



## 2019 SVP SEATTLE GRANT GUIDELINES

### Kindergarten Ready

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Social Venture Partners Seattle envisions a community in which, regardless of income or race, all children receive an excellent education and all people live and work in a healthy environment.

To help us achieve this vision, we are inviting nonprofit organizations in King County to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) for the 2019 grant cycle focused on the goal that **all children enter kindergarten ready to learn. The deadline for letters of inquiry to be submitted is Friday, November 16, 2018 at 5:00 PM.**

**In addition to programmatic impact, SVP evaluates organizations on three core criteria:**

1. Have a clear vision and need for an SVP capacity building partnership over multiple years.
2. Programming is predominantly or exclusively focused on reducing racial inequities and disparities in communities of color in King County.
3. See their organization and their work as part of the larger system that is working to support all families – from prenatal to Kindergarten, *and* effectively coordinate with cross sector partners in pursuit of collaborative and community-wide efforts

SVP expects to award one capacity building grant, with a first-year investment of up to \$30,000. Our grants are unrestricted and may be used for any general operating purpose. We intend to enter into a multi-year funding and capacity-building relationship with an investee organization with up to four years of funding. ***More details on SVP, our commitment to racial equity, our capacity building model and relationships with investees are in our [Background Information document](#).***

### 2019 MULTI-YEAR CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT CYCLE: KINDERGARTEN READY

The first five years of a child's life are the most important for healthy development. Children gather the building blocks for school readiness long before they enter a kindergarten classroom, and these years establish the foundation that children will live with for the rest of their lives. With 85 percent of the human brain developing during the first three years of life, this crucial period is when young children form the "wiring" needed to think, communicate, move and form attachments with those around them. **Children need nurturing care, sound nutrition, appropriate learning and developmental opportunities, and the support of caring adults.** In addition, parents or caregivers need support and training to more effectively carry out their role. And perhaps most crucially, our work requires that we address sources of adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress including poverty and pollution, in the wider community environment that a child and her family inhabits.

**Racial equity is an integral part of SVP's grantmaking.** We know that on average there are disparities in kindergarten readiness that cut along racial lines, with families of color fairing worse than the broader population. As such, we seek to support organizations who recognize and address the disparities and disproportionality that exist in our communities, who focus their work on communities of color, and who work to undo systems of oppression.

**2019 Kindergarten Ready Grant Priorities:** SVP recognizes that there are several strategies that have shown success at improving outcomes for children and their families. For our 2019 grant cycle, SVP will focus on programs, initiatives, and advocacy efforts that exhibit or support at least some of the following components:

- **Provide evidence based and/or promising practice early learning programs that promote quality child care** – this includes the range of evidence based programs from formal (ex. Head Start, Parent Child Home Program, etc.) to informal care (ex. Friend, Family and Neighbor care, etc.).
- **Provide professional development**, training, and support to parents, caregivers, and/or teachers
- **Offer programs that are family or relationship based** and are culturally, language, and age appropriate
- **Provides for the healthy development of the whole child** (physical, social, emotional & infant mental health)

## HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a letter of inquiry (LOI) *and* the [2019 SVP LOI Fact Sheet](#) addressed to the **Kindergarten Ready Grant Committee**. The letter must not exceed **three pages**, and should not include attachments with the exception of the Fact Sheet. **Email letters of inquiry to [grants@svpseattle.org](mailto:grants@svpseattle.org) no later than 5:00 PM on November 16, 2018.** SVP will acknowledge all letters of inquiry and invite a select number of applicants to submit full proposals and conduct a site visit.

Within the letter, please cover the following information:

**Organization Overview:** Provide a brief summary of your organization’s mission and key programs.

**Kindergarten Ready Programs & Outcomes:** Provide a summary of the program goals and outcomes you achieve through your key program(s) that are working towards children being ready for kindergarten. If you run several such programs, please describe goals and outcomes for your largest two programs, and explain how you gauge your impact and advance racial equity. Be sure to describe the following:

- What is the work and/or programs that you are focusing on; why is this work important and timely; who are you reaching through your work; and what need in the community are you meeting.
- How is your organization working to narrow racial disparities around kindergarten readiness and specific examples of this work?
- To what extent is your organization reflective of and embedded in the communities that you serve?
- How is your work connected to the larger landscape and other community efforts that are working to support kindergarten readiness and narrow racial disparities?

**Organizational & Capacity-Building Vision:** Think about your organization’s vision for the next three to four years – and in the context of this vision, describe and prioritize your organizational capacity building needs (not just programmatic needs). Please see the [Strengthening Nonprofits](#) section of our website for more information.

- What does taking your work to the next level look like? How do you see your work evolving in the next 3-4 years?
- Please describe 2-3 areas of your organizational infrastructure, (e.g. finance, human resources, Board governance, technology, etc.) that you feel you need to strengthen or develop in the organization to achieve the programmatic goals? Why are these your priority areas for capacity building?
- Where could you use SVP capacity building resources? (i.e. skilled volunteers and pro-bono consultants)?

**Fact Sheet:** Please download and fill out the [2019 LOI Fact Sheet](#) and attach it to your application. You can download the fact sheet [here](#). Please reach out to Ben Mitchell at [benm@svpseattle.org](mailto:benm@svpseattle.org) if you have any trouble downloading the Fact Sheet.

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Organization's managing staff must be located in King County of Washington State and must impact communities in King County. Applicants must be classified as a 501(c)(3) public charity or be fiscally sponsored.

SVP will not consider grant requests from individuals, public schools or school districts, religious organizations for sectarian purposes, pure sports teams, or any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, sexual orientation, gender, age, marital status, national origin, or physical ability. SVP will not make grants to support auctions or fundraising events, debt reduction, endowment funds or capital campaigns.

## KEY DATES

**Sept. 26, Oct. 4, 10, 17, 24:** "Meet SVP" webinars and in-person Information Sessions – Register [here](#). (Please note the various locations of the info sessions).

**Nov. 16, 2018 @ 5:00 PM:** Letters of Inquiry Due

**Early Feb. 2019:** Finalists Invited to submit full proposals

**Late March 2019:** Proposals Due

**April and May, 2019:** Site Visits (2.5 hours) with Finalists

**Mid-June, 2019:** Grant Decision Announced

## QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to reach out to Ben Mitchell, Program Manager for Community Investment, with any questions regarding this grant cycle. Ben can be reached at [benm@svpseattle.org](mailto:benm@svpseattle.org) or (206) 451-8125.

We encourage you to visit our [website](#) for details on our programs and current funding relationships. **The [Background Information document](#)** is particularly useful, and the website sections on [strengthening nonprofits](#) and [applying for a grant](#) will also be helpful.