

# 2023 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2023



Flint Kids Fund  
flintkids.org

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**FOCUS AREAS:** The Flint Kids Fund will make grants in this round to support projects impacting:

- Access to and education regarding healthy food and nutrition
- Increased access to high quality education and literacy programs for children and families
- Special Projects

**OVERVIEW:** Since 2016, the Flint Kids Fund has invested over \$14 million in programs aimed to address and mitigate the impact of lead poisoning and trauma of the water crisis on

Flint kids. The 20-year fund supports programs and services with the greatest impact on the long-term health and development needs of Flint children. Until the fund sunsets in year 2036, the Flint Kids Fund will continue to make strategic investments to help ensure all Flint youth will grow and develop into healthy young adults, supported by community-based systems that optimize learning and school achievement, health and development, and social skills and confidence. Visit [flintkids.org](http://flintkids.org) for a full list of current and past grantees.

**FOCUS POPULATION:** Flint school-aged children

## FOCUS AREA 1: Provide access to and education regarding healthy food and nutrition.

A critical ingredient to the health and development of children is the consumption of nutritious food, starting in infancy with breastfeeding and continuing throughout childhood. Flint children struggle with disparities related to nutrition access (only 32.7% of Flint children have a grocery store within one mile of their home), affordability, food insecurity, and intake. Periods of poor nutrition can lead to renewed neurotoxicity with the release of lead from skeletal bone stores. Nutrition plays a critical role in the short- and long-term recovery of Flint children, and as such, is a strategic priority area of the Flint Kids Fund. From 2016 to 2022, the Flint Kids Fund has granted over \$3 million in the area of nutrition. Funded projects have included nutrition and cooking education, food subsidies, nutrition prescriptions, grocery store development, workforce, and capacity development. Visit [flintkids.org](http://flintkids.org) for a full list of current and past grantees.

**Grant Range:** Up to \$75,000

### MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OF INTEREST:

Nutrition-related priorities include, but are not limited to:

- Improving access to affordable, healthy foods;
- Improving nutrition in school-based programs;
- Increasing access to evidence-based nutrition education for children and parents/caregivers;
- Increasing measurable enrollment in WIC, SNAP, and Double Up Food Bucks among Flint kids and their families.

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## FOCUS AREA 2: Increase access to high-quality education and literacy programs for children and families.

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Access to high-quality education and literacy programming are critical to mitigating the adverse impacts of lead and trauma on children’s academic and behavioral outcomes. While trending upward recently, Flint children continue to lag behind in enrollment in early childhood programming, in part due to a lack of available slots, and fall behind their peers across the state with 74.6% of third grade students who took the M-STEP (state test) not meeting the English standards for proficiency (compared to 54% who did not meet standards for Michigan). From 2016 to 2022, the Flint Kids Fund has granted over \$5 million in the area of education and literacy. Funded projects have included Flint Kids Read and Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Montessori classroom expansion, and scholarships and subsidies for early childhood programs. Visit [flintkids.org](http://flintkids.org) for a full list of current and past grantees.

**Grant Range:** Up to \$75,000

### MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OF INTEREST:

Education and literacy priorities include, but are not limited to:

- Increase the number of childcare centers with at least a 3-Star Great Start to Quality rating;
- Increase the number of early childhood professionals who’ve completed the Child Development Associate credential;
- Increase of early childhood education slots filled with children from Flint;
- Increase parent participation in child development education opportunities;
- Expand two-generation literacy opportunities for children and families; and
- Improve special education or related services, for children who need additional academic and behavioral supports to succeed.

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## FOCUS AREA 3: Special Projects

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Exposure to lead and trauma has long-term impacts which may present through a variety of behavioral and health conditions over the lifespan. In addition to the health and developmental impacts of lead on children, Flint kids and families experience higher rates of poverty, and struggle to access a variety of resources including education services, transportation, and quality affordable housing. The Flint Kids Fund recognizes the need for unique solutions and partnerships to support the delivery of critical public health, medical, and community-based interventions for positive health outcomes for children and families. The Flint Kids Fund Special Projects Grants seek to support interventions and services to address the evolving and emerging needs of Flint kids and families, and sustainability and systems change for long-term support of Flint kids and families. Applicants seeking support for projects aligned with the Special Projects grant opportunity are welcome to apply.

**Grant Range:** Up to \$25,000

## GRANT GUIDELINES

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- Administrative/indirect costs cannot exceed 10% of the total budget
- Projects can be one or two years
- Dollar amounts of grant awarded will be rounded to the nearest 500

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## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- To be selected for funding, organizations must be a legally incorporated entity in Michigan with 501(c)(3) status or a project sponsored by a government agency with a clear charitable purpose. Organizations with a fiscal sponsor are also eligible to apply.
- Grant requests must have direct relevance to Flint youth.
- Prior Flint Kids Fund grantees are welcome to reapply.

### The following will not be considered for funding:

- Grants will not be made to organizations that discriminate based on ethnicity, race, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, economic circumstance, physical/mental abilities and characteristics, or marital status.
- Grants for sectarian religious purposes or any religious activities are not eligible.
- Grants will not be made for loans, debt reduction, capital projects, lobbying, research, or annual appeals.

## PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- In preparing a budget, applicants are encouraged to include all expenses necessary to ensure a successful project, including management supervision, accounting, evaluation, training, and grant reporting.
- Grant applications are encouraged to utilize, and reference community data resources focused on Flint children and families, including the Flint and Genesee County Community Health Needs Assessment, the State of Flint Kids, the Ruth Mott Foundation Community Dashboard, and the Annie E. Casey Data Count Center.
- Grant applicants are encouraged to demonstrate leveraging of Flint Kids funds.
- Grant applicant should demonstrate collaboration with other local organizations. Letters of support are strongly encouraged.

- Grant applicant should demonstrate efforts or plans for moving towards achieving sustainability.
- Grant applicants should articulate measurable outcomes.
- Grant applications to support projects implementing evidenced-based strategies that emphasize fund priorities are strongly encouraged.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The first step is a pre-application conversation with a Program Officer. This interchange of information serves as an opportunity for you to inform the Community Foundation of Greater Flint about your organization's needs, outline your project, and ask clarifying questions.

**CONTACT:** Stephanie Whitledge, Grants Administrator, at [swhitledge@cfgf.org](mailto:swhitledge@cfgf.org) or 810.767.3505 to set-up an appointment with a Program Officer.

Following your conversation with a Program Officer, you will submit a grant application through our online portal. Through the online portal, nonprofits can complete the grant application, submit supporting materials, check the status of applications, communicate directly with the Community Foundation and submit required grant reports.

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR SUBMISSION

- Narrative application
- Budget form
- Financial documents—examples include certified financial audit, third party reviewed financial statement, etc.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on previously stated deadlines. If an application is submitted after the deadline, we will work with you to withdraw it or move it forward to the next deadline.

**NEXT DEADLINE:** The next RFP will be released on July 1, 2023, with a submission deadline of September 1, 2023.