

# 2026 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

APPLICATION DUE DATE: MARCH 2, 2026



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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

- Increase access to and education regarding healthy food and nutrition
- Increased access to high quality education and literacy programs for children and families
- Improve access to a medical home and a child health team for all children and adolescents to ensure consistent and comprehensive primary care services
- Increase in family, social and emotional support, and parenting skills

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

**OVERVIEW:** Since 2016, the Flint Kids Fund has invested over \$16 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.

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

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A critical ingredient to the health and development of children and adolescents is the consumption of nutritious food. Flint children struggle with disparities related to nutrition access, 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. Since 2016, the Flint Kids Fund has granted over \$3 million in nutrition.

#### MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OF INTEREST:

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

- Improving access to affordable healthy foods
- Increase access to evidence-based nutrition education for children and parents/caregivers



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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. Academic and enrichment opportunities improve school day behaviors, improve grades, and support development of strong social skills. Two generation literacy programs improve child learning and have long term benefits for the entire family. Since 2016, the Flint Kids Fund has granted over \$6 million in education and literacy.

### **MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OF INTEREST:**

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

- Increase access to out-of-school time programs to provide academic support, enrichment activities, and help kids build life skills
- Increase parent/caregiver participation in child and adolescent development and education opportunities
- Expand two-generation literacy opportunities for children and families
- Improve access and utilization of special education or related services, for children who need additional academic and behavioral supports to succeed

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## **FOCUS AREA 3: Improve access to a medical home and a child health team for all children and adolescents to ensure consistent and comprehensive primary care services.**

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Medical home access and utilization is critical for all Flint children and adolescents — providing developmental screenings as well as opportunities to review and discuss a child's physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development. Receiving continuous care via a patient centered medical home will improve the ability to connect children with early interventions and support to mitigate the impact of lead exposure and trauma. Since 2016, the Flint Kids Fund has granted over \$1 million in access to medical homes.

### **MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OF INTEREST:**

Medical home priorities include, but are not limited to:

- Reduce child/family barriers to pediatric primary care and preventative services to support immunization, growth and developmental assessments, appropriate screenings, nutrition education, and behavioral health support through childhood into adolescence

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## **FOCUS AREA 4: Increase family, social and emotional support, and parenting skills.**

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Exposure to lead can result in emotional and behavioral issues, even when there are low levels of exposure. Children exposed to lead have an increased risk of experiencing anxiety and depression. With a supportive environment, access to mental health services, and evidence-based interventions to reduce toxic stress and regulate emotions, children will maintain healthy relationships and succeed in school. Parenting skills and engagement are critical in creating safe and healthy environments for children. Since 2016, the Flint Kids Fund has granted over \$4 million in family social and emotional support.

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### MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OF INTEREST:

Family social and emotional priorities include, but are not limited to:

- Increase in children, adolescents, and parents/caregivers accessing mental health services through support to families, implementation of innovative care models and/or new technology
- Increase in children, adolescents, and parents/caregivers accessing programs to support stress management and resiliency

## GRANT GUIDELINES

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- Projects can be one or two years
- Funding requests can range from \$10,000 up to \$50,000

### 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 school-aged children and adolescents.
- 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.

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**CONTACT:** Lydia Starrs, at [lstarrs@cfgf.org](mailto:lstarrs@cfgf.org) to set up an appointment to discuss your project.

Following your conversation with staff, 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 due date. If an application is submitted after the due date, we will work with you to withdraw it or move it forward to the next due date.

**NEXT DEADLINE:** The Flint Kids Fund is an annual grant program with a yearly application due date in early Spring. Visit [www.cfgf.org/grantmaking](http://www.cfgf.org/grantmaking) for more information about upcoming grant opportunities.

