All In For Kansas Kids

Quality Enhancement Subgrants: Pre-Application Webinar

SEPTEMBER 3, 2020
Today’s Agenda

- Grant Overview and Key Dates
- Developing Your Idea
- Grant Writing As Storytelling: Making the Case for Your Idea
- Elements of Effective Applications
- The Process and the End Product
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

Funding Goals:

- Support locally-driven ideas and approaches to solve challenges related to access, availability, and quality of child care, including workforce supports.
- Support locally-driven ideas and approaches to engage broad community partnerships, including to support transitions to Kindergarten.
- Identify shared learning opportunities and scale what works to all Kansas communities.

Funding cannot be used for construction or other physical infrastructure upgrades, or to fund ‘slots’ due to sustainability challenges.

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

- Funding will come from the Children’s Cabinet (KSDE as fiscal agent).
- $1,700,000 available across 5 subgrant areas in PDG-R Year One.
  - Each subgrant area will have a max award amount.
  - Kindergarten Readiness subgrants will be awarded to new grantees each year.
  - All other subgrants will go through a brief renewal process that aligns with the PDG-Renewal Grant timeline.
- We will fund as many quality applications as possible.
- We will work cooperatively and collaboratively with grantees throughout the grant year to understand what is working and where there are challenges.

PDG-Renewal Grant

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
KEY DATES

- September 16th -- Application Guidance & Online Application Release
- September 17th -- Application and Support Webinars (12:00 & 7:00 pm)
- September 17th -- October 16th -- Technical Assistance Available
- October 19th -- Applications Due (by 11:59 p.m.)
- Initial Grant Year -- November 1, 2020 – April 29, 2021

PDG-Renewal Grant

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
MEASURES OF SUCCESS AND REPORTING

- 3 measures of success (2 quantitative; 1 qualitative)
- Quarterly Survey Reports/Responses
- Yearly Renewal (exception – Kindergarten Readiness Subgrants)
- Subgrant area webinars (optional)
- Technical assistance and support (optional)

PDG-Renewal Grant

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

Subgrant Areas:
- Subgrants for Child Care Access (Target Populations):
  - $550,000; single award cap of $100,000
- Subgrants for Rural Child Care:
  - $400,000; single award cap of $100,000
- Subgrants to Connect Families to Services:
  - $375,000; single award cap of $75,000
- EXCEPTION: Subgrants for Kindergarten Readiness:
  - $250,000; 10 awards will be made each year totaling $25,000
- Subgrants to Improve Quality of Care:
  - $125,000; single award cap of $25,000

PDG-Renewal Grant

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

Increase the access and availability of high-quality child care for **target populations**.

- **Target Populations**: Infants and Toddlers, migrant families, low-income families, children with special health care needs, children experiencing homelessness, and children involved with foster care.

- **Example Strategies**:
  - Efforts to recruit and retain local child care providers (ex. signing and retention bonuses; tuition supports to advance professional and career development; building a pool of shared dollars to support paid time off, health benefits, sick time, and substitute pay).
  - Incentive or bonus payments to providers for serving the target populations, including payments between enrollment gaps.
  - Incentives, supplies, and/or upgrades to enable providers to offer non-traditional hours for child care.
  - Outreach strategies to target population families and service providers who support them.

PDG-Renewal Grant

[https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/](https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/)
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

Increase access to and availability of high-quality child care for rural populations

- Rural is defined per Kansas Department of Health and Environment Definition
- **Example Strategies:**
  - Efforts to recruit and retain rural child care providers (Signing and retention bonuses; Tuition supports to advance professional and career development; Building a pool of shared dollars to support paid time off, health benefits, sick time, and substitute pay)
  - Incentives, supplies, and/or upgrades to enable providers to offer hours and services that meet the unique child care needs of rural families.
  - Integrate early childhood content into middle and high school Family and Consumer Science curricula and/or offering opportunities to work in on-site rural child care settings.
  - Increase rural business involvement in the development and sustainability of child care
  - Outreach strategies and financial supports to connect with would-be licensed providers

PDG-Renewal Grant

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

Enhance infrastructure, increase collaboration and outreach, and develop awareness campaigns that help connect families to community services

- **Example Strategies:**
  - **Operational Systems:**
    - Adopt or enhance screening and referral systems, workflows, or tools such as the Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS)
    - Efforts and processes to incorporate developmental screenings such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire into normal operations
  - **Collaboration, Partnership, and Family Outreach -** Strategies and/or staffing to build community-level collaboration, community-engagement efforts, and partnership-building efforts.
  - **Marketing/Awareness -** Develop creative awareness and information-sharing efforts around what services are available in the community and how to easily connect to those services.

PDG-Renewal Grant

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
Improve school district ratings for Kindergarten Readiness in the Kansans Can Star Recognition program.

- **Required Approach:**
  - Applicants will identify a community team of six to 10 members (which must include the superintendent or a senior member of the district leadership team, the Head Start director (if applicable), either a child care center director or family child care provider, and a parent or family representative);
  - Select priority areas. Options include: eligibility qualifiers for recognition, community partnerships, quality evidence-based learning, quality workforce, health and safety, inclusion, and transitions into K;
  - Identify community-level strategies (e.g. joint professional development, community-wide implementation of curriculum, screening, or assessment tools, focused transition activities); and
  - Community teams will participate in the Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Summit (virtual, November 2020) and develop 30-60-90 day action plans.

[https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/](https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/)
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

- Improve the quality of care and education for Kansas children and families
  - **Example Strategies:**
    - Provide consultation, coaching, and tools for families and providers to address child mental health and social emotional learning needs or make quality referrals for services.
    - Trainings on understanding trauma, secondary trauma, ACES, mental health needs.
    - Developmentally-meaningful interactions and activities for children receiving support in informal child care settings, such as sharing resources or offering relief from social isolation.
    - Culturally-responsive best practices in early learning settings (books, toys, trainings, etc.)
    - Outfitting spaces to support services for children with special health care needs
    - Supports for breastfeeding (privacy rooms, fridges, etc.)

PDG-Renewal Grant

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT SUBGRANTS

Resources to Develop Subgrant Strategies

- Early Childhood Care and Education Needs Assessment
  - https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids/needs-assessment/

- All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan
  - https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids/strategic-plan/

- Notes from Community Engagement Sessions
  - Send note via Share Form on Cabinet Website - https://kschildrenscabinet.org/share/

- Notes from Regional Sensemaking Workshops
  - Appendix F from Needs Assessment

PDG-Renewal Grant

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
DEVELOPING YOUR IDEA

What are the priority needs or problems in our community related to the five subgrant areas?

How can we solve these problems—directly or indirectly?

- Increased access and availability of high-quality child care for target populations? For rural populations?
- Stronger infrastructure to connect families and communities
- Better transitions from early childhood care and education environments into kindergarten
- Increased quality of early childhood care and education environments

Grant Guidance

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/ll-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
DEVELOPING YOUR IDEA

- Where can we make the most impact with the resources we have available?

- What ideas and approaches best align with the Cabinet Blueprint, the *All in for Kansas Kids* Needs Assessment and the Strategic Plan?

- Will the approach we’re considering have a sustainable impact beyond the grant period?

Grant Guidance

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
DEVELOPING YOUR IDEA

Community Need
Alignment with Blueprint & AIFKK
Capacity to Effect Change

YOUR SWEET SPOT

Grant Guidance

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
A strong grant application tells a clear, compelling story about an identified need, your plan to address it, and the results you’ll achieve.

You’re telling the story to a potential partner you’re asking to invest in your work—your funder.

Think about what’s unique about your story and how you can make your application stand out in the review process.

Start with an abstract, summary and/or a picture that captures key ideas.

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
MAKING YOUR CASE: 5 KEY QUESTIONS

- WHAT is the need? What do you want to change or improve?
- WHERE will this be done? (Community profile)
- WHY is it important to address this need?
- WHO will benefit? Who will you work with to make the change?
- HOW will you achieve success? How will you use the requested funds?

Grant Guidance

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
**ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE APPLICATIONS**

- **Statement of Need**
  - Define the problem and address its causes (e.g., child care shortage resulting from declining workforce, made worse by COVID-19 crisis).
  - Include data from the *All in for Kansas Kids* Needs Assessment and from local sources.
  - Use data to tell your story, making it part of the narrative.
  - Talk about why this need is important—what impact is it having on your community.

- **Organization Background/Community Profile**
  - Help the reviewer “see” your organization and community as the setting for your story.
  - Go beyond demographics to share bright spots, successes as well as challenges.
  - Show your community pride and your passion for this project.

Grant Guidance: [https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/](https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/)
**Project Description**

- Describe your plan for addressing the need you’ve identified.

- Explain how you decided on this approach (e.g., ideas generated from PDG planning process, community conversations, models that have been successful in other places, etc.)

- Identify who will be served (e.g., how many children in what ages, etc.)

[https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/](https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/)
ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE APPLICATIONS

- Describe what success will look like—what will be different, what impact will the project have made?

- Define the goals (end results) and strategies (approaches or how-to's) you’ll use to achieve success; for example:

  - **Goal**: 10% increase in the number of child care providers in your community
  - **Strategies**: 1) Offer signing and retention bonuses to qualified applicants. 2) Recruit from non-traditional sources, including those displaced by COVID-19.

Grant Guidance

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
Collaboration/Partnerships
- Identify the partners who are committed to the project and what their roles will be.
- Discuss how you will work with these partners to achieve success (decision making process, accountability, communication, etc.)

Measures of Success
- Identify key indicators that will demonstrate the impact you’ve made.
- Describe how you will track your progress.

Budget and Budget Narrative

Grant Guidance

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
THE PROCESS AND THE END PRODUCT

**Pre-Application**
- Bring together the stakeholders who will impact or be impacted by the project to define the need and begin discussing a proposed approach.
- Identify key partners and secure their commitment ASAP.
- Gather the data you will need to make your case.
- Get your team ready—secure the resources you need to prepare your application.

**When the RFP/application is released. . .**
- Develop a work plan/timeline based on specific requirements and due dates.
- Begin gathering letters of support and other documents, as required.

Grant Guidance

[https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/](https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/)
THE PROCESS AND THE END PRODUCT

Writing the Application

- It’s usually best to have one primary writer so the writing style is consistent.
- Use your original abstract/summary as your foundation and add detail within each component.
- Remember you are telling a story—create a flow that makes your application easy to read and that builds your case from one section to another.
- Don’t commit to more than you can do within the budget allowed. Be bold in your ideas but realistic in your commitments for this grant.

Grant Guidance

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
THE PROCESS AND THE END PRODUCT

submitting the application

- Plan to have several people review your draft and provide honest feedback—ideally including a “cold reader” who’s not familiar with your project.
- Check the application carefully against the RFP to make sure you’ve answered all the questions and included everything that’s required.
- Make sure spelling and punctuation are consistent and correct throughout.
- Plan to submit at least a day before the deadline, in case of technical glitches or last-minute delays.
- Take a very deep breath and congratulate yourself on a job well done!

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Three Options (feel free to use all three)

- Second Support Webinar on September 17th at 12 noon and 7 p.m.
- One-on-one technical assistance available via email, phone and Zoom from September 17th to October 16th. Common reasons to request TA:
  - Identifying the best data to support your statement of need.
  - Defining a realistic scope or focus for your project.
  - Telling your story so it’s clear and compelling to a reviewer.
- Review and feedback on your draft application (must be submitted by Oct. 12th)

Technical assistance can be requested via email (address to be provided during September 17th webinars).

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/
KEY DATES

- September 16th -- Application Guidance & Online Application Release
- September 17th -- Application and Support Webinars (12:00 & 7:00 pm)
- September 17th -- October 16th -- Technical Assistance Available
- October 19th -- Applications Due (by 11:59 p.m.)
- Initial Grant Year -- November 1, 2020 – April 29, 2021

PDG-Renewal Grant

https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-kansas-kids-subgrants/