



## EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### 2025 GRANT APPLICATION: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### 1. Who is eligible to apply for an Expanding Opportunities for Children and Families grant?

We seek to assist children and families living in poverty to attain equitable access to academic, social development, and mental health/wellness opportunities and systems that are inclusive and center their human dignity and humanity thereby providing the potential for an educated, informed, and liberated student, parent, and community.

We believe there are many incredible organizations that are doing deeply impactful work within the education ecosystem, and at this time we are only able to fund what is in our focus area- to learn more about our focus area, our guidelines and our decision-making process please refer to our [website](#).

We deeply value your time and so the checklist below will help you in identifying if there is alignment b/t your organization/project/program and our funding before you start the application process. If there is alignment, you will have checked **ALL** the boxes below and be able to proceed to the grant application. If you are unable to check **ALL** the boxes below that means there is misalignment with these funds and to be respectful of your time, we recommend that you **DON'T** proceed with the grant application.

1. We are interested in partnering with nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations and public schools that directly serve or strengthen systems that directly serve children and families living in poverty in the 7-county metro area.
  - Check the box below if your organization serves children and families living in poverty in the 7-county metro area.
2. Our desire is to support 501(c)(3) organizations providing direct services to populations with at least 60 percent of people living in poverty, as defined by the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Our desire is to 501(c)(3) organizations strengthening/changing systems that serve people living in poverty.

We will consider program/project support for public schools (district or charter) for activities not funded by state/federal funding **and** with 80% of students living in poverty, as defined by the Federal Poverty Guidelines. You will need to check **at least one** of the boxes below to be eligible for our funding.

- Check the box if your organization is 501(c)(3) organization providing direct services to populations with at least 60% of people living in poverty, as defined by the Federal Poverty Guidelines **or**
- Check the box if your organization is 501(c)(3) organization that is strengthening/changing systems that serve people living in poverty **or**



- Check the box if you're applying for a program/ project in public school (district or charter) for activities not funded by state/federal funding **and with** 80% of students living in poverty as defined by the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- 3. We are looking to work with organizations/projects/programs that provide continuous, intensive, and relevant support spanning consecutive years along the continuum of learning for children (ranging in age from prenatal to 18).
  - What we mean by continuous (how many years programming is available also looking at retention of students if programming is available for multiple years)
  - Intensive (Meaningful length of time weekly for program type)
  - Relevant support (relevant to the age/ demographic/goal of the program) Check the box if this describes your organization/project/program
- 4. Although the following strategies may complement our overall Foundation goal, they fall outside of our desired focus: Research, Nonecumenical organizations or programs, direct religious activities or organizations that receive a significant source of funding from sectarian solicitations, special events or sponsorships, and support to an individual.
  - Check the box if strategies mentioned above **are not representative** of the organization/project/program you are applying for.

## 2. How much money is available?

\$1,372,050 is available for the 2025 grant round.

## 3. What are the deadlines for the 2025 grant round?

The grant application will open on February 28, 2025, and will close at 4:00 pm CST on March 28, 2024.

## 4. Will there be an Informational session?

The Mortenson Family Foundation will host **one-on-one virtual informational sessions** from mid-February to mid-March to answer any questions you may have about the **2025 Expanding Opportunities for Children and Families grantmaking process**.

These sessions are an opportunity for grant prospects to ask additional questions that aren't addressed in the grant application, evaluation rubric, or FAQs available on our website.

The sessions will be hosted by Rabya Hassen and are 30 minutes long. If you're interested, please sign up for a virtual conversation. **We kindly ask that you sign up for only one session.**

[Sign up here](#)



## 5. Who will make grant decisions?

Mortenson Family Foundation's Expanding Opportunities for Children and Families committee will recommend grants to the Mortenson Family Foundation board. The committee is composed of four board members and five Community leaders. You can learn more about our committee [here](#).

## 6. When will decisions be made?

Grant decisions will be determined in July 2025.

## 7. How do I apply?

The Expanding Opportunities for Children and Families application can be found [here](#).

Please note: The questions in this application document are identical to those in Foundant, our grant management system. However, please be aware that the formatting and template may appear slightly different in Foundant compared to this document.

## 8. How much can I apply for?

At the Mortenson Family Foundation, we follow the best practice of ensuring that grants do not exceed 20% of an organization's operating budget. Applicants should use this as a general guideline when determining their request amounts.

In the past, we provided minimal guidance, encouraging applicants to request up to 20% of their operational budget and sharing data on average grant amounts funded annually. However, this year, at your request, we are offering more detailed guidance.

While the following tiers are meant to provide general direction, the **Expanding Opportunities for Children and Families Grant Committee** values flexibility. For organizations new to the foundation or applying for funding for critical and innovative programs/projects, the committee may consider requests independent of the organization's budget size.

### **Tier One: 20-30K Example:**

- If you have not received grants from the foundation in the past and have an operational budget of \$500,000 or less.

### **Tier Two: 30-50K Example:**

- If you are a returning partner with a budget of less than \$500,000
- If you have never received a grant from the foundation and you have an operational budget of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

### **Tier Three: 50K-75K Example:**

- If you are a returning partner with an operational budget from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000
- If you have never received a grant from the Foundation and you have an operational budget over \$1,000,000

### **Tier Four: 75K and Up Example:**

- If you are a returning partner with an operational budget more than \$1,000,000
- If you have never received a grant from the Foundation and you have an operational budget over \$1,000,000 **and**
  - o You are providing programming in a location where that specific programming is sparsely available **or**
  - o You are meeting an emerging need in the ecosystem **or**



- o Your programming is culturally specific and is meeting a gap of services in a specific community

### **9. How will applications be evaluated?**

Please refer to the updated Expanding Opportunities for Children and Families Guidelines [here](#). Please refer to our [evaluation rubric](#) for the scoring system committee members will use when reviewing applications.

### **10. What is the term of a grant?**

Grants will generally have a 12-month duration however in 2025 we will be providing some Multi Year funding.

- o Total Funding for the 2025 Expanding Opportunities for Children & Families Grant Program is \$1,372,050
- o About \$300,000 of funds will be available for Multi Year funding in the 2025 grant round.

#### **Criteria for determining Multi Year Funding recipients:**

**Multi Year funding will ONLY be available to organization who have received funding previously from the foundation and meet at least 2 of the criteria below:**

- Received high scores (at least 70%) from the committee review process.
- Meet the bullseye and/or show positive outcomes in the work.
- Exhibit a track record of success on outcomes/impact and meeting community needs.
- Special consideration will be given to organizations that are for and by community and organizations that are less likely to receive this kind of funding from others.

### **11. Who may I contact for more details?**

If the website, FAQ document, and informational session do not answer all your questions, please contact Community Relationship Officer, Rabya Hassen at [Rabya.hassen@mortensonfamily.org](mailto:Rabya.hassen@mortensonfamily.org).