Early Years Initiative

Introductory Informational Webinar

February 6, 2024

Early Years Initiative

Informational Webinar

Early Learning Indiana

Supported by Lilly Endowment Inc.
Agenda

• The Case for Targeting the Early Years
• Grant Overview
• Key Details and Eligibility
• Evaluation and Review
• Opportunities for Support
• Timeline
• Q&A

Questions?
Remember to type them in the "Questions" box on the right-hand side of your screen.
The Case for Targeting the Early Years

A child’s brain is hardest at work during the first three years of life, busy creating the foundation for all future learning capacity, social emotional development, and mental and physical health. The experiences of these early years affect not only school achievement, but also lifelong health.

To maximize this unique period of growth, infants and toddlers need nurturing connections that reinforce their well-being and strengthen their development — at home, in child care and in other community settings.
Grant Overview

Eligible organizations throughout Indiana are invited to propose new, enhanced or expanded programs or projects that influence healthy brain development and the development of physical, social-emotional and cognitive skills in infants and toddlers (children from birth through age three).

Proposed programs or projects may include, among others:

• Strengthening families through home visiting and parent education programs
• Ensuring access to supportive child care
• Supporting early detection of developmental needs or disabilities and implementation of responsive interventions
• Promoting essential skills through early language strategies

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Focus Populations

Applicants proposing programs or projects that serve a significant number of infants and toddlers who live in low-income households, are members of communities of color, or are multi-language learners will be viewed more favorably.

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Eligibility

To be eligible for funding under the Early Years Initiative, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

• Be a public charity described in Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3)
• Carry out the grant for a charitable purpose aligned with the priorities of the Early Years Initiative
• Be currently serving, or proposing to serve, infants and toddlers, directly or indirectly (e.g., by offering parenting supports)
• Have an annual operating budget of at least $75,000 and have been in operation for at least 12 months on the date of submission

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Proposals

Proposals must meet the requirements specified in the RFP, including the submission of a budget.

Submission

All proposals must be submitted on the grant platform, Submittable. Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. EDT on May 15, 2024.

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Funding Request

Organizations may request grants for a period of up to three years. Grant amounts requested must be appropriate for the intended impact, which would include, among other things:

- The number of infants and toddlers to be served with possible grant support and the anticipated impact of the program or project to be provided to these children
- The number of infants and toddlers in the Focus Populations (as defined in the Request for Proposals) and the anticipated impact of the program or project to be provided to these children
- The outcomes of current programs, if any, and the projected outcomes of the expanded program(s)

Grant amounts will range from $75,000 - $500,000

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Example Programs and Projects

Some examples of fundable programs and projects might include, but are not limited to:

• A community foundation or United Way might facilitate the creation of a network of family child care homes serving infants and toddlers in a low child care capacity area.
• A faith-based institution might sponsor a program designed to expand parental knowledge of early childhood development and positive parenting practices.
• An existing home visiting provider might expand services to new geographies.
• A child care provider might invest in a program to improve language development in its classrooms through tools and practice-based professional development.
• A local community-based organization might help deploy early detection tools through its network of community partners.

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Allowable Expenses

- Start-up costs
- Salaries and benefits
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Capital improvements
- Professional services

*Grant administration funds must not exceed 10% of your overall budget.*
Resources

Includes:

• Webinar recordings
• RFP
• Application Checklist
• FAQs

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Model Spotlights

Includes:

• Description of programs
• Chart of strategy alignments
• Link to view previous webinar clips
• Direct “connect to learn more” buttons

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Early Years Initiative Data Dashboard

• Created to combine a variety of publicly-available data into one site

• Includes measures across demographics, economics, learning and health

• Available at varying geographic levels when possible

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Evaluation and Review

In reviewing proposals and determining funding recommendations, ELI staff will take into consideration the following, among other factors:

• The number of infants and toddlers who will be served and the potential outcomes, overall and in the focus populations
• Capabilities to carry out programs and projects of the type and scale being proposed
• Feasibility of the program or project plan
• Whether the amount of the requested grant is proportional to the scale and impact of the program or project
• Sustainability of the program or project after funds from the grant are expended

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Implementation Support

• To make the most of this unprecedented opportunity to serve infants and toddlers, grantees of the Early Years Initiative will contribute to the collective learning of ELI and others by participating in reporting, program evaluation and communication efforts.

• ELI will also provide technical assistance to Early Years Initiative grantees throughout the duration of the grant, including training, consultation and other resources.

• From time to time throughout the grant implementation period, ELI will convene grantees to create communities of practice among individuals undertaking activities through the Early Years Initiative.

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Grant Timeline

January 31
RFP Opens

February 6
Introductory Informational Webinar

May 15
RFP Closes at 5 p.m. ET

September 30
Grantees Announced
Questions?