



HEALTHY CHILDREN HEALTHY NATIONS (HCHN) COLLABORATIVE FUND FAQ: A GUIDE FOR POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

WHAT IS HEALTHY NATIONS, HEALTHY CHILDREN (HCHN)?

Healthy Children Healthy Nations (HCHN) is a collaborative initiative of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's Seeds of Native Health (SONH) campaign, Better Way Foundation and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota's Center for Indian Country Development (CICD) to improve early childhood development (ECD) and childhood nutrition in Minnesota's Native communities.

WHAT IS THE HCHN COLLABORATIVE FUND?

The HCHN Collaborative Fund is a Donor Advised Fund at the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundations to grow promising models, capacity, knowledge and effective programming that help Native children thrive in urban and reservation communities.

WHAT SPECIFIC AREAS OF WORK DOES THE HCHN COLLABORATIVE FUND SUPPORT?

The HCHN Collaborative Fund has three areas of focus. Applicants' proposed work must align with one or more of these focus areas:

1. **Expanding Native early childhood development programs** that are rooted in traditional knowledge, provide Native perspectives on childhood development, and celebrate Native language, identities and cultures.
2. **Providing healthful early Native nutrition** through breastfeeding education, supporting partnerships among food producers and childcare providers, and expanding access to healthy, traditional food outside of childcare settings.
3. **Building whole, healthy children, families and communities** by supporting efforts to address historical trauma, adverse childhood experiences, social determinants of health, and substance abuse that create cycles of abuse, neglect and disparity.

WHAT IS THE FUND'S GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS?

The Fund supports Native-led urban, rural and reservation programs and organizations in Minnesota. Grants awarded by the fund must be used exclusively for the benefit of Native children and communities in Minnesota. Applicants located in urban areas must demonstrate a close tie to one or more tribal communities.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Eligible applicants include:

- Federally recognized Tribal Governments;
- Tribal Government programs;
- Native-controlled 501(c)(3) nonprofits;
- Native-controlled community organizations with fiscal sponsorship.

Note: Tribes and Tribal Programs will need to upload a letter on tribal letterhead confirming federal recognition. Nonprofit organizations will need to upload their IRS determination letter or that of their fiscal sponsor.

Applicants must:

- Have governing and staff leadership that is majority Native American.
- Serve Native American children 0-6 years of age and/or their families in Minnesota;
- Work in one or more of the three HCHN focus areas listed above.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE?

The deadline for submitting your proposal is **Monday, March 25th at 3:00 PM Central Time**. Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered.

WHAT KINDS OF GRANTS DOES THE FUND OFFER?

The HCHN Collaborative Fund offers two types of grants:

Core operations improvements grants (12 month grants): Organizations whose existing work clearly aligns with the goals of the initiative and need additional support to help advance or catalyze a specific element of their promising work. These one-year grants provide flexible funding and capacity building to help boost Native organizations beyond a project-by-project focus.

Planning grants (6 month grants): Organizations or Tribal Programs whose work clearly aligns with the goals of the initiative and would like to: 1) develop or expand one or more of the HCHN focus areas within their work, and/or; 2) explore new collaborations, partnerships and other strategies to increase the impact of their work. These six-month grants will provide resources to think strategically, convene stakeholders and produce a plan for a new project or program.

Please note your organization may apply for both grant programs. However, there is a strong likelihood only one grant will be approved.

HOW MUCH CAN APPLICANTS REQUEST?

Requests should not exceed \$25,000 per proposal.

HOW DO WE SUBMIT A PROPOSAL?

HCHN Collaborative Fund only accepts applications through our online portal at the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundations. Please go to

<https://spmcf.submittable.com/submit>

HOW CAN WE LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HCHN COLLABORATIVE FUND?

Please read HCHN's groundbreaking report, *Charting Pathways on Early Childhood Development and Nutrition for Minnesota's Native Children*, which presents HCHN's multi-faceted framework for improving health, education and social outcomes for Minnesota's Native children. Applicants are encouraged to read this report prior to starting their application. [View the report](#) or [download a printable version](#).

WHO SHOULD WE CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about grant criteria, eligibility or accessing and navigating the web portal, please contact faye@echohawkconsulting.com