

## Collaboration Planning Grants Frequently Asked Questions

### **My agency doesn't necessarily focus on young children or families. Should I still try to apply for this grant?**

UWSC is focused on breaking the cycle of poverty for low-income children birth to age 8 (0-8) and their families, specifically those whose mission supports a 2-generational approach. Our advice to agencies is to assess your work to see where you are supporting either young children or the adults who care for them, explore what other organizations are supporting these same families in reaching child and adult outcomes and ask if these partners would be interested in forming a collaborative.

### **Could a partnership that serves older children as part of the family be eligible?**

Yes, the children age 0-8 should be the focus or entry-point for collaborations, but supporting others in the family constellation is important.

### **My agency is interested in forming a collaborative to support low-income young children and their families, but we don't know who to partner with.**

We suggest starting with talking to the partners you already work with or refer clients to. UWSC is also hosting two networking mixers to give interested agencies an opportunity to connect with other agencies and discuss possible work they could do together. See our website to RSVP.

**March 15<sup>th</sup> (9:30am-10:30am)** – Verdant &

**March 16<sup>th</sup> (2:30pm-3:30pm)** - United Way of Snohomish County

### **Does the fiscal agent have to be a health and human services agency?**

Along with 501c3 organizations, school districts and other public partners are eligible to apply as a fiscal agent for this planning grant. We have removed the "health and human service agency" requirement.

### **Is the grant amount (\$1,000-\$5,000) per collaborative or per agency?**

The grant is per collaborative project.

### **Must all 5 partners (min. allowed) in a collaboration be nonprofits (501c3)?**

No; you are welcome and encouraged to seek out partners in government, public schools, businesses/private sector, and neighborhood groups. Not all 5 partners need to have officially signed on prior to this planning grant application; you can include information as to who you intend to invite or seek out partnership with during the planning grant period. Also not all 5 partners need to be involved at the same level (you could have primary and secondary partners).

### **Can one agency be a part of multiple collaborations?**

Yes!

### **Should we apply with a collaboration of agencies who all do the same type of service? Or different types of services in the same neighborhood?**

You can apply with a geographic collaborative or any collaboration that makes sense and addresses outcomes for low-income young children and their caregivers. For example: a collaborative focused in a particular low-income area where agencies partner to provide employment support and asset building for adults, while simultaneously providing early learning opportunities for their children.

### **If awarded this collaboration planning grant, how should we divide the funds between our collaborative partners?**

These funds will be awarded to the fiscal agent to be used by your collaboration; any other division of funds will be up to you and your collaborative partners.

### **What are some examples for how to use these funds for planning collaborations?**

Some examples of projects that this grant could fund: supporting community meetings to engage diverse voices in your collaborative's work, hiring a facilitator to help your partners come to a common agenda, purchasing equipment or software so your partners could work towards shared measurement, funding professional development for your partners in 2-generational approaches, or developing a continuous communications mechanism like an online portal.

### **Are there specific outcomes and indicators to measure and report for this grant?**

No, but we do ask you to talk about the outcomes your collaboration will likely work towards to get a sense of your goals. The reports for this grant will be a check-in call in June, and a progress narrative in August.

### **How will grantees be selected?**

UWSC uses volunteer decision-making. Your full application letter will be reviewed by community volunteers. They will be looking for complete and clear answers to the questions posed in the RFP.

### **Examples of cross-sector collaborations working on 2-Gen outcomes**

One of the questions we have been asked frequently is to provide an example of a cross-sector collaborative working on adult and child outcomes. Here are a few ideas:

- Example Group I – Focus: provide an integrated network of services to support household stability, social-emotional wellbeing, mental health, school readiness, and school success of children prenatal to age 8 and their families
  - Collaborative composition:
    - Early Learning Coalition – staffing for kindergarten transition coordinator

- Child Care Resource & Referral – childcare scholarships for families not served through state or federal programs and onsite child care provider technical assistance
  - Child Abuse & Prevention Center – in home parent support and classroom support
  - Center for Child and Family Health – home visiting and mental health support
  - School district – integrated student support
  - ECEAP, Early HeadStart & HeadStart – entry point for families to connect to collaborative work
- Example Group II – Focus: serve families with children ages birth – 5 at risk for toxic stress
  - Collaborative composition:
    - Child Care Resource & Referral – in-depth training and coaching for child care providers
    - Center for Women and Families – individual financial coaching and counseling for parents
    - Mental Health Outreach Project – mental health services, training and support for families
    - Literacy Council – ESL and literacy classes for families
    - Rape Crisis Center – sexual abuse training for families
    - Health Clinic – health and wellness support
    - Benefit Services – access to benefit enrollment like Basic Health and SNAP
    - Domestic Violence Center – entry point for families to connect to collaborative work
- Example Group III – Focus: support the healthy development of children and their families in a particular neighborhood
  - Collaborative composition:
    - YMCA – afterschool programming for children 5-8 yrs. and bilingual play & learn group programming
    - Girl Scouts – afterschool programming for girls 5-8 yrs.
    - Center for Women and Families – financial and career counseling and support for parents
    - Youth outreach project – youth mentoring and homework clubs for children 5-8 yrs.
    - Training outreach project – mental health assessments and treatment for families
    - El Centro – bilingual mental health assessments and treatment for families
    - Literacy Council – parent literacy programming
    - Public School Foundation – Family reading programming and books
    - Child Care Resource and Referral – child care referral for families and assistance to child care providers
    - ABC Elementary School – entry point for families to connect to collaborative work & Ready for K programming
    - Housing Authority – Section 8 provider and entry point for families to connect to collaborative work

**As training opportunities are offered, will they be open to anyone or just those applying for grants?**

We plan to open several training opportunities to anyone in the community. Training topics may include 2-generational approaches, collaboration, and adaptive leadership.

**Is there someone who can talk through our idea with us before we submit a grant application?**

Yes! Please call or email our Director of Impact & Investment, Lark Kesterke at [lark.kesterke@uwsc.org](mailto:lark.kesterke@uwsc.org) or 425.374.5506 or Senior Manager of Investment, Amy Franklin at [amy.franklin@uwsc.org](mailto:amy.franklin@uwsc.org) or 425.374.5508. We would be happy to be a sounding board for your ideas. We also have Learning & Analytics staff who can be a resource on data and measurement.

**Questions about Future Grants**

**Does this collaboration planning grant opportunity replace the multi-year grant opportunity?**

No. These are small capacity building (planning) grants that occur on a different cycle from UWSC's current program grants or future multi-year collaborative grants.

**Must we apply for this grant to be eligible to apply for the future multi-year collaborative grants?**

No. However, this grant could be a first step for planning a larger, long-term collaborative partnership.

**Does our fiscal agent have to stay the same for between grants?**

No, you may change the fiscal agent and any other structuring of your collaborative between applying for a planning grant and applying for a multi-year grant.

**When will the next RFP be released?**

The RFP for multi-year collaborative grants and one-year basic needs grants will be released in early June 2017.

**Must basic needs grants focus on young children and their families?**

Basic needs grants must serve immediate needs of low income populations. Though programs applying for basic needs grants don't need to specifically focus on young children and their families, it is our hope that basic needs programs over time will become integrated into the collaborative partnerships supporting low income families.