



City of Seattle Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) Prenatal-to-Three Community Grant Program RFI Summary Companion

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) is accepting applications to the Prenatal-to-Three Community Grant Program now through October 6 from groups interested in providing prenatal-to-three supports for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), immigrant, refugee, low income, and English language learning communities.

Approximately \$1.45 million dollars is available for this grant program with up to \$150,000 available per awardee. The funding process is competitive and managed by the City of Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL). Currently, this opportunity is only funded for 2021 grant cycle.

The guiding outcome of this investment is to *support increased kindergarten readiness and reduce the disparities in outcomes for young children and families based on race, gender, or other socioeconomic factors*. The program intends to accomplish this by supporting community informed proposals that address obstacles contributing to these disparities. These include providing families access to critical resources and services, supporting healthy and equitable births, increasing parental health and well-being, strengthening nurturing and responsive caregiver-child relationships and supporting optimal child health and development.

ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING

Community-based organizations that are incorporated as non-profits are eligible to apply, unincorporated organizations are required to identify a fiscal sponsor for the proposal.

Organizations are eligible to apply for a maximum of \$150,000 (minimum request of \$10,000).

Organizations can apply for two types of proposals:

- Direct Services: proposals to start new, or strengthen existing, programs that directly support families and children.
- Community Alignment Initiatives: proposals focused on community collaborations, planning, and/or engagement.

Projects that are not eligible for this funding opportunity include proposals that:

- Provide quality supports or subsidies for licensed child care
- Solely focus on supporting general operations of an organization
- Are without a central focus on prenatal-to-age-three
- Focused on political lobbying



To be considered for funding, eligible applicants are invited to submit RFI applications **by 3:00 pm Pacific Daylight Time (Seattle time) October 6, 2021**.

SCHEDULE OF RFI-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Event	Date/Date Range (2021)
Request for Investment (RFI) Application Issued	August 31
Technical Assistance Period	August 31 – October 5
Information Session #1 See Funding Opportunities Webpage for Link	September 7, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm
Information Session #2 See Funding Opportunities Webpage for Link	September 15, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Q & A Document Updated on DEEL's Funding Opportunities Webpage	September 7 – October 1
RFI Applications Due	October 6
Technical Compliance Review	October 7-8
Review Panel Scoring	October 11, 14, & 15
Review Panel Deliberations	October 18-22
Interviews (as needed)	October 25 - 29
Notifications Issued to Applicants	November 3 - 10

COMMUNITY BASED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROPOSALS

Free, direct technical assistance (TA) is available to help providers developing their proposals from three experienced community-based consultants. We strongly encourage utilizing technical assistance to support the development of your proposal, align to the priorities of this RFI and support for reviewing the technical guidance of the RFP. To utilize technical assistance support, please feel free to reach out to any of the consultants listed below.

TA Provider	Background and Contact
Catherine Verrenti	Catherine Verrenti is thrilled to have an opportunity to support CBOs that are deeply embedded in the community. She offers skills and insights gained from her twenty years of hands-on experience, including at Neighborhood House and YouthCare. This expertise includes grant development plus managing a wide range of culturally responsive youth development, family support, out-of-school time, case management and homeless programs Contact: catherine@verrenticonsulting.com



Hassan Wardere	Hassan Wardere specializes in project management, authentic community engagement, capacity building, change management, strategic planning and partnerships, technical assistance, etc. Hassan utilizes a unique strategy of valuing home cultures when supporting the development of strategic ideas, successful designs and integration of creative, customized, equity-driven programs, and services. He also has an extensive experience working with CBOs that serve immigrant and refugee families. Contact: projects@bulleconsulting.com
Roxanne Hood-Lyons	Roxanne Hood Lyons promotes community impact through executive coaching, capacity building and assisting organizations in accessing funds. With experience as a funder, consultant and executive director of a small community-based organization, she will help you build a proposal that leverages your staff and community strengths while increasing the capacity of your organization. Contact: roxannelyons@gmail.com

LANGUAGE SUPPORTS

If you require additional language supports, DEEL can provide assistance. Please reach out to Tiffany Lee at tiffany.lee@seattle.gov.

PRIOTIZING PROPOSALS

The grant program will have two types of prioritization: **1.** Priority criteria based on characteristics of the organizations or proposers themselves, and **2.** Priority criteria based on the project proposals. The application questions are intended to gather information to support the City's assessment of each priority.

Applicant organizations with the following characteristics will be prioritized for funding:

1. Representative of and primarily serving priority communities
2. Demonstrated organizational structures and strategies to engage with the community, particularly with young families
3. Smaller organizations with limited paid staff

Projects outlined in the grant applications that demonstrate the following will be prioritized for funding:

1. Provides evidence of a process for co-designing and co-creating proposal with community members that will be benefiting from the project
2. Demonstrates project characteristics that are culturally responsive and promote equitable access
3. Clearly outlines and supports how the project will positively impact priority communities and meet the grant program guiding outcomes

FURTHER INFORMATION

The City will provide an overview of funding opportunity at two virtual information sessions on September 7th and 15th. Full details of the Grant Program are outlined in the [**Prenatal to Three Community Grant Program RFI -Technical Overview**](#). We encourage you to read through this document, specific detail for the following can be found:



1. History, goals and outcomes for the grant programs (page 3)
2. Overview of eligible proposals (pages 4)
3. Process and criteria for proposal evaluation (pages 7)
4. Grant Budget Requirements (page 5)

All information and application documents for this grant program can be found at: the DEEL funding opportunities webpage: <http://www.seattle.gov/education/for-providers/funding-opportunities/prenatal-to-three-community-grant>