

FAQs: Home-based Child Care Networks

### **Eligibility and Applying Organizations**

#### **Who is eligible for this funding opportunity?**

This funding opportunity is for Home-Based Child Care (HBCC) networks, which we define as an interconnected group of providers and families that come together to enhance support for HBCC, including quality, access to services, and sustainability.

Eligible applicants must be:

- A nonprofit organization that is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is classified as “not a private foundation” under Section 509(a).

- OR -

- A fiscally sponsored program – A group or project with a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization acting as a fiscal sponsor. Please note that the fiscal sponsor is responsible for all legal aspects of the organization or project. The fiscal sponsor is considered the grantee and agrees to be accountable to the Foundation for the programmatic and financial outcomes of the grant.

#### **Is this opportunity available for networks serving family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care providers?**

Yes, networks serving informal FFN providers are welcome to apply.

#### **Is this opportunity available to faith-based organizations?**

Yes. The Foundation provide grants to organizations with 501(c)(3) exempt status, and places of worship, including churches, mosques and synagogues, and other faith-based organizations generally qualify for 501(c)(3) status. According to the [IRS](#), churches (used by the IRS in a generic sense to mean a place of worship, including mosques and synagogues, for example) and religious organizations that meet the requirements of IRC section 501(c)(3) are automatically considered tax exempt and are not required to apply for and obtain recognition of tax-exempt status from the IRS.

The faith-based organization applying for the grant should already have a program in place related to early care and education and support for home-based child care. Also, it is expected that any grant given to a faith-based organization should benefit the larger community beyond the church, mosque, synagogue, or organization's membership.

#### **Can organizations partner together to apply and receive this grant?**

Yes, joint proposals are allowed and encouraged as they demonstrate existing community collaboration. The organization applying must meet all eligibility requirements, including the definition of a HBCC network.

#### **Is this opportunity for individual family child care homes? Can this funding be used to open or run a HBCC center?**

No, this funding is exclusively for the development and support of HBCC networks.

**Are for-profit centers eligible?**

No, for-profit centers are not eligible for funding.

**Is there a minimum budget requirement for this funding opportunity?**

No, there isn't a minimum budget requirement for this funding opportunity. We encourage small non-profit organizations to consider the potential for tipping ([learn more here](#)) when applying for funding at this amount, as it can jeopardize their non-profit status if an organization doesn't have diversified sources of revenue. We have requested budget submission during the initial application for this funding opportunity, in part, to identify organizations who may be at risk of tipping if funded. If advanced to the next round, we will discuss this further and potential strategies for preventing tipping.

**Is this opportunity for established organizations or can this funding support new HBCC networks?**

Applications seeking to create a new HBCC network will be considered, though preference will be given to existing networks.

**Is there a minimum number of HBCCs that can be in the network?**

There is no minimum number of members, though the strength of a network's membership base is part of the selection criteria.

**Do all locations have to be in the same state?**

This opportunity is for HBCC networks based in North Carolina that are serving North Carolina HBCC providers.

**Can we serve multiple networks we formed across municipalities and counties?**

Yes, so long as the network maintains close ties with providers and has roots in all localities it is serving.

**What is the expectation for partnerships or coordination with the state?**

The NC Department of Health and Human Services is in the process of contracting with an agency to provide technical assistance to licensed family child care homes. If appropriate, networks should consider connecting member providers with available resources from this opportunity.

**Application Process and Selection Criteria**

**How do I apply?**

Detailed application instructions are included in [this PowerPoint](#) and in [this recording](#). You can find a link to the application here.

**Do you offer resources for grant writing?**

We are offering 1:1 consultations for potential applicants where we can answer questions about the funding opportunity and the application. Please [follow this link](#) to sign up.

**If we are using a fiscal sponsor, does the fiscal sponsor submit the application via their own account on our behalf?**

Yes, the fiscal sponsor should complete the application on behalf of the sponsored organization. The sponsored organization should work closely with the fiscal sponsor to complete the application and provide the necessary information. The fiscal sponsor will assume the fiduciary responsibility for the grant, including receiving and disbursing the grant funds and reporting.

**What information and documents will I need to apply?**

You will need the following for the initial application:

- Organization Tax ID.
- Completed organizational budget form (Form is available in grant application).
- (The Foundation will verify your organization's nonprofit status independently).

Finalists will need to submit a project budget and provide additional information about their board and staff.

**What are the selection criteria?**

Applications from eligible organizations will be reviewed by Foundation staff and external reviewers with particular attention to:

- Description of experience related to HBCC and supporting HBCC providers, including the current number of members in an applying network and the length of time that network has been in operation.
- The proposed or existing governance structure of the HBCC network, specifically the degree to which providers are included in decision-making.
- The HBCC network's focus on racial equity.
- The clarity and feasibility of network's plan to implement specific strategies named from the "description of funded work" section.
- The proposed staffing of the HBCC network. Specifically, the Foundation will look to see if the staffing plan for the network will provide the capacity to accomplish the goals described in the proposal.
- The Foundation will seek to support a geographically diverse group of applicants that includes rural and urban areas.

**How does the review process work?**

The review process is divided into two stages. The first is the [online application](#), which is due on November 17, 2022. After an initial screening, applications will be assessed in relation to the criteria listed in the previous question. To draw on the wisdom of the field and to mitigate our own blind spots and biases, we plan to have external reviewers with background in HBCC networks review all applications that pass through the initial screening process.

Finalists will be notified by December 16, 2022 and will participate in virtual interviews in January 2023. Questions will be provided to finalists in advance to prepare for the interview.

Grant recipients will be notified in February 2023.

**What are the reporting requirements for this grant?**

Grantees will meet with their program officer annually to provide an update on the work and discuss key learnings. The notes from this meeting will constitute the annual report. Additionally, grantees will be asked to provide updated budget and organizational information on an annual basis.

**Budget**

**What can grant funds be used for?**

Grant funds can be used for all expenses associated with the development and operation of the HBCC network, including salaries for network staff and stipends for HBCC providers that participate in network governance, leadership, and programming.

**Does a budget need to be submitted with the application?**

An organizational budget is required with the initial application. A project budget will be required for finalists.

**Does the funding include any administration cost?**

Yes, project budgets can include administrative expenses.

**Does grant funding cover costs involved in recruiting new network members?**

Yes, project budgets can include costs related to recruiting new network members.

**Can grant funds be used for salaries?**

Yes, grant funds can be used for the salaries of staff conducting network activities.