

# Economic Mobility, Supportive Living Environments Investment Area: Request for Proposals

## Overview & Purpose

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The Richard King Mellon Foundation requests proposals that are aligned with the Supportive Living Environments Investment Area of the **Economic Mobility for Children and Youth** funding program, which is part of the Foundation's newly launched 2021-2030 Strategic Plan.

Our aspiration is that all children and youth in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties will be able to access their most promising and prosperous futures. However, the Foundation recognizes that children, youth, and families, particularly those who are part of low-income households, are currently experiencing extraordinary stressors. Through this Request for Proposals, we seek proposals that foster supportive living environments by providing community-based supports that meet children and families where they are. Proposals may address children and youth's physical, emotional, or relational needs. The Foundation seeks to fund projects that are ready to implement as soon as late spring or early summer of 2021.

Priority consideration will be given to proposals that address one or more of the following outcomes described below in Table 1.

**Table 1.**

<b>Supportive Living Environments</b> <i>Priority Outcomes</i>	
<b>Stable Homes</b>	Increased supports for children and youth experiencing homelessness, are in foster care, or are involved with the Office of Children, Youth and Families. Increased supports for children and youth to minimize disruptions associated with other types of housing transitions such as evictions.
<b>Reducing Childhood Food Insecurity</b>	Increased and consistent supply of nutritious food, including food provided by school-based, after-school, and out-of-school-time programs.
<b>Resilience to Trauma</b>	Increased resilience in children who experience trauma, including programs that help children and youth build a sense self-efficacy, strengthen self-regulatory capacities and adaptive skills, and access cultural traditions and other sources of hope.
<b>Reducing Risky Behaviors</b>	Improved decision-making and increased positive behaviors. Topics could include teen pregnancy prevention, substance use prevention, and personal/ social development.
<b>Caregiver-Child Relationship Quality</b>	Stronger, more nurturing, and more responsive relationships and positive adult-child experiences, including mentoring programs, programs that build positive teen-parenting interactions, or home visiting programs for coaching new parents.

Examples of proposals that will be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Programs to address the needs of young children and their parents in their homes, potentially including components to improve parenting skills, such as positive discipline and communication skills, and to improve nutrition and overall well-being for children.
- Services for adolescents and young adults experiencing housing instability or homelessness, such as connecting youth with safe, short-term housing to address their immediate needs for shelter or providing individual and family counseling to youth

## Guidelines

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The Richard King Mellon Foundation invites nonprofit and public sector organizations to submit proposals directly through **our online application**. The Foundation does not expect that more than \$250,000 will be available per proposal. However, if a proposal is truly exceptional, the Foundation may consider providing more than \$250,000.

Proposals that are considered for potential funding must have the following characteristics:

- Address at least one of the outcomes identified in Table 1.
- Serve children and youth ages 0-24 living in households with lower incomes in Allegheny or Westmoreland Counties.
- Provide accessible, community-based services and programs.
- Are ready to implement starting in late spring or early summer of 2021.
- Can execute the proposed activities in 6-18 months.
- Fulfill the Foundation’s basic eligibility criteria, described on the **Apply** page of our website.

Organizations that have active operating support grants from the Foundation are encouraged to participate as collaborators on a proposal rather than as the submitting agency. Funds awarded via the RFP can be used to support their participation in the funded project.

## Proposal Submission Requirements

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Proposals should be submitted directly through **our online application** by 11:59 pm on February 25, 2021.

## Review Process and Timeline

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January 27 – February 25, 2021 at 11:59 pm	Organizations submit proposals. Proposals will be reviewed by Foundation staff as they are received.
April 13, 2021	Funding decisions will be shared with respondents.
Late spring/early summer 2021	Projects must begin implementation/service delivery.

## What We Will Not Fund

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The Foundation will not consider funding any of the following items through this RFP process.

- Endowments or capital campaigns
- Capital expenses or construction projects
- Advocacy, political causes or events
- Existing deficits or retroactive funding
- Event sponsorships

## Questions

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If you have any questions, contact us at [rkmf@rkmf.org](mailto:rkmf@rkmf.org). Please note that we cannot provide input on ideas prior to their submission.