

Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Review Process Summary

MEMO TO APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS | JUNE 2024

The Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) Division of Health Equity Strategy and Innovation (formerly known Center for Health Equity) previously released a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development (CSF), a grant program established to improve child development outcomes related to the wellbeing of children of color and American Indian children from prenatal to grade three and their families, reduce racial disparities in these communities, and promote racial and geographic equity.

The grant program will advance these purposes by funding community-based solutions for challenges that are identified by the affected communities.

The grant application period closed on February 14, 2024. The community review process began shortly afterwards and engaged Community Solutions Advisory Council Members and state employees in the review of applications. The Commissioner of Health made final funding decisions in April 2024 based on recommendations, then all applicants were notified.

We would like to offer summary data about the applications and the review process. If applicants have additional questions, they are welcome to contact the Division of Health Equity at ommh@state.mn.us or 651-201-5813.

Funding Requested

The total funding requested by all applicants was **\$21.27M**. Total funding available is **\$4.83 Million** for grants during the period of May 2024 – June 2025 and an additional \$4.83 Million for state fiscal year 2026 and 2027. This fund consists of state general funds reserved for Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development grant to build the evidence base for effective community solutions in reducing health disparities for children of color and American Indian children from prenatal to grade three and their families.

General Funds (State Funds):

- **Amount Available = \$4,830,000 (Fiscal Year [FY] 24 and 25) and \$4,830,000 (FY 26 and 27)**
- **Amount Requested = \$21,270,000**

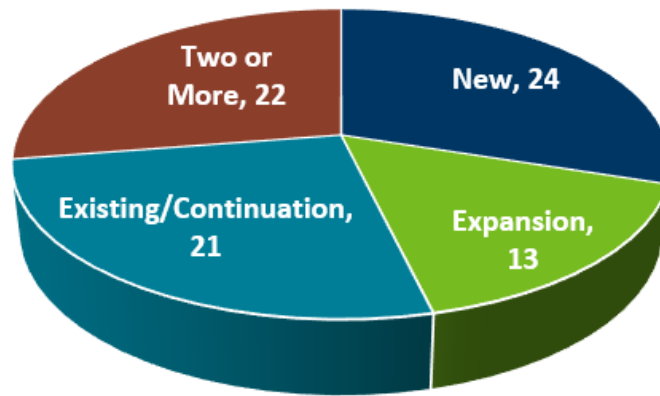
Applicants

MDH received **81 applications**. 79 applications were deemed eligible and complete and were then reviewed by the community review committee.

Project Types/Locations

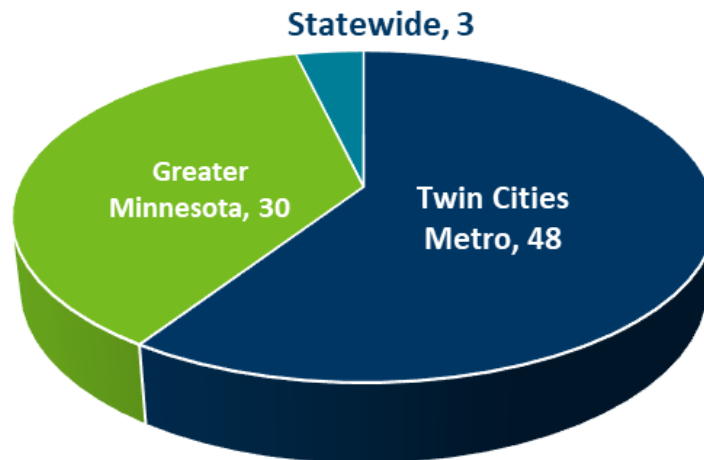
The charts below (Figures 1 and 2) show the different areas of focus among the applicants, and the geographic locations for proposed programming. Applicants proposed plans for various projects, including expanding existing - projects, initiating new projects, or continuing their current projects. Many applicants indicated that they would address more than one project type.

Figure 1: Project Types



1 applicant didn't answer.

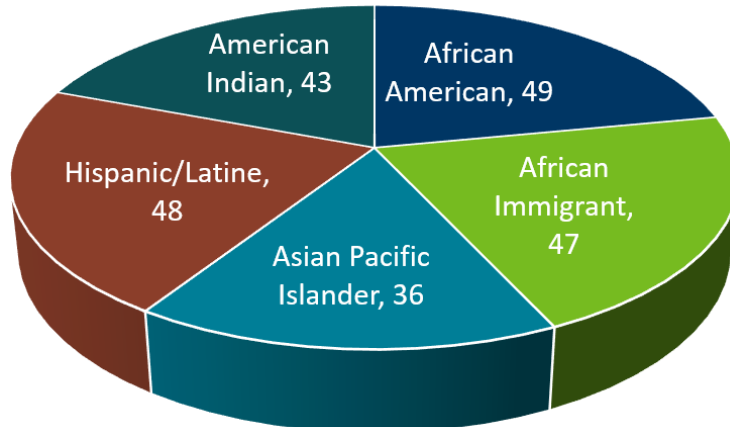
Figure 2: Project Locations



Race and Ethnicity

Based on applicants' descriptions of the primary racial/ethnic groups to be served by their proposal, the 81 applicants were categorized into five categories of racial/ethnic groups: African American, African Immigrants, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latine. The chart below (Figure 2) shows the breadth of racial/ethnic groups to be served among applicants' proposals. Many applicants indicated that they would serve more than one racial/ethnic group.

Figure 2: Racial/Ethnic Groups To Be Served



Most applicants identified multiple communities to serve.

Review Process

Community Review Committee

Eligible applications were reviewed by the Community Solutions Advisory (CSA) Council and state employees. A total of fifteen review committee members, including seven from the Community Solutions Advisory Council and eight state employees, evaluated the application proposals based on the criteria outlined in the CSF Request for Proposals (RFP). Prior to the review of applications, the council members and the employees disclosed any potential, actual, or perceived conflicts of interest with the applications assigned for their review. Reviewers disclosing any conflict were either reassigned to different applications or asked to recuse themselves from the review process. Three members of the Community Solutions Advisory Council recused themselves from the review process due to a conflict of interest. Additionally, not all members of the Advisory Council were available to participate in the review process. MDH provided training for all review committee members to ensure every person received the same instructions.

Community Solutions Advisory (CSA) Council

As outlined in state statute, CSA is comprised of 13 members: three members representing Black Minnesotans of African heritage, three members representing Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latine Minnesotans, three members representing Asian/Pacific Islander Minnesotans, three members representing the American Indian community, and one member with research or academic expertise in racial equity and healthy child development. The council must also include representation from organizations with expertise in advocacy on behalf of communities of color and Indigenous communities in areas related to the grant program. At least three of the 13 members of the advisory council must come from outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

Finally, the council must convene meetings at least four times per year.

The Community Solutions Advisory Council advises MDH on the [Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant program](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/equity/projects/communitysolutions/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/equity/projects/communitysolutions/index.html>).

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT - GRANT REVIEW PROCESS SUMMARY

The CSA Council is charged with:

- Guiding MDH in developing the RFP for Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grants while considering how the grants can build on communities' capacities to promote child and family well-being.
- Reviewing applications for Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grants and making recommendations to MDH about which applicants should be funded.
- Collaborating with MDH to create a transparent and objective accountability and evaluation process focused on the outcomes of community solutions for healthy child development grantees are working to achieve.
- Advising MDH on ongoing oversight of the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant program.
- Supporting MDH on other racial equity and early childhood grant efforts, as appropriate.

To learn more about Community Solutions Advisory Council, please visit: [Community Solutions Advisory Council](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/equity/projects/communitysolutions/advisory.html)
(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/equity/projects/communitysolutions/advisory.html>)

Review Team and Scores

Reviewers were divided into 8 review teams. Each of the eight teams reviewed between nine to ten applications. In addition to offering funding recommendation for each application, reviewers individually scored each application out of a total 130 possible points. Each applicant's final score was based on the **average score** of all team members who reviewed the application. Of the 79 eligible applicants:

- 31 applications received an average team score of ≥ 104 (39%)
- 26 applications received an average team score between 91-103.9 (33%), and
- 22 applications received an average team score of ≤ 90.9 (28%)

Finally, MDH balanced the review teams' recommendations with other factors including, but not limited to: Review team scores, geographic distribution of services, representativeness of populations served, and total funding available.

Selected applicants

Grantee	Geographic Area(s) Served
All Nations Rise	Northwest MN
Children’s Dental Services (CDS)	Statewide
Cultivating Family Services, LLC	Twin Cities Metro
Division of Indian Work	Twin Cities Metro
Fond du Lac Tribal College	Central and NE MN
Friendships Community Services	Twin Cities Metro
Hmong Early Childhood Coalition	Twin Cities Metro
Korean Adoptees Ministry Center	Twin Cities Metro
La Red Latina de Educacion	Southwest Minnesota and Twin Cities metropolitan area
Legacy Family Center	Twin Cities Metro
Mewinzha Ondaadiziike Wiigaming	Northwest MN
Montessori American Indian Childcare Center	Twin Cities Metro
Morning Glory Montessori	Twin Cities Metro
Multicultural Autism Action Network	Statewide
Network for the Development of Children of African Descent	Twin Cities Metro
NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center, Inc.	Twin Cities Metro
Roots Community Birth Center	Twin Cities Metro
Parents In Community Action, Inc.	Twin Cities Metro
STIM Learning Center	Twin Cities Metro
Sunny Side Day Center	Northwest MN
WE WIN Institute	Twin Cities Metro

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Center for Health Equity
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06/18/2024

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5813.