brain development occurs and the cognitive and socio-emotional skills developed provide the foundation from which more complex skills are built. Children who grow up in an environment with limited learning opportunities are less likely to develop these critical skills. Unfortunately, low skill levels and social ability are often contributing factors toward many of today's economic and social problems (i.e. crime, teenage pregnancy, high school drop-out rates, and adverse health conditions.)

Even local law enforcement officials agree on the importance of investing in early childhood. Kane and DuPage County sheriffs, Pat Perez and John Zaruba, have publicly recognized the value of high-quality preschools as one of the most powerful crime-fighting tools we have available and have stated that at-risk kids who do not attend preschool are more likely to drop out of high school and commit violent crimes.

For every dollar invested in early childhood education, it has been estimated that \$7-\$10 is saved in crime, welfare and other costs. Evidence also suggests that investing in high-quality, early-learning programs combined with support for at-risk families leads to:

- Lower rates of participation in special education
- Lower rates of involvement with the criminal justice system
- Higher rates of high school graduation

Despite the compelling reasons to invest in early childhood programs, it is not always considered a priority in a community. Additionally, funding for programs that benefit at-risk children and families has repeatedly been in jeopardy of cuts by the State of Illinois.

In many communities, early childhood services are delivered by multiple providers (school district, preschool, home caregiver, child care center, park district, pediatrician, not-for-profit organizations, etc.) yet there is often a lack of coordination and communication among the programs and resources that are available.

## **Background**

During the past 15 years, the DuPage Foundation engaged in a long-term campaign to raise funds to address early childhood care and education issues in DuPage County. Through the generosity of local donors and matching funds provided by the Grand Victoria Foundation, the Foundation established four endowments – Bright & Early DuPage, Communityworks, Gustafson Family Fund, and the Audrey and Glenn Mensching Fund -- to support local early childhood programs and initiatives in perpetuity. Income from these funds is used to fund annual Bright & Early DuPage grants.

## **The Opportunity**

It takes a “village” to prepare children for kindergarten and to launch them on the road to life-long success, which is why the Foundation will invest financial resources to help local communities establish a coordinated approach toward this goal. DuPage County is made up of 39 municipalities and is home to 42 public school districts and 49 private schools with each community having a unique demographic and set of needs and resources with regard to early childhood care and education.

Engaging multiple community partners is very important to the success of each collaborative effort. Prior to applying, providers who touch the lives of children from birth to five in each community should already be meeting on a regular basis to establish a coordinated approach. The local public school district is a key partner to have at the table and it is imperative that it be an active part of the effort. Local private schools (preschools, elementary/middle, and high schools) should also be included. Collaborations are encouraged to engage local parents who represent the population they are specifically trying to serve. In addition to local community stakeholders, there are many agencies providing county-wide early childhood programs and services; it is suggested that they are also included in the planning.

The DuPage Foundation will provide funding to help communities expand their collaborative efforts focused on creating systemic change in addressing early childhood needs as they relate to preparing children for kindergarten. The ultimate goals of the Bright & Early DuPage initiative are that more kids are ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten and that there are fewer disparities in kindergarten readiness by race, ethnicity and income.

Local groups, which have operated as an early childhood collaborative for at least one year, may apply for up to a five-year renewable grant.

For groups that have previously been the recipient of grants through the Bright & Early DuPage, the time frame and subsequent dollar amount is dependent on the number of years of funding received:

- Collaboratives that have received funding for two years or less may apply for up to a five-year renewable grant with a maximum total of \$250,000 or \$50,000 annually.
- Collaboratives that have received more than two years of funding may apply through the refined strategic approach for up to a three-year renewable grant, contingent on funding

availability and the submission of a compelling strategic plan, for a total grant of \$150,000 or \$50,000 annually.

Collaboratives will be expected to build a strategic plan that:

- Establishes baseline statistics, five-year goals, multi-year targets and the first two years of tactics, timing and responsible parties for each strategy. The Foundation has created the Bright & Early DuPage Impact Framework and Impact Template to assist collaboratives in developing or refining a strategic plan. (Please note that these tools were created as a guide and are not the required format.) They are located at the end of this document.
- Clearly articulates how they will forward specified outcomes to build system capacity and conduct outreach.
  - If less than 50% of at-risk kids (children who live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level) in the community are currently matched to free or affordable preschool seats and home visiting slots, collaboratives must include tactics to increase seats/slots. This plan may include securing local funds to expand pre-k, plans to identify/develop space for new classrooms and/or plans to prepare a compelling case for increased government funding; including identifying which entity in the community will apply and where children could be served.
  - The strategic plan should also address some or all of the following:
    - Family engagement strategies to coach and educate at-risk families
    - System capacity building strategies to ensure that more children are being served in high-quality preschool and preschools progress in meeting state benchmarks (Excelerate)
    - Outreach strategies to ensure that high-quality early childhood programs are filled to capacity through effective recruitment and awareness activities and children with special needs are identified early
    - Strategies that address specific needs of the targeted community

If your collaboration needs help creating or refining a strategic plan, the DECC is available to provide technical assistance. Additionally, the DECC is offering a workshop on Thursday, March 22 to help communities find the right source to find baseline data. Details will be distributed by DECC.

This strategic plan will become, along with some accompanying narrative, the application for funding, the framework by which each collaborative will evaluate its progress over time and a living document to guide the review committee's annual funding decisions during the grant time frame.

It is expected that all strategic plans will operate in a flexible manner and be adapted over time. Each collaborative may have the opportunity to re-submit their plan with modifications during the annual grant report period each year. Collaboratives that do not progress on the intended timeline or whose goals and benchmarks do not demonstrate significant impact may experience reduced or eliminated funding.

This is a competitive process with decisions regarding funding and the amounts granted commensurate to the breadth and depth detailed in the application and strategic plan.

## **Sustainability**

While the DuPage Foundation's financial assistance will help to expand collaborative kindergarten readiness efforts, additional funding from other sources will be critical to long-term sustainability. It is expected that partners involved with the effort will leverage other funding (local, state, private foundations, individual donors, etc.) to increase the resources available. As part of the submitted budget, collaboratives must show an annual minimum of 20% of their request (i.e. \$10,000 for a \$50,000 request) in additional committed monetary contributions.

## **Eligibility**

Applications for funding will be accepted from DuPage County school districts or not-for-profit organizations that serve young children and families and are public charities classified as exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

One qualifying agency should be identified as the lead agency for the collaboration and will be responsible for submitting the application and monitoring the grant.

For the purpose of the Bright & Early DuPage initiative, the Foundation does not award grants to:

- Organizations located outside of DuPage County
- Individuals
- Support religious activities (secular activities provided by religious organizations may be eligible for grant funds)
- Endowments
- Disease-specific organizations
- Private foundations and private operating foundations
- Hospitals, including supporting foundations

## **Grant Application Due Date**

Applications must be submitted for the Bright & Early DuPage Grant Program by 5:00 on Friday, April 13, 2018. Applications submitted after the specified deadlines will not be accepted.

## **Online Grant Application Process**

Proposals must be submitted via the online grant application process.

To begin the online grant application process, applicants will need to create an account by providing basic information (email address, password, name, organization, EIN#, address, etc.). Once you have initially created your account, you will be able to access current and future grant applications. The following are tutorials which have been provided by our vendor, Foundant, to help you create an account and begin completing your application.

[Video Tutorial](#)  
[Applicant Tutorial](#)

### **Application Preview**

The required questions and format of the online grant application can be found below.

### **Application Review Process**

The DuPage Foundation's Bright & Early DuPage committee consists of community volunteers, Foundation trustees and the vice president for programs.

- Committee will evaluate all applications received.
- Committee will recommend selected community projects to the full Board of Trustees for approval.
- Applicants will be notified in late May as to the status of their applications.
- Grants will be distributed mid-June.

### **Application Questions**

If you have questions about the application process, please contact Barb Szczepaniak, vice president for programs, at 630.598.5280 to discuss the application process.

For further details about Bright & Early DuPage, visit our website at <http://dupagefoundation.org/initiatives/bright-early-dupage.html>



## Bright & Early DuPage Impact Framework

Category	Outcomes	Indicators/Metrics
<b>System Capacity Building</b>	The total capacity of high-quality early childhood education programs grows over time.	#/% increase in preschool seats #/% increase in home visiting slots
	More at-risk children and families are served in high-quality preschool programs.	#/% increase in children served by high-quality preschool programs #/% increase in children served by early intervention/special education annually
	More at-risk families are served through home visiting programs.	#/% increase in children served by home visiting programs
	Preschools progress in meeting State benchmarks.	#/% increase in gold Excelerate seats #/% increase in silver Excelerate seats
<b>Family Engagement</b>	More low-income parents receiving coaching on how to support their children's learning.	#/% increase in parents participating in brain building educational programs #/% increase in parents receiving one-on-one coaching
<b>Outreach</b>	Children with special needs identified early.	# of children screened for special needs # of children referred for early intervention # of children identified as needing close monitoring # of children connected to programs and resources
	High-quality early childhood programs are filled to capacity through effective recruitment and awareness activities.	# of parents/family members attending outreach events # of parents returning to subsequent outreach/education events % of high quality preschool seats filled
<b>Children Ready for Kindergarten</b>	More kids are ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten.	% of children in service area who are kindergarten ready - Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS)
	There are fewer disparities in kindergarten readiness by race, ethnicity and income.	% of children in service area who are kindergarten ready by race, ethnicity and income (KIDS)

## DuPage Foundation Bright and Early DuPage Impact Template

Outcome	Indicator Examples	Five Year Goal	Annual Targets	Baseline	First Two Years		
					Tactics	Timeline	Responsible Parties
<b>System Capacity Building Strategies</b>							
More at-risk children and families are served in high-quality preschool programs. (Required for communities in which less than 50% of at-risk kids are matched to free and affordable preschool seats.)	#/% increase in children served by high-quality preschool programs						
	#/% increase in children served by early intervention/special education annually						
More at-risk families are served through home visiting programs. (Required for communities in which less than 50% of at-risk kids are matched to free and affordable home visiting slots.)	#/% increase in children served by home visiting programs						
The total capacity of high-quality early childhood education programs grows over time.	#/% increase in high-quality preschool seats						
	#/% increase in home visiting slots						
Preschools progress in meeting State benchmarks.	#/% increase in gold Excelerate seats						
	#/% increase in silver Excelerate seats						

**DuPage Foundation Bright and Early DuPage  
Impact Template**

<b>Family Engagement Strategies</b>							
More low-income parents receiving coaching on how to support their children's learning.	#/% increase in parents participating in brain-building educational programs						
	#/% increase of parents receiving one-on-one coaching						
<b>Outreach Strategies</b>							
Children with special needs identified early.	# of children screened for developmental delays						
	# of children referred for early intervention						
	# of children identified as needing close monitoring						
	# of children connected to programs and resources						
High-quality early childhood programs are filled to capacity through effective recruitment and awareness activities.	# of parents/family members attending outreach events						
	# of parents returning to later outreach/education events						
	% of high-quality preschool seats filled						
<b>Children Ready for Kindergarten</b>							
More kids are ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten.	% of children in service area who are kindergarten ready - Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS)						



## DuPage Foundation Bright and Early DuPage Impact Template

There are fewer disparities in kindergarten readiness by race, ethnicity and income.	% of children in service area who are kindergarten ready by race, ethnicity, and income (KIDS)						
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# 2018 Bright & Early DuPage

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## *DuPage Foundation*

In order to be considered for a Bright & Early DuPage (B&E) grant, applications must be submitted with all of the requested information by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, April 13, 2018**.

### **Project Name\***

What is the name of your collaboration?

*Character Limit: 100*

### **Type of Grant\***

Please indicate the type of grant for which you are applying.

#### **Choices**

Five-Year Renewable Grant

Three-Year Renewable Grant (collaborations which have received three or more years of funding)

Other

### **Grant Amount Requested\***

Please specify the total amount for which you are applying and the annual amount of your request?

Maximum grants for which collaborations may apply:

- Five-Year Renewable Grant - up to \$250,000 (\$50,000 annually)
- Three-Year Renewable Grant - up to \$150,000 (\$50,000 annually)\*
- If you are requesting a grant other than that specified above (i.e. shorter term), please provide annual request amount and time frame for request

\*Maximum for collaborations that have received three or more years of funding.

*Character Limit: 20*

### **Collaboration Partners\***

Please list the names and affiliations (organization, school, business, etc.) of active collaboration members.

*Character Limit: 2000*

## *Baseline Data*

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### **At-Risk Children\***

How many children under the age of five in your service area are living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level?

*Character Limit: 250*

**High-Quality Preschool Seats\***

How many high-quality and affordable preschool seats (i.e. Preschool for All, Head Start, Early Intervention, etc.) do you have available in your service area?

*Character Limit: 1000*

**Children on Waiting List for High-Quality Preschool\***

How many at-risk children under the age of five in your service area are on waiting lists for high-quality preschool seats?

*Character Limit: 250*

**High Quality Infant/Toddler Care Programs\***

How many high-quality infant/toddler care programs (Excelerate gold rated child care that accepts CCAP) do you have in your service area?

*Character Limit: 250*

**Home Visiting Slots\***

How many home visiting slots do you have available in your service area?

*Character Limit: 250*

**Families on Waiting List for Home Visiting\***

How many at-risk families with children under the age of five in your service area are on waiting lists for home visiting slots?

*Character Limit: 250*

## *Narrative - To be completed by local collaboratives*

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**Strategic Plan**

Please upload your collaborative's strategic plan. See the Bright & Early DuPage Impact Framework and Impact Template in the grant guidelines for guidance.

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

**Sustainability\***

Please describe the strategies the collaboration will undertake to develop additional resources to sustain the collaboration.

*Character Limit: 5000*

**Additional Information (Optional)**

Is there anything else you would like to share about your collaboration's work? Is there anything specific that happened this past year of which you feel we should be aware?

*Character Limit: 5000*

## **Additional Information (Optional)**

If there is a document you would like to upload, please do so here.

*File Size Limit: 2 MB*

## *Narrative - To be completed by DuPage Early Childhood Collaborative*

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### **Proactive Outreach**

Please provide a plan of outreach to areas that have the most concentrated populations of at-risk children and families to help:

- launch early childhood collaborations
- provide technical assistance, including convening
- develop a strategic plan
- communities meet readiness criteria for funding

Include five year goals, annual targets, baseline information and the tactics, timeline and responsible parties for the first two years.

*Character Limit: 10000*

### **Liaison Support for Collaborations**

Please provide a plan for supporting collaboratives to sustain and seed cross community practices, ideas and innovation.

Include five year goals, annual targets, baseline information, and tactics, timeline and responsible parties for the first two years.

*Character Limit: 10000*

### **County-wide Scale Initiatives**

Please provide a plan to forward initiatives appropriate to county-wide scale (i.e. food insecurity, professional development, space needs, research, etc.).

Include five year goals, annual targets, baseline information, and tactics, timeline and responsible parties for the first two years.

*Character Limit: 10000*

### **System-Wide Data Support and Analysis**

Please provide a plan describing how you will use data to support communities (i.e. Federal/State/local grants, updated seat gap analysis, landscape assessment, etc.).

Include five year goals, annual targets, baseline information, and tactics, timeline and responsible parties for the first two years.

*Character Limit: 10000*

### **Increase in High-Quality Seats**

Please provide a plan to increase high-quality preschool seats, high-quality early childhood programs and home visiting slots throughout DuPage County.

Include five year goals, annual targets, baseline information and tactics, timeline and responsible parties for the first two years.

*Character Limit: 10000*

## **Budget**

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### **Grant Budget**

Please complete the Implementation Grant Budget and upload it below. If you are applying for a multi-year renewable grant, please provide a budget for year one.

Collaborations must show a minimum of 20% of their request (\$10,000 for a \$50,000 request) in monetary contributions as part of their budget.

*File Size Limit: 3 MB*

## **Electronic Signature**

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### **Electronic Signature\***

Prior to the release of any grant monies, a grant recipient will be required to sign a grant agreement to use funds for the sole purpose stated in the application form. Failure to comply with the terms of the grant agreement will jeopardize any future grants from the DuPage Foundation.

Enter your full name, business title and the date of submission. (e.g.: Erin Smith, Board President, March 1, 2018)

*Character Limit: 250*

By entering your information above and clicking "I agree" below, you are certifying that:

1. the information contained in this application is true and correct.
2. the proposed program/project has been adopted by your organization as a part of its plan of work.
3. you are duly authorized to submit this application, or you have uploaded a signature page of someone who is duly authorized to submit

this application on behalf of your organization.

Your completion of this section constitutes an electronic signature.\*

**Choices**

I agree

I do not agree