

## Kansas Advocates for Equity, Education and Health RFP Overview

### **What's the purpose of this initiative?**

All Kansans should live in communities of opportunity, where good schools, healthy environments, safe homes, quality jobs, and access to health care, high-quality, goods and services are the norm. We believe education, health care, and children being ready to learn are critical pieces of creating and supporting communities of opportunity; and multiple systems must work together to ensure children reach their full potential. This request for proposals (RFP) focuses on the systems impacting young children's health, early learning, and high-quality education to shift those in ways that create more opportunities for educational success and positive health outcomes for more Kansas children. No single policy solution can improve early childhood wellness and/or educational outcomes so, advancing a multi-prong policy agenda that recognizes the intersectionality of the many issues and systems that impact children and families is necessary. To challenge longstanding historic, health, educational and economic barriers, equity champions from multiple sectors must join forces to create and implement an interconnected vision prioritizing outcomes for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and those students experiencing poverty or other significant challenges. Kansas Health Foundation, in partnership with United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, will fund up to three organizations up to \$300,000 each (\$100,000 annually) through a three-year grant (May 1, 2021-April 30, 2024) to support this advocacy work.

### **Who should apply?**

This opportunity is for nonprofits whose leadership is ready to think in bold new ways, using a two-generation, equity-focused approach to advance policies that create opportunity for BIPOC children and adults. We want to engage organizations who have authentic connections to families with prenatal to age eight children of color, those experiencing poverty and students with other significant barriers so all children have equal opportunities to learn and thrive. Applicants should be community champions focused on equitable educational opportunities and promoting community wellness. Nonprofits who identify as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code can apply. Eligible applicants are tax-exempt organizations qualified under Sections 509(a)(1) or (a)(2) of the Code. If your organization has relevant experience and expertise but questions whether or how they should apply, please reach out to KHF Program Officer Chan Brown to discuss at [cbrown@khf.org](mailto:cbrown@khf.org). The RFP application will open on February 1, 2021, and the deadline for submission is March 5, 2021 at 5:00 PM CT.

### **What does project success look like over the next three years?**

- The fundamental drivers of inequality are being examined in educational opportunities and outcomes and the voices of BIPOC community members are being centered in promoting and implementing policy solutions deemed most impactful so that all pre-K children are healthy, ready for school and can reach their potential.
- A shared advocacy agenda is being created and stronger power base networks are being built amongst Kansas organizations focused on creating educational opportunities and supporting early care, education and health outcomes. Schools, governments, institutions and employers all have the potential to remedy or reinforce inequality; therefore, creating a shared agenda that positively impacts local or state policies would be considered a win.
- Key stakeholders, specifically community-based organizations, schools and state agencies, are scaling big ideas and driving strategies that align with principles of child-centered learning and equity.
- Inequities are more widely acknowledged and understood by community and key decision makers, leading to greater commitment to equitable educational and health outcomes.

### **Questions?**

Please check out the RFP website, <https://kansashealth.org/grant-opportunities/equity-ed-health/>, where you will find a number of related documents with more details. You can also contact Chan Brown at [cbrown@khf.org](mailto:cbrown@khf.org).