



INVEST ENGAGE ADVANCE | SEATTLE

2010 Early Childhood Development Grant Guidelines

Social Venture Partners Seattle

SVP Seattle advances the common good by engaging and connecting a community of philanthropic leaders, strengthening local nonprofits, and catalyzing efforts to accelerate system change.

SVP Capacity-Building Partnerships

SVP believes that stronger management, systems and infrastructure result in nonprofit organizations that are more effective in their program and service delivery. To achieve this, we give more than money. We build long-term strategic relationships with the nonprofits we fund (our Investees). With an eye to increasing the capacity of the nonprofit, we provide high-level volunteer or professional assistance, in addition to grant dollars, to meet the distinct needs of each Investee.

SVP provides the expertise of our network of donors (our Partners) and professional consultants in the following areas:

- Board Development and Governance
- Leadership Development
- Program Evaluation and Performance Management
- Financial Management
- Fund Development
- Information Technology
- Marketing, PR and Communications
- Human Resources
- Strategic Planning
- Legal

By working together, our Investees and Partners develop a unique mutually beneficial relationship. Our Investees gain from the valuable expertise, guidance and mentorship of our Partners. In return, the experience allows our Partners to gain rich insight into community issues and the nonprofit sector, and develop a deep connection to the Investee and to the entire community.

The Early Childhood Grant Committee expects to award one grant of approximately \$40,000. SVP makes initial single-year grants with the intent of establishing longer term partnerships with its Investees (typically 3-5 years). At the end of the first year of funding, the grant outcomes and relationship potential with each Investee are evaluated to determine further support.

2010 Early Childhood Development Giving Priorities

The first five years of a child's life are the most important for healthy development. These years establish the foundation that a child will live with for the rest of her or his life. Children need nurturing care, sound nutrition, appropriate learning and developmental opportunities, and the support of caring adults. In addition, parents or caregivers need support and training to more effectively carry out their role. SVP invests in organizations with programs that focus on early childhood development and/or that foster improved care-giving skills.

Grantmaking decisions at SVP are made by a committee of Partners, which allows them to learn more about the issue area, review proposals, and attend site visits. As a part of this six month process, this committee refines their giving priorities in each issue area. In the past, additional consideration has been given to early childhood development organizations that exhibit at least some of the following components:

- Provides professional development, training, and support to parents, caregivers, or teachers
- Promotes quality childcare
- Offers programs that are family or relationship based
- Provides for the health of the child (physical, social, emotional or mental health)
- Maintains programs that offer comprehensive services and are consistent in delivery
- Offers culturally and age appropriate programs

SVP looks to collaborate with organizations that:

- Understand the importance of building internal organizational capacity in order to achieve their mission.
- Have a long-term vision for the organization's programs and infrastructure.
- Has the capacity to embrace an SVP partnership, which includes intensive self-assessment and working with volunteer and paid consultants.
- Are committed to using outcomes measurement and evaluation to provide the most effective programs possible.

Application Procedures

Please submit a letter of inquiry addressed to the Early Childhood Grant Committee. The letter must not exceed two pages in length, and should not include attachments. Please include the following information:

Overview: Provide a brief summary of your organization's mission and programs.

Early Childhood Development: Provide a summary of the program goals and outcomes you intend to achieve through your early childhood development program(s), both short-term (over the next year) and long-term (over three to five years). If you run several such programs, please describe program outcomes for your largest two programs. Be sure to describe what the need is for these programs and how you gauge you are having a positive impact.

Organizational Capacity-Building: In the context of your organizational vision for the next three to five years, describe and prioritize your near term (one year) and long-term (three to five year) organizational capacity-building needs (not just programmatic needs). What will you need to strengthen or develop at the organization level in order to achieve the program goals above? Where could you use SVP consulting resources? Please refer to "SVP Capacity-Building Partnerships" section and the [SVP website](#) for more information.

Budget and staff figures: a) current budget for your organization; b) current budget(s) for your early childhood development programs; c) total amount your organization spent for the most recently completed fiscal year; d) total amount spent on early childhood development programs for the most recently completed fiscal year; e) total staff size. Please provide total dollar amounts, not line-item details.

Submit Letter of Inquiry

Email letters of inquiry to info@svpseattle.org, and make sure to include email and phone contact information in the actual letter. If you cannot email the letter, please fax to (206) 728-0552 or mail to SVP, 1601 2nd Ave., Suite 615, Seattle, WA, 98101. **Letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2009.**

SVP will acknowledge all letters and invite full proposals (eight pages plus a site visit) from a selected number of applicants. SVP will not accept unsolicited proposals.

Eligibility

Organization's managing staff must be located in King County of Washington State. Applicants must be classified as a 501(c)(3) public charity. SVP will not consider grant requests from individuals, public schools or school districts, religious organizations for sectarian purposes, pure sports teams, or any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, sexual orientation, gender, age, marital status, national origin, or physical ability. SVP will not make grants to support auctions or fundraising events, debt reduction, endowment funds or capital campaigns.

Key Dates

October 28, 2009: "Meet SVP" – An opportunity to learn more about SVP – See website for more information

December 1, 2009: Letters of inquiry due

Mid January, 2010: Proposals invited

February 12, 2010: Proposals due

February-March, 2010: Site visits and proposal evaluation

April, 2010: Grant decisions announced

We encourage you to visit our website at www.svpseattle.org for details on our programs and current funding relationships. The SVP Model at www.svpseattle.org/about/svp-model and www.svpseattle.org/grantmaking/how-to-apply will be particularly helpful.

Please feel free to email **Mike Quinn**, Grant and Program Manager at mikeq@svpseattle.org with additional questions.