

Vision

Every DuPage child will be ready to succeed in kindergarten.

Mission

To build sustainable local coordinated systems for early childhood development across the county.

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 funding 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 12 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 three endowments -- Communityworks, Gustafson Family Fund, and the Audrey and Glenn Mensching Fund -- to support local early childhood programs and initiatives in perpetuity.

The Opportunities

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 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 one or more 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. To that end, the Foundation is focused on specific service delivery and system level outcomes (see attached Simplified Logic Model) and will use this information to measure the overall impact of the initiative. It is understood that these collaboratives have already implemented systems and are measuring data that is meaningful and important for their communities. Focusing on these outcomes is not meant to discourage those efforts but to build upon them.

Service Delivery Outcomes

- More high-needs children receiving high-quality child care/preschool and Early Intervention/Special Ed services.
- More low-income parents receiving coaching on how to support their children’s learning.

System Level Outcomes

- More high-quality services available.
- Children with special needs identified early.
- Optimal recruitment for programs.
- Better parent awareness.

The Foundation offers two grant opportunities. Local collaborations can select the opportunity that best aligns with the stage at which they are currently operating.

Planning Grant Opportunity

Local collaborative groups that are in the beginning stages of working together may apply for a planning grant of up to \$10,000. This grant is intended to be used as seed funding to help the collaboration get off the ground and begin implementation of initial programming. Groups that are in this phase are encouraged to take advantage of technical assistance offered through the DuPage Early Childhood Collaborative. Based on the applications received and each collaboration's readiness, it's possible that one or more applicants will receive funding at amounts less than \$10,000.

Implementation Grant Opportunity

Local groups which have operated as an early childhood collaborative for at least one year and have received funds from the Foundation for less than four years may apply for grant funding for up to \$65,000. It is expected that collaborations at this stage have developed a vision, mission and structure for their collaborations and have created specific goals that they are already working toward in an effort to address the issues and barriers that impact kindergarten readiness in their communities. Based on the applications received and each collaboration's readiness, it is possible that one or more applicants will receive funding at amounts less than \$65,000.

Groups which have received funding for four years may apply for grants for up to \$50,000.

Sustainability

While the DuPage Foundation's financial assistance will help to expand one or more 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.

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. It is preferable that the lead agency is not a governmental agency.

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 7, 2017. 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 the format of the online grant applications 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 one or more 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 are interested in applying, 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://www.dupagefoundation.org/be/TheCase.aspx>.

2017 Bright & Early DuPage

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 7, 2017**.

Project Name*

What is the name of your collaboration?

Character Limit: 100

Grant Amount Requested*

Collaborations may apply for an implementation grant of up to \$65,000 or a planning grant of up to \$10,000. Collaborations which have received Bright & Early DuPage funding for four or more years may apply for up to \$50,000.

Character Limit: 20

Required for Implementation Grants and Planning Grant Requests

Collaboration Members

Please provide a list, including the name and organization, of your collaboration partners. Put a star next to the names of the partners who are consistent and active participants.

Character Limit: 10000

Stories

Provide any stories that reflect the collaborative spirit of your collaboration.

Character Limit: 5000

Planning Grant Request - \$10,000 Request or less

Objectives

What are three things you will do in the coming year to develop a more effective collaboration?

Character Limit: 5000

Goals and Outcomes

What are you trying to accomplish in the next year as a collaboration? How will you know when you have succeeded?

Character Limit: 5000

Use of Funds

Describe specifically how you will use the funds from the Foundation to further the work of your collaborative efforts.

Character Limit: 5000

Please respond to the following questions using the Simplified Logic Model. (Brief responses are appreciated.)

Service Delivery Level Outcomes

More high-needs children receiving high quality childcare/preschool and EI/Spec Ed services

How many children with high needs (i.e. children with family income below 200% of Federal Poverty Level or with other risk factors) in your community receive high quality preschool (i.e. Preschool for All, Head Start, Early Intervention or Gold or Silver Circle of Quality program)?

Character Limit: 2000

What is your goal for this number next year?

Character Limit: 1000

If you don't know the number of high needs children receiving high quality preschool, what will your collaboration do this year to ensure you are able to track this number in the future?

Character Limit: 5000

More low-income parents receiving coaching on how to support their children's learning

How many families with children with high needs (prenatal through age five) are receiving coaching to support their children's learning, either through home visiting or parenting education provided through a center-based program?

Character Limit: 2000

What is your goal for this number next year?

Character Limit: 2000

If you don't know the number of low-income parents receiving coaching on how to support their children's learning, what will your collaboration do this year to ensure you are able to track this number in the future?

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

Implementation Grant Request

Strategies

What specific strategies or systems has your collaboration implemented toward improving kindergarten readiness in your community? Which have been the most effective? Which were the least effective?

Character Limit: 10000

Wins

What are the top three to eight wins of your collaboration?

Character Limit: 10000

Please respond to the following questions using the Simplified Logic Model. (Brief responses are appreciated.)

Effective Local Collaborations

What is one goal you have established for the coming year for improving the effectiveness of your collaboration? If you received a B&E grant in 2016, please also describe progress you have made toward improving the effectiveness of your collaboration in the past year.

(Regional Collaboration Only) How will you ensure that new early childhood collaborations emerge in the County?

Character Limit: 10000

Who will your collaboration target this year to make a champion of early childhood (i.e. a legislator, physician, police officer, etc.)?

Character Limit: 2000

How does your collaboration participate in the regional collaboration and in the overall mission to spread early childhood collaboration efforts across DuPage?

Character Limit: 5000

System Level Outcomes

More high-quality services available

1) How many ExceleRate Illinois Gold and Silver Circle of Quality slots (in full-day or part-day programs) are available for children under age three in your community? If you received a B&E grant in 2016, please specify how many new slots since April 15, 2016.

2) How many ExceleRate Illinois Gold and Silver Circle of Quality slots are available for children ages three to five? If you received a B&E grant in 2016, please specify how many new slots since April 15, 2016.

Character Limit: 5000

What does your collaboration plan to do to increase the number of Gold and Silver Circle of Quality slots this year? If you received a B&E grant in 2016, please indicate what your collaboration has done to increase the number of Gold and Silver Circle of Quality slots since April 15, 2016.

Character Limit: 5000

How many home visiting slots are there in your community? If you received a B&E grant in 2016, please specify how many new slots since April 15, 2016.

Character Limit: 5000

If you don't know how many slots are available, what will your collaboration do this year to ensure you are able to track this number in the future?

Character Limit: 5000

Children with special needs identified early

(Regional Collaboration) Please provide the following county-wide data.

- 1) How many children under age three have been screened this year?
- 2) How many children aged three to five have been screened?
- 3) How many under age three have been referred for evaluation for Early Intervention services?
- 4) How many aged three to five have been referred for evaluation for early childhood special education services?

If you received a B&E grant in 2016, please specify the changes (increase/decrease) in each of these numbers since April 15, 2016.

Character Limit: 10000

If you don't know how many children have been screened, what will your collaboration do this year to ensure you are able to track this number in the future.

Character Limit: 2000

What screening tool is being used in your community?

Character Limit: 2000

Optimal recruitment for programs

(Regional Collaboration) How do you support local collaborations to recruit the highest needs children in their communities to ensure they get services?

How are you recruiting the highest needs children in your community and making sure they get services?

Character Limit: 5000

How do you know your recruitment efforts are successful? If you received a B&E grant in 2016, please describe how you have recruited the highest needs children in your community for high quality early childhood programs.

Character Limit: 5000

Describe how your collaboration will work together to ensure that the right children are getting into the right programs?

Character Limit: 5000

Better parent awareness

(Regional Collaboration) How do you support local collaborations to increase parent awareness in their communities about the importance of early learning?

Describe how your collaboration will work together in the coming year to increase parent awareness of the importance of early learning.

Character Limit: 5000

How will you know that parents are more aware of the need to focus on addressing children's needs during the early childhood years? If you received a B&E grant in 2016, please provide examples of how you know parents are more aware of the need to focus on addressing children's needs during the early childhood years.

Character Limit: 5000

Service Delivery Level Outcomes

More high-need children receiving high quality childcare/preschool and EI/Spec Ed services

(Regional Collaboration) Please aggregate the following data on a county-wide basis.

How many children with high needs (i.e. children with family income below 200% of Federal Poverty Level or with other risk factors) in your community receive high quality preschool (i.e. Preschool for All, Head Start, or Gold or Silver Circle of Quality program)? If you received a B&E grant in 2016, please specify whether this number has increased, decreased or stayed the same

since April 15, 2016.

Character Limit: 5000

What is your goal for this number next year?

Character Limit: 2000

If you don't know the number of high needs children receiving high quality preschool, what will your collaboration do this year to ensure you are able to track this number in the future?

Character Limit: 5000

More low-income parents receiving coaching on how to support their children's learning

How many families with children with high needs (prenatal through age five) are receiving coaching to support their children's learning, either through home visiting or parenting education provided through a center-based program? If you received a B&E grant in 2016, please specify if this number has increased, decreased or stayed the same from April 15, 2016.

Character Limit: 5000

What is your goal for this number next year?

Character Limit: 2000

If you don't know the number of low-income parents receiving coaching on how to support their children's learning, what will your collaboration do this year to ensure you are able to track this number in the future?

Character Limit: 5000

Sustainability

Please describe the strategies the collaboration is planning to implement in the coming year to develop additional resources to sustain the collaboration when the DuPage Foundation shifts its investment to support newly formed collaborations in the coming years. If you received a B&E grant in 2016, what financial support or commitments have you received during the past year to support your 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

Budget

Planning Grant Budget

Please complete the Planning Grant Budget for a request up to \$10,000 and upload it below.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Implementation Grant Budget

Please complete the Implementation Grant Budget for a request up to \$65,000 (or \$50,000 for collaborations which have received Bright & Early DuPage funding for four years or more) and upload it below.

File Size Limit: 3 MB

Electronic Signature

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, 2017)

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

