

Preventing Obesity in Early Childhood

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Release Date: March 27, 2017

Letter of Intent to Apply Due: April 27, 2017

Invitation from CHDI to Submit Full Proposals: May 8, 2017

Full Proposals (by invitation only) Due: June 30, 2017

Overview

The Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI) is committed to advancing policies and best practices to prevent and reduce childhood obesity in Connecticut. With funding from the Children's Fund of Connecticut, CHDI is pleased to announce a request for proposals (RFP) to further our work targeting obesity prevention among children ages birth through two. Project results are expected to inform and advance efforts by policymakers, practitioners, program staff and advocates committed to preventing and reducing early childhood obesity in Connecticut.

Total Awards

We expect to award 2-3 grants depending upon the pool of proposals, with grant awards up to \$65,000. We expect funding to cover from 18 to 24 months of work. Applicants are encouraged to secure additional funding from other sources if needed to finance their proposed project.

Target Population

Although CHDI recognizes the importance of the maternal pre-pregnancy and prenatal period on childhood obesity prevention, the primary target population of the current RFP is children ages birth through two. Proposals must demonstrate their attention to diverse socio-economic, racial and ethnic groups.

Grant Categories- focus on ages birth to two. We may or may not fund all categories.

- 1) Conduct responsive infant/toddler feeding studies among low socioeconomic and ethnic, racial minority groups in Connecticut. In particular, these studies should help understand how best to support families with low incomes in implementing the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Healthy Eating Research \(RWJF HER\)](http://healthyeatingresearch.org/research/feeding-guidelines-for-infants-and-young-toddlers-a-responsive-parenting-approach/) responsive infant and toddler feeding guidelines. See: <http://healthyeatingresearch.org/research/feeding-guidelines-for-infants-and-young-toddlers-a-responsive-parenting-approach/>
- 2) Test the ideal mode or combination of modes (e.g. WIC, health care, child and adult care food program (CACFP), health consultants, community health providers, home visitors) of delivery of education and support related to the early childhood healthy eating guidelines ([RWJF HER infant/toddler feeding guidelines](http://healthyeatingresearch.org/research/feeding-guidelines-for-infants-and-young-toddlers-a-responsive-parenting-approach/)) and obesity prevention messages for low-income families from diverse cultures, to parents and early care and education providers.

- 3) Explore the current barriers to CT CACFP enrollment by infant and toddler childcare facilities that serve low-income children and/or tests strategies that can overcome these barriers.

Eligible Grantees

Applicants must be tax-exempt under the section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code and may include academic institutions, government agencies and not for profit organizations. Collaboration among entities, where appropriate, is encouraged. The Children's Fund of Connecticut does not fund individuals, private foundations, or federal agencies. The Children's Fund does not fund building projects, endowments, lobbying, or projects that do not benefit primary or preventive pediatric or mental health care in Connecticut.

Use of Grant Funds

Grant funds may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, supplies, project-related travel, and other direct project expenses including a limited amount of equipment essential to the project. Indirect costs are limited to 15% of the direct costs.

Criteria for Selection

A Review Committee of experts will review all proposals. The Committee will assess the strength of proposals according to the following criteria:

- Focus target population on diverse socio-economic, ethnic and racial groups
- Demonstrate innovation in approach
- Consider race, culture, class and linguistic competence in approach to the work
- Provide sound research design and methodology in keeping with the purpose of the project
- Clearly define outcomes and offer potential for significant, measurable impact
- Qualifications and experience of the investigator(s) and appropriateness of disciplines and perspectives represented
- Potential for matching funds
- Extent to which results will be a basis for system building and/or policy change
- Appropriate budget and project timeline

Key Dates

- **April 13, 2017 by 12:00 pm (noon).** Please e-mail questions about the current RFP to Abby Alter at aalter@uchc.edu by this date and time. Responses will be posted by 5:00 pm the next day on the CHDI website (on the left side) at: <http://www.chdi.org/our-work/early-childhood/early-childhood-health/obesity-prevention/>
- **April 27, 2017 (by 5:00 pm):** Letter of intent due via e-mail to aalter@uchc.edu, see "How to Apply" section for details.
- **May 8, 2017:** Invitation to submit full proposals will be sent
- **June 30, 2017:** Completed applications due
- **September 2017:** Awards announced
- **October 2017:** Projects start

How to Apply:

Letter of Intent:

To help make the grants process more efficient and effective for potential grantees, the first step of the grant process is to submit a letter of intent (LOI). The letter of intent should be no longer than 2 pages (single-spaced, 1" margins, 11 pt. font) and should include the following information:

- Name of applicant organization
- Name and email of contact person for this LOI
- Grant category
- Total amount requested from the Children's Fund of CT
- Proposed grant period
- Amount (if any) requested from other funders for this project
- Key project team – Name, title and role on project
- Study design
- Project's main goals and expected outcomes
- Describe the project's target population and how the project targets diverse socio-economic, racial and ethnic groups (include geographic target area if applicable)

CHDI will accept your letter of intent by e-mail, as long as it is received by 5:00 p.m. on **April 27, 2017**

E-mail your letter of intent to Abby Alter at aalter@uchc.edu

Full Proposals (Upon Request Only)

Applicants who have submitted a letter of intent as described above may be invited to submit a full proposal by May 8. Specific information about the full proposals will be provided at that time. Please note that full proposal narratives will be limited to 5 pages and will be aligned with information requested in the letter of intent.

For all grant questions, please e-mail, Abby Alter at aalter@uchc.edu