



CHILDCARE INNOVATION GRANTS Request for Proposals

The Indiana Economic Development Association Foundation (Foundation) has received a grant from the Duke Energy Foundation for the purpose of assisting Indiana communities in their efforts to increase childcare capacity. The Foundation will be making grants to Indiana communities to enable them to begin the process of assessing and addressing childcare gaps.

These grants are not to be applied for administration, construction, operations, or maintenance of a childcare facility but are intended to help communities better document, understand, and plan to address existing needs and gaps.

'Innovation' will be different for each community – don't let it be intimidating. These grants are meant to jump-start efforts in your community to create a plan for meeting your unique needs for quality childcare. Innovation is meant to imply that you can try something that you haven't had funds or motivation to try before. This can be hiring a consultant, conducting parent and employer focus groups, convening potential service providers, conducting an assessment of potential facilities: in short, the goal of these grants is to give communities funds and permission to try a new approach for solving an old problem.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis after review by a team of reviewers. Reviews will be conducted on a points basis with points awarded within a published scale for each portion of the proposal. Grant amounts can range up to \$40,000. Proposals should be accompanied by a basic budget. Budgets and program narrative should clearly justify the amount of funds requested.

Proposers can be local, regional, or statewide entities with an economic development focus.

Proposals should be submitted in Word or pdf format to:

Mr. Lee Lewellen
CEO
IEDA Foundation at llewellen@ieda.org

Proposals should be received by 5:00 pm (EST) on May 8, 2023.

PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

1. Proposal Executive Summary – Briefly describe the purpose of this proposal and what you hope to accomplish if the funds are granted. (5 points)
2. What childcare situation in your community are you attempting to address? What have you done previously to document the problem? (10 points)
3. Innovation – Within the context of your community, how will these grant funds enable you to try something new relative to solving your childcare challenges? (We're not asking you to create

a 'world class solution,' only to try a different approach in your community.) How will you use these funds to better understand the childcare needs of your community? (25 points)

4. What stakeholders and organizations from your community will be involved in this project and what role do you expect them to play? (10 points)
5. How do you define long-term success for childcare in your community and how will this grant help you move toward accomplishing that success? (20 points)
6. Provide a simple budget demonstrating how these funds will be used. Please indicate if there will be local matching funds, although this is not required for this grant. (10 points)
7. Provide a project timeline and indicate how the project will be managed and by whom, i.e. what organization and the qualifications of the lead staff. (10 points)
8. Is your area served by Duke Energy? (5 points)

Note: Reviewers will have 5 discretionary points to award bringing the total possible points to 100.

Proposers should indicate an 'intent to propose' via email to llewellen@ieda.org by April 17, 2023. Failure to do so will not affect the viability of submitted proposals but will help us notify potential proposers of the date and time for a virtual proposer's conference to answer questions. Our intent is to answer all questions during the virtual proposer's conference, so all proposers have equal benefit. A Google doc will be established for proposers to submit questions prior to the proposer's conference. We will not entertain individual questions that may give one proposer potential benefit over others.