



Fact Sheet — 2016-2017 Grantees

What Is a Sheltering Arms Foundation Grantee?

In fiscal year 2016-2017, 42 nonprofit organizations across the state of Minnesota will use a total of \$455,000 in grant money awarded by the Sheltering Arms Foundation (SAF) for programs benefiting children and their families in Minnesota who are most vulnerable, have least access to resources, and are least likely to have a wide array of choices about their future. Funding priority areas are early childhood, youth development, and advocacy. For more, visit <http://sheltering-arms.org/>.

Counties Served by Sheltering Arms Grantees in 2016-2017

Aitkin	Cass	Itasca	Ramsey
Carlton	Cook	Koochiching	St. Louis
Carver	Crow Wing	Lake	

Towns Served by or Headquartering Sheltering Arms Grantees in 2016-2017

Blooming Prairie	Golden Valley	Minnetonka	Robbinsdale
Brainerd	Hibbing	New Brighton	Rochester
Brooklyn Center	Hopkins	Northfield	St. Paul
Chisholm	Mankato	Pequot Lakes	St. Peter
Crosby	Maplewood	Pillager	Staples
Duluth	Minneapolis	Richfield	White Earth

Ethnic Populations Served by 2016-2017 Programs

African	Hmong	Middle Eastern	Somali
African American	Latino	Native American	

The grantees and the programs supported by SAF

A Minnesota Without Poverty (<https://www.facebook.com/AMinnesotaWithoutPoverty/>)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Established to create bipartisan solutions to end poverty, AMWP provided the impetus for the 2006 Legislative Commission to End Poverty by 2020 and continues to advocate for policies that address ending poverty.
- Grant supports developing a poverty impact evaluation (PIE) tool that will provide constituents, advocates and policymakers information about the anticipated impact of specific legislative proposals in various policy areas. The grant helps fund the first policy area, focusing on the effects of providing early intervention services to homeless infants and toddlers.

(more)

Amaze (<http://www.amazeworks.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Amaze works to create innovative reading-based anti-bias programs and makes them available to children across MN.
- Grant supports translation into Spanish of Amaze's Families All Matter curriculum and other elements of its early childhood programming. Amaze will partner with Joyce Preschool, which will serve as the initial pilot site. After the pilot, materials will be printed for broad distribution, as Amaze has had requests for translated materials locally and nationally.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities (<http://www.bigstwincities.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in St. Paul, serves the Twin Cities metro area. BBBS matches youth facing adversity with positive volunteer mentors to positively impact the youths' lives.
- Grant supports further development of a new mentoring program, Art Buddies, in which youth explore community and culture through a range of arts – visual, literary, and performing – with the goal of encouraging children to explore their creativity and find a healthy means of expressing themselves. BBBS will make final improvements before incorporating Art Buddies into its ongoing programming.

Boys & Girls Club of Rochester (<http://www.bgclubroch.org/>)—\$7,500 grant (youth development)

- Located in Rochester. BGCR serves more than 1,800 youth ages 6-18 at two locations, one in the southeast of Rochester and a smaller one in the nearby community of Blooming Prairie. It also operates outreach programs at a middle school and at a local mobile home community.
- Grant supports creation of a Conflict Resolution and SEL (social and emotional learning) program. By implementing program activities consistent with SEL best practices, the goal is to increase conflict resolution skills for youth.

Camp Fire Minnesota (<http://www.campfiremn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Since 1910, Camp Fire has provided programming to children through clubs and camps. In 2005, Camp Fire developed a club partnership model targeted at serving low-income youth, in which it partners with community-based organizations, schools, affordable housing complexes and churches that serve young people and have an unmet need for youth services.
- Grant supports expansion of programming to establish a new youth club site at Raspberry Ridge in Hopkins, an affordable housing community that serves primarily Somali families. Camp Fire is partnering with the Somali Museum and Ramsey County Public Health's Wakanheza program to provide appropriate activities for the Somali youth that the new club will serve.

Center City Housing Corp. (<http://www.centercityhousing.org/>)—\$15,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Duluth, serves statewide. CCHC provides supportive housing to homeless families with children, providing 400 units at several locations in Duluth and now expanding statewide.
- Grant supports establishment of the Tots of Tomorrow (TOTS) program in CCHC's new Gage East Apartments being built in Rochester. TOTS's program consists of structured group time and home visits to all the families. The primary focus of the programming is through a mental health lens addressing the effects of trauma and homelessness on the children.

Centro Guadalupano (<http://www.guadcenter.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in south Minneapolis. Centro Guadalupano provides culturally competent programming in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis, including an after-school literacy program that serves Latino youth ages 5-15 from low-income families, all of whom are English language learners and attend nearby Anderson Elementary School.
- Grant supports enhancing Centro's literacy program by creating a special project to create academic and social goals that are shared with parents. Centro will add a series of meetings to educate parents about goals and give them resources to inspire their children's success.

Centro Tyrone Guzman (<http://centromn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in south Minneapolis. Established in 1974, Centro is the oldest and largest multi-service Latino organization in Minneapolis and provides an array of services to low-income Latino families in the Twin Cities.
- Grant supports enhancement of Centro’s dual-language Spanish-English Montessori early childhood program, Siembra Montessori, through the launch of the Family Wellness Circle. The program will support the children’s physical, social and emotional wellbeing by incorporating mind/body connection practices into parents’ “toolkits.”

Child Care Aware of Minnesota (<http://www.childcareawaremn.org/>)—\$15,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Established in 1992 to raise the standards in care for Minnesota children and child care providers, Child Care Aware provides technical assistance to 14 childcare resource and referral agencies around Minnesota, collects data regarding the supply and demand for childcare, and creates and manages statewide projects. It has been integral in the piloting and expansion of Parent Aware, the state’s quality improvement framework for early care and education programs. Parent Aware will enter a new phase that includes rollout and implementation of new Parent Aware indicators by July 2017.
- Grant supports the communications needs and challenges around these new indicators, including the new cultural competence indicators.

Children’s Defense Fund/Minnesota (<http://www.cdf-mn.org/>)—\$12,500 grant (advocacy)

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide.
- Grant supports development of policies for 2017 for Voices and Choices for Children, a 2-year old coalition fiscal agent and staffed by the Children’s Defense Fund of Minnesota. Grown to more than 30 organizations participating across the state, the Voices and Choices coalition works to build power in communities of color and American Indian communities to support policies that contribute to the overall well-being of young children in their communities. Members of the coalition have been working to create a 2016 legislative agenda that focuses on one key issue: increased investments in the Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP) that would fully fund the program and increase provider reimbursement rates, which are woefully low. It anticipates this will be a key issue in 2017.

CHUM (<http://www.chumduluth.org/>)—\$15,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in Duluth. CHUM is a coalition of 40 member congregations that offers emergency food, shelter, advocacy, support and outreach throughout Duluth to those who are homeless or with very low incomes.
- Grant supports further development of the early childhood programs at the Steve O’Neil Apartments, its year-old permanent supportive housing development for formerly homeless families. CHUM is developing a home visiting program in partnership with the local ECFE program as a component of its early childhood program and will integrate home visiting into its other programs.

CLUES (<http://www.clues.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in St. Paul, serves the Twin Cities metro area. CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio) is the largest Latino organization in Minnesota and runs Creando Juntos, a Latino culture-based youth program developed to build capacity for youth while their parents participate in language classes utilizing a two-generation approach.
- Grant supports addition of a weekly parent advocacy component within the Creando Juntos program, which will be piloted at the Minneapolis site.

ComMUSICation (<http://www.commusicationmn.org>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in St. Paul. ComMUSICation is an intensive afterschool choral-based program inspired by the Venezuelan El Sistema program that uses music to inspire and motivate at-risk youth. It serves families in the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood, a low-income area where few students are able to afford a high-quality music education. The program has two choirs and includes field trips to music community partners, mentorships for students with practicing musicians, and homework help.
- Grant supports addition of a biweekly Monday youth leadership program that will alternate between CMC Choir youth mentoring Crescendo youth and CMC youth planning upcoming activities.

Domestic Abuse Project (<http://www.domesticabuseproject.com/>)—\$14,500 grant (early childhood)

- Located in Minneapolis. DAP provides programming to end the inter-generational cycle of domestic violence, working with all affected members of the family to stop domestic violence as it occurs and prevent it in the future.
- Grant supports expansion of DAP's youth services to include children ages 0-3, in response to recent research showing that children 0-3 are typically most severely impacted by trauma and also most receptive to intervention. In this pilot year, DAP will train staff in Child-Parent Psychotherapy, an attachment therapy originally developed for children impacted by domestic violence, implement a new intake process to assess levels of trauma, and begin therapy services for this age group.

Emerge Community Development (<http://www.emerge-mn.org>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in Minneapolis. EMERGE is a community development organization based in north and south Minneapolis that provides workforce development and housing programs, including EMERGE Link, a program to enhance the social and academic skills of 45 mostly African-American preK-12th grade youth who have experienced multiple incidents of homelessness and who participate in two of EMERGE's north Minneapolis housing developments.
- Grant supports growth of a mentorship program for 6- to 12-year-olds, adding additional arts-focused enrichment activities, structured to allow for social and emotional learning.

Emma Norton Services (<http://www.emmanorton.org>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in St. Paul, serves St. Paul and Maplewood. Emma Norton Services supports families recovering from homelessness and addiction at two housing facilities: Emma Norton Residences in downtown St. Paul, and Emma's Place in Maplewood. Most of the clients at Emma's Place are women with large families in which at least one member has some kind of disability.
- Grant supports further development of Emma's Place's Youth Service program, supporting the training of Emma's Place staff in The Incredible Years curriculum for elementary-aged children and their families, with the goal of building their social, emotional and academic competencies. ENS will also implement a Learning Through Play curriculum focused on sports and physical activity. Additionally, Emma's Place plans to reach out to families in other affordable housing in the area to provide a place for those children to have an after-school experience.

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (<http://www.crisisnursery.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in Minneapolis.
- Grant supports creation of the Healthy Families Initiative, a collaboration between GMCN and the Jeremiah Program to create a pilot evaluative project using trauma informed therapeutic practices. GMCN will train the entire Jeremiah staff in the Crisis Nursery's "Nursery Way" training and provide trauma-informed mental health services to Jeremiah families. Jeremiah is a supportive housing program for motivated low-income women with young children. The initiative is being created out of Jeremiah's realization that a major barrier holding its program participants back was mental health issues for both the women and children, often the result of earlier traumatic experiences.

Headway Emotional Health Services (<https://www.headway.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Locations in Golden Valley, Richfield, Brooklyn Center and Hopkins. Headway provides comprehensive mental health therapy, counseling and classes to more than 45,000 families each year.
- Grant supports expansion of Headway’s Healthy Families Home Visiting program to serve Native American families living in and around the Little Earth community in South Minneapolis. The program will focus on young mothers with very young children, helping the mothers to understand child development and appropriate parenting skills. Headway will use the Family Spirit curriculum to make the program culturally appropriate and will hire a Native American therapist or social worker to implement the program.

Hibbing Kinship Mentoring Program (<http://www.hkmp.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in Hibbing, serves Hibbing, Chisholm and the surrounding communities. HKMP provides one-to-one mentor-mentee matches and group mentoring opportunities, with programs in the “Early Years” for K-2nd grade, “Growing Years” for 3rd-6th grade, and “Changing Years” for 7th-12th grade. Children are referred to HKMP by parents, teachers, social workers and mental health professionals due to delayed or decreased skills in their social and/or emotional development.
- Grant supports expansion of the group mentoring program. This is the fastest growing part of HKMP’s program, and additional group facilitator assistants will be hired to keep the adult-to-youth ratio low enough to provide optimal relationships.

Hmong American Partnership (<http://www.hmong.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in St. Paul, serves the Twin Cities metro area. In 2015, HAP opened a Montessori school serving the Hmong community in east St. Paul. Named Hmoob Toj Siab Children’s House, the preschool is the nation’s first bilingual, bicultural Hmong-English Montessori school and has recently earned a four-star Parent Aware rating for its high-quality programming.
- Grant supports expanding the school to serve more students, growing from the current 17 children to 30, and further developing its bilingual literacy program. Funding will allow HAP to hire another staff person to accommodate the additional students.

Honor the Earth (<http://www.honorearth.org/>)—\$7,500 grant (youth development)

- Located on the White Earth reservation in northwestern Minnesota. Honor the Earth provides programs that such as environmental advocacy and cultural restoration through art, music, food and youth organizing.
- Grant supports expansion of year-round youth development programming in the Pine Point village on White Earth, including arts, tribal lacrosse and solar energy education all rooted in Ojibwe culture and run by Ojibwe leadership. The lacrosse component of the program will include teaching in the cultural significance of the game, the arts component will include weekly art classes in traditional Ojibwe art and culminate in the creation of murals in Pine Point, and the solar energy component will teach about this energy source and involve the youth in choosing which buildings will receive the solar panels.

Hope Community Inc. (<http://www.hope-community.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. Hope Community is an innovative affordable housing development in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis, focusing on building community among its previously homeless residents as well as providing them with homes.
- Grant supports expansion of Learning In Community, Hope Community’s literacy program for children ages 6-9 and their families, to implement a new tool to track social/emotional skills, train Minnesota Literacy Council student mentors from the University of Minnesota to use this new tool, and implement a Learning In Community smartphone app designed for parent engagement.

Kinship Partners, Inc. (<http://www.kinshippartners.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in Brainerd, serving Crow Wing County, southern Cass County, and Staples/Motley. Kinship Partners is a youth mentoring organization providing positive role models to youth, matching volunteer adult partners (mentors) with a child between the ages of 5-14 who has common interests and providing monthly activities that help foster the development of their friendship.
- Grant supports expansion of Kinship's capacity in the Staples-Motley Lunch Buddy-Reading Buddy program, as well as exploration of expansion to schools in Pequot Lakes, Brainerd, Crosby and Pillager.

LDA Minnesota (<http://www.ldaminnesota.org/>)—\$7,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Golden Valley, serves the Twin Cities. LDA Minnesota helps children, youth and adults with or at risk for learning challenges to achieve their potential in work, school and life.
- Grant supports expansion of the Early Literary program, whose objective is to increase reading readiness of 140 children ages 3-5 in low-income families in inner-city locations in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The program, based on the national Raising a Reader model, will expand to Head Start's Pond Early Learning Center in Bloomington that serves Somali and Latino families. It will also work to build parents' awareness of the important role families and the home environment play in fostering reading readiness.

Lifetrack (<http://www.lifetrack-mn.org/>)—\$15,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)

- Based in St. Paul, serves Ramsey County.
- Grant supports continuing a campaign by the Minnesota Targeted Home Visiting Coalition (MTHVC), for which Lifetrack is the fiscal agent, to continue building infrastructure and developing training around a set of standards and outcomes for home visiting that used New Mexico's work as a guide. The effort partners with the Department of Health (MDH) and the Department of Education (MDE). The best time to prevent achievement/opportunity gaps for children is ages pre-natal to three. The adoption of standards and practices will ensure higher quality home visiting and set the stage for greater public funding of these efforts.

Neighborhood House (<http://www.neighb.org/>)—\$14,500 grant (youth development)

- Based in St. Paul, serving St. Paul's West Side and West 7th neighborhoods. Neighborhood House is a multi-location human service center that over the years has supported new immigrants from many different countries and cultural groups. It provides basic needs services, adult education, gang reduction and intervention programs and early childhood programs.
- Grant supports new partnership with Twin Cities-based nonprofit Canine Inspired Change to provide a program for youth using therapy dogs. Children ages 5-12 who are involved in Neighborhood House's ongoing youth programs will spend 10 weeks training the dogs to do an agility course. The program will build self-confidence, self-esteem and social and emotional skills in high-need youth, and it will also allow practice of team-building skills. This program is an innovative pilot to test the effectiveness of work with therapy dogs to increase social emotional skills.

Northland Foundation (<http://www.northlandfdn.org/>)—\$15,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Duluth, serves northeastern Minnesota. In 2013, Northland launched the Parent Aware Pathways Initiative to help increase the number of Parent-Aware-rated childcare providers serving families in the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis.
- Grant supports the offering of free trainings aimed at engaging licensed family- and center-based childcare providers in the Parent Aware system across rural northeastern Minnesota. Objectives include increasing awareness among the providers on the importance of school readiness, increasing access to Parent Aware trainings and increasing support for licensed providers to earn Parent Aware trainings.

Opportunity Neighborhood Development Corp (<http://www.opportunityneighborhood.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in New Brighton, serves the Twin Cities. ONDC provides onsite family support services to low-income children and families living in large affordable housing communities.
- Grant supports expansion of ONDC's youth program for elementary school students at a new housing development in north Minneapolis called Commons at Penn. Funding will allow the program to serve more of the children who live in the complex and will enable staff to build the program up so it is well-developed when a 2nd housing building opens across the street in fall 2017. ONDC is helping to organize a resident council and youth council that will have input on the operations of the resident services.

Project Friendship (<http://www.projectfriendshipmentoring.org/>)—\$5,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in Northfield. Project Friendship (PF) helps children develop self-confidence, self-worth and a foundation for healthy decision-making. It provides mentoring relationships with college students from St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges, serving children in 2nd-7th grade from the Northfield School District identified as needing a mentor.
- Grant supports increasing the number of children served from the Latino community by expanding a cultural liaison position to better serve a vulnerable group of families in Northfield's growing Latino immigrant community. The position is already held part-time by a Spanish-speaking social worker who oversees the mentoring relationships of 12 Latino mentees. PF will expand this position to include community outreach to Spanish-speaking families and maintain the additional mentoring relationships that result from the outreach.

ServeMinnesota (<http://www.serveminnesota.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Launched in 1994 as the Minnesota Commission on National and Community service, ServeMinnesota oversees Minnesota's AmeriCorps programs and is involved in several initiatives focused on closing the achievement gap in Minneapolis and St. Paul.
- Grant supports the program that brings the Reading Corps model into family childcare settings and works with children, parents and caretakers. ServeMinnesota will expand the program from 18 providers to 160 providers across Minnesota. One criteria in selecting providers to participate is that they cannot be currently rated in Parent Aware; by participating, providers will receive a minimum rating of one star and in their second year will have elements to support achieving a two-, three- or four-star rating with the support of a Building Quality Coach.

Simpson Housing Services (<http://www.simpsonhousing.org/>)—\$15,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in Minneapolis. Simpson Housing Services houses, supports and advocates for families in Minneapolis. It operates under the Housing First model that moves families into housing first and then provides services.
- Grant supports expansion of Simpson's literacy mentoring program to serve more students. The program pairs youth with mentors who are trained literacy tutors. Mentors will visit youth in Simpson's scattered-site locations and provide weekly literacy lessons at a local library. Simpson's family advocate, program coordinator and mentors will work together to engage the entire family in each student's success.

St. David's Center for Child & Family Development (<http://www.stdavidscenter.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Minnetonka, serves the Twin Cities metro area. St. David's is a long-established children's mental health organization serving more than 2,500 children, adults and families each year.
- Grant supports expansion of multidisciplinary mental health assessment services to Carver County and the Robbinsdale area. This project has been requested because of the increasing numbers of immigrant families in the area with a particular set of issues. Aligned with the latest research, this program is culturally attuned to the needs of children and families and is offered at an intensity that meets the mental health needs of young children.

St. Stephen's Human Services, Inc. (<http://ststephensmpls.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in central Minneapolis. St. Stephens is a long-standing human service agency serving homeless families and individuals in central Minneapolis.
- Grant supports changing the implementation of the Incredible Years program for previously homeless participants by empowering parents with leadership skills. This will, in turn, promote confidence in stronger parenting, support family development and better outcomes for participants' children. Structurally, this will mean that The Incredible Years groups will be co-facilitated by interested participants, bringing enhanced focus on experiential learning.

Think Small (<http://www.thinksmall.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Think Small is a leading early education organization that supports families in accessing quality care and education, helps to build quality within the field, and improves the early learning system.
- Grant supports the Voices of Parents Advocacy Program, which is building a trained group of parents who can tell their own story and help to advocate for more resources for quality early childhood programs. The program includes development of a set of practices to engage the 15,000+ parents it reaches through its other programs in advocacy training. A focus this year is extending its reach to organizing parents in greater Minnesota with the help of the MN Licensed Family Childcare Association. Think Small will particularly focus on training parents in legislative districts critical to the success of early childhood legislative initiatives and in communities of color.

Twin Cities Housing Development Corp. (<http://www.tchdc.org/>)—\$4,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in St. Paul, serves Twin Cities metro area. TCHDC provides affordable housing in the Twin Cities through creating new units and preserving existing units of affordable housing. To help stabilize the lives of its residents, TCHDC also provides services and programs for families.
- Grant supports extending a pilot project incorporating a STEM-based component into its PLUS-Time afterschool program at Liberty Plaza with the close collaboration of St. Catherine's University. The children served range from kindergarten to grade 5 and are primarily from East African families who live in Liberty Plaza and other housing complexes managed by TCHDC. Funding will enable the initiative to incorporate computational thinking into all activities, important background knowledge used in computer coding.

Urban Arts Academy (<http://urbanartsacademy.org/>)—10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in Minneapolis. Urban Arts Academy operates a bilingual (Spanish/English) arts-based preschool for 70 children in south Minneapolis, which piloted a project that brought music classes from MacPhail Center for Music to the preschoolers.
- Grant supports expansion of their music instruction to offer year-round early childhood MacPhail music classes, while building its own internal capacity to integrate music into the curriculum.

Urban Strategies (<http://www.urbanstrategiesinc.org/>)—\$15,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in St. Louis, MO, serving the Heritage Park affordable housing in near north Minneapolis. Urban Strategies, a national community development organization, supports a local youth program called the Green Garden Bakery (<http://greengardenbakery.weebly.com/>) in the Heritage Park neighborhood in north Minneapolis. Teens involved in the program started a youth run environmentally sustainable business selling baked goods with vegetables they grew in their garden.
- Grant supports expansion of this program by incorporating younger children. Youth in grades K-5 will participate in STEM, creative arts and a cooking/gardening program that will allow them to actively participate in the Green Garden Bakery when they reach 7th grade. The program has spent time to help youth share their cultures with each other and has helped to foster cross-cultural friendships that may not have existed otherwise.

Washburn Center for Children (<http://www.washburn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. Washburn Center for Children provides mental health services to children and their families at three locations throughout the metro area, including a new facility in north Minneapolis.
- Grant supports completion of staff training in parent-child psychotherapy (CPP), a therapeutic intervention for children from birth to age five who have experienced at least one traumatic event and as a result are experiencing behavior, attachment and/or mental health problems.

Way to Grow (<http://mplswtg.org/>)—\$12,500 grant (early childhood)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. Way to Grow is a collaborative home-visiting-based program whose goal is to help very vulnerable families get their children ready for school.
- Grant supports expanding Way to Grow's Great by 8, a program that helps children continue the literacy gains made in preschool through 3rd grade, at Lucy C. Laney Community School in north Minneapolis, one of the lowest performing Minneapolis public schools. Way to Grow already has a presence at the school, having established a hub at Lucy C. Laney in October 2015 for neighborhood families to receive its early childhood, elementary and parent engagement programming. The families at Lucy C. Laney are among the most challenged in Minneapolis and need the wrap-around services that Way to Grow can provide in the earliest years to assure later success in the school.

YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities (<http://www.ymcatwincities.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. The YMCA Beacons after-school program engages youth as leaders and learners transforming schools into active youth centers after school and in the summer, providing free educational, recreational and leadership activities for youth and their families.
- Grant supports expanding the Beacons after-school program's peer reading mentor initiative that provides an opportunity for 3rd-5th grade students to serve as mentors for younger students. The program currently serves 300 children at Beacons sites at Anne Sullivan/Anishinabe Academy in south Minneapolis and Sheridan Elementary and Nellie Stone Johnson School in north Minneapolis. With the expansion it will serve an additional 120 children with two new sites in St. Paul: John A. Johnson Elementary in east St. Paul, and Maxfield Elementary in Frogtown.

YWCA of Mankato (<http://www.mankatoywca.org/>)—\$15,000 grant (early childhood)

- Located in Mankato.
- Grant supports expansion of Ready To Learn, an early-childhood education program for immigrant and refugee children ages birth to 5, to bring the programming to the St. Peter community to reach the increasing numbers of Latino, Somali and Middle Eastern families moving into the area. The program uses the Growing Great Kids curriculum, and weekly home visits are conducted by YWCA outreach staff and volunteers from September through May. To expand in St. Peter, the YWCA will hire an additional outreach worker from one of the cultural groups represented in the area. This person will train volunteers who will work with families.

YWCA of Minneapolis (<https://www.ywcamppls.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)

- Located in Minneapolis. A leader in early childhood advocacy, the YWCA of Minneapolis helps develop early childhood educators and the parents/caregivers of young children into advocates.
- Grant supports growth of the Y's advocate program to include the Racial Equity Advocates for Change (REACH) program, which will establish a cohort of individuals who are highly trained in both racial justice advocacy skills and skills around storytelling, public policy and government structures. REACH participants will then help to provide more trained individuals to implement trainings with parents in the YWCA's Children's Centers, helping parents develop into confident advocates who can effectively testify at the legislature, meet with elected officials, and more.