



MORGAN FAMILY
FOUNDATION

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**Morgan Family Foundation Request for Proposals:
St. Cloud Early Childhood Initiative 2017-2018**

The Morgan Family Foundation has decided to limit any new grants to the field of early childhood in the St. Cloud area for 2017 and 2018. The Foundation will not be conducting its usual open, competitive grant application process during these two years, and instead will restrict new grantmaking to the early childhood area as described below.

The Foundation Board of Directors approved the following scope for our St. Cloud Early Childhood Initiative.

Focus: Improve the quality of, and access to, early child care and learning (birth through 2 years old) in the St. Cloud area, especially for those who need it the most *

* Children and families who have been traditionally underserved and/or have the fewest resources to address the needs of our youngest residents. They may, for example, be low income/poor; of color; immigrants or refugees; or lack a stable support system from family or friends.

We aim to make grants primarily to advance two priorities:

- 1. Strengthen parenting skills to enhance children's development, focusing on relationship attachment, brain development, and social emotional growth (birth through 2 years old)**
- 2. Increase the number and quality of early childcare programs (birth through 2 years old)**

The Foundation expects to award a total of approximately \$300,000 over the two years of this initiative. Two-year grant requests will be considered, and are particularly encouraged if the proposal is a collaborative project involving more than one organization in the service design or delivery. The minimum grant amount is \$10,000. The maximum grant award is anticipated to be \$100,000 over two years. Requests for building construction or renovation are not eligible for funding as part of this initiative, but other types of requests will be considered, such as for a program, project, or non-capital capacity building.

Virtually all Foundation grants are awarded to charitable, nonprofit organizations that are recognized by the IRS as 501(c)(3) public charities. Occasionally grants are made to units of government, like a public school district, college or university. If an entity wants to apply but does not have 501(c)(3) status, please contact the Foundation for eligibility. The Foundation does not make grants to individuals or for lobbying legislation or influencing public elections.

In evaluating grant requests, the Foundation will pay particular attention to how well the request aligns with the focus and priorities of this initiative and can demonstrate results. By narrowing our grant interests over the next two years, the Foundation is hoping to have a clear impact - one that can be described in specific terms and supported by evidence that shows a change for the better.

The process of applying for funding through this initiative uses our customary online eGrant system in a two-stage process, which begins with interested organizations submitting a Letter of Inquiry (LOI). Foundation staff will contact each applicant within three weeks after the letter of inquiry deadline to either decline or invite a full application, which is also submitted online. An invitation to submit a full application is no guarantee of a grant. The Foundation will inform all applicants of final grant decisions in mid- to late-August. Key deadline dates follow.

St. Cloud Early Childhood Initiative Timetable

<i>Steps in Grant Process</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Grantseeker submits Letter of Inquiry (LOI) by	May 24, 2017
Foundation invites or declines full proposal by	June 9, 2017
Grantseeker submits full proposal by	July 7, 2017
Foundation notifies applicants of grant decisions by	August 18, 2017

Having a narrower focus for our grantmaking in St. Cloud is a bit of an experiment for us, so we don't know exactly what to expect in terms of the potential magnitude of grant requests. We are trying to be flexible and open to what we may learn along the way. While we intend this to be a two-year initiative, it is possible that we might commit both years of funding through this one cycle if there are strong multi-year requests. Or, we might have another grant application opportunity in 2018, but we are waiting to set any future due dates until we make final grant decisions for this cycle in mid- to late-August 2017.

For further information:

www.morganfamilyfdn.org/stcloud.html

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We welcome your questions, and are happy to discuss the initiative and your ideas for a potential request.

To apply for a grant, you begin with a Letter of Inquiry:

<http://morganfamilyfdn.egrant.net>

4/7/17