

Stolte Family Foundation

Request for Proposals:

Supporting the early learning needs of children & families

MISSION AND FOCUS OF THE STOLTE FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Stolte Family Foundation (SFF) was established in 2015 with three primary goals: 1. narrowing the achievement and opportunity gaps in education, 2. mitigating climate change, and 3. addressing global issues affecting women and girls. SFF is an impact-driven foundation aiming to make investments that will result in systemic changes in education and environmental causes and policies. SFF's education efforts are currently focused on the needs of King County, Wash., and hope to increase achievement for all students by improving education inside and outside the classroom. The Foundation's founders, Chris and Heidi Stolte, believe that effective philanthropy requires listening and learning, relationship-building, and leveraging communities to help identify and implement solutions.

For the funding year of 2016, SFF will focus on efforts addressing summer learning loss and early learning. Other areas of interest include parent and family engagement and supporting efforts to strengthen the education system in King County.

CURRENT EDUCATION FOCUS: EARLY LEARNING

We believe education is a key lever for breaking the cycle of poverty. We also believe in starting strong and addressing inequities early, before gaps are further widened. Our goal is to significantly increase the number of students in our region who are on track to earn a postsecondary credential, and to give these students more opportunities to reach their full potential.

The early years of a child's life are the most important for social, emotional and cognitive development. During this critical time, poverty impedes some children with an insurmountable disadvantage. Children living in poverty frequently do not have access to the same educational and developmental resources as their counterparts from higher-income families. This is the early stage of the academic achievement gap. In Washington State, an estimated 41 percent of children go to kindergarten ill-prepared [1]. High-quality preschool programs and involvement of parents and families are examples of proven strategies that raise academic performance and give children the skills and tools to be successful and contribute to society.

We believe strongly that a child's success relies heavily on empowering the family. We also believe that parents and families need support even before the child is born. We will look favorably toward organizations that take a "whole family" approach to their services by either providing family support programs or referring out to partnership organizations. Strong parent/family and teacher relationships are critical for maximizing social and emotional skill building and ultimately kindergarten readiness. In many cases, meeting parents and families where they are most comfortable is key to developing relationships of trust.

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We will support organizations that utilize best practices and culturally competent approaches to supporting parents in the early years, so that their children are ready to learn. We will look favorably at opportunities that allow successful organizations to scale proven models of success and demonstrate innovation in the field.

SFF aims to partner with organizations as a funder with three primary goals in mind:

1. Strengthen approaches to educate and support parents as a child's first teacher
2. Invest in early learning programs that promote social and emotional development and kindergarten readiness
3. Advance opportunities for early learning innovation, research and system-building

EARLY LEARNING FUNDING PRIORITIES

SFF will give priority to programs that:

- work strategically with age 0–5 populations most impacted by education achievement and opportunity gaps;
- demonstrate relationship building and active engagement of the whole family;
- utilize innovative and accessible program models that meet families where they are at, such as home visiting programs;
- are part of a larger system, therefore benefiting from partnerships, shared metrics and leveraging relationships in their work;
- use high-quality teaching curriculum with a commitment to professional development;
- employ best practice dosage and attendance standards, focused on long-lasting impact; and
- exhibit outcomes through established—or developing—systems of program evaluation.

2016–2017 EARLY LEARNING GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE: \$500,000

There are two types of funding available.

Type One: General Operating and Program Support

Minimum Funding Request: \$10,000 Maximum Funding Request: \$50,000

Type Two: Capacity Building Partnership Opportunity

Funding Available: \$75,000 - \$100,000 (2 partnership grants available)

Capacity Building funding will be considered for organizations who demonstrate an opportunity ripe for investment and scalability. The grant(s) may be awarded through multiyear investments. Organizations must demonstrate clear results and use of data to inform potential program growth. We define “scalable readiness” as a combination of demonstrated achievement in service, use of best practice, strong leadership commitment and mature, defined plans for expansion. If you are interested in applying for a Capacity Building Partnership grant, we require a phone call to discuss your funding opportunity. Please call Kim Wright, at 206.515.2136.

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GRANT PERIOD

Funding is available for the planning and delivery of 2017 programs. The grant period is December 2016–December 2017. A grant agreement and final report will be required of each grantee.

SCHEDULE

Interested organizations must contact the SFF team to schedule a phone call to discuss proposal ideas and alignment to Foundation funding goals. Phone calls will be scheduled from August 1 to August 12. As SFF is partnering with Seattle Foundation, please contact Kim Wright (k.wright@seattlefoundation.org) to discuss your eligibility and proposal ideas.

All proposals and backup materials must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 25, 2016.

Heidi Stolte, SFF President, and team will review proposals and will contact organizations for more information as needed. **We will conduct site visits to selected organizations in October.** Final grant decisions will be made in November and recipients will be notified in early December.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

- Complete electronic grant application via Wells Fargo Private Bank.
 - Please identify Stolte Family Foundation as the name of the foundation from which you are seeking funds.
 - Please reference the Wells Fargo application requirements, requesting both organization and program-specific budgets and funding sources.

ELIGIBILITY – BY INVITATION ONLY

- Applications will be accepted through invitation only.
- Applicant organizations must be located in King County and must qualify as tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Service Code or have a fiscal sponsor agreement in place.
- Programs eligible for funding must work strategically to address the needs of individuals who are disproportionately affected by the education opportunity and achievement gaps. Organizations should demonstrate a commitment to equity, work with diverse audiences, and have culturally competent staff.
- SFF will NOT consider grant requests for the following: individuals; organizations that discriminate on the basis of age, race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation or religious belief; fundraising events such as walk-a-thons, tournaments, auctions and general fundraising solicitations; conference or seminar expenses; or scholarship or endowment funds.

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 25, 2016 by electronic application:

Use [this link](#) to access the application

Stolte Family Foundation c/o Wells Fargo Bank: 999 3rd Ave., Suite 4000, Seattle, WA 98104

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Please be as specific as possible and share stories to enhance your strategic approach.

Request Summary

Describe specific purpose for which any grant funds awarded from this foundation will be used.

- Identify specific strength-building opportunities or potential advancements of work.

Common Goals

Describe how a grant to your organization would further the Foundation's mission and the priorities of our foundation.

- How does your organization address SFF's Early Learning funding priorities?

Request Detail

Describe the objectives of the project or program to be funded.

- Highlight the connection to kindergarten readiness and social and emotional skill development.

Describe the implementation plan for the project or program. Include at least three specific actions your organization will take in order to achieve results.

- What features of your work make it successful and engaging? Please highlight use of best practices, research and applicable curriculum.

What criteria does (or will) your organization use to measure the success of the project or program?

- Identify any connection to the Road Map Project region's age 0–5 indicators for success.

Briefly describe any formal or informal collaborative ventures your organization has established (or will establish) with other entities serving similar purposes that may be relevant to this grant request.

Project Background

If this grant relates to an ongoing project or program, how long has the project or program been operating?

Timeline, Financials and Board Members

Identify start and end dates along with a timeline, including relevant dates relating to the project or program for which grant funds would be used.

Prepare to share project and organization budgets, funding sources and information from your most recent tax filing.

Prepare a list of current board members (name, position/title, name of employer, professional title).

Footnotes¹. Washington Early Start Act Executive Summary; data from 2013–2014 school year. Also citing that low-income children and children of color are less likely to demonstrate kindergarten readiness.