

KIDS COUNT Supplemental Policy Grants
Following the Data Policy Grants – Request for Proposals
March 7, 2014

In 2014, the KIDS COUNT team made the decision to allocate a portion of the Supplemental Policy Grants pool to **following the data grants** related to specific child policy opportunities in the states with lowest overall KIDS COUNT rankings – the states where children are persistently having the worst outcomes. We have allocated a total of \$520,000 for this purpose and intend to make eight grants of up to \$40,000 as well as two grants of up to \$100,000 (requiring a match) for California and Texas because of the large child populations in those states. Please submit a proposal of no more than five pages (plus budget) by **5:00pm ET on Friday, March 28, 2014**. All funding decisions will be communicated on or before May 1, 2014.

Anticipated Result:

Please provide a brief paragraph or two on the result you hope to achieve with this grant. This brief overview should summarize the specific policy area you are targeting and how it will improve outcomes for children and families. Focus policy areas for 2014 are listed below:

- **Reduce poverty and promote opportunity** for parents and their children through the alignment of (or improved alignment of) child care and workforce policies that enable families to secure and maintain employment.
- **Promote child welfare reforms** that help maltreated children grow up in safe, stable and lifelong families and/or neutralize threats to children’s chances to grow up and thrive in foster family settings. Priority will be given to proposals seeking reforms to: 1) limit the number of children placed in group settings; 2) incentivize the take up and use of foster and kinship family placements; and 3) strengthen caregivers’ ability to provide a natural, family-like environment for children and youth in foster care (example – “normalcy” legislation). We also continue to be interested in advancing state policies to extend foster care to age 21 and to ensure that children in foster care do not change schools unnecessarily.
- **Increase reading proficiency by the end of third grade** by ensuring that children are healthy and on track in their cognitive, social-emotional and physical development from birth to age eight. Priority will be given to proposals that seek to: 1) ensure school readiness by increasing access to parental supports and high-quality early care and education; 2) support children and families in succeeding in the early grades, including full-day kindergarten and school attendance; and 3) create opportunities for children to learn and excel during the summer months.
- **Promote state level juvenile justice reforms** including those that: 1) decrease over-reliance on juvenile detention and incarceration; 2) increase community-based alternatives to out-of-home placements; and 3) reduce racial and ethnic disparities.
- **Promote state implementation of the provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA)** as they affect the well-being of vulnerable children and their families.

Telling the Story with Data:

Please provide a data analysis that includes trends in key indicators for children and families in your focal policy area. This data must also include analysis on any differential outcomes for low-income children and children of color. If no differential outcomes exist or disaggregated data by income and race is not available, please note this situation in your analysis.

Strategies to Take on the Opportunity/Threat:

Please describe the policy opportunity or threat that your work will address and how your organization is positioned to contribute to a win at this time. Given the current opportunity/threat, discuss the specific strategies and policies you will target in order to achieve your intended result. If you are successful, explain what will be different, including the number and demographics of people who will be positively impacted and the amount of public funding that will be available.

Scope of Work:

Please describe the activities you will conduct to achieve your targeted results and your anticipated timeline for completion. Scope of work items are required and will be included in the Letter of Agreement and reporting forms.

Performance Measures:

Performance measures quantify the effort and effect of the Foundation’s investments. Please identify how you will measure your proposed activities. Some sample performance measures are listed below. Performance measures are required and will be included in the Letter of Agreement and reporting forms.

| Influencing Policy Change | Sample Performance Measures |
|---------------------------|--|
| How Much | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ # of activities held▪ # of organizations signing on to a campaign or initiative▪ # of products developed▪ # of informational sessions held▪ # of policymakers, media, decision-makers contacted |
| How Well | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ % of organizations contacted who signed on▪ % of leaders who continue to champion the cause for a specific time period▪ % of members who continue their participation post legislative session▪ % of practice changes made of those proposed▪ % of policy agenda adopted |
| Difference Made | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ # of policies enacted and implemented▪ Amount of public funding restored or enhanced |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ #/% of entities within system adopting best practices▪ #/% of population impacted (in what way(s) e.g. # or parents/children receiving public benefits |
|--|---|

Budget:

Include a budget with the name of the organization, name of the project, the proposed time frame for the work, requested amount and any matching or in-kind funds that will support the project.

Payment and Reporting:

Awards will be made as a single payment with reports due one month after the grant’s end date.

Proposals should be submitted electronically to Jessy Donaldson (jdonaldson@aecf.org) and Keith Calix (kcalix@aecf.org). The entire KIDS COUNT team is available if you have any questions, so please feel free to reach out to any of us if we can be of assistance.