



Places Kids Grow Grants

Request for Proposals

Creating Environments that Support Children's Mental Health.

Wake County is a great place to live and raise a family. We have extensive resources to help nourish, support and enrich our children's lives. But thousands of our children still need more help.

- 101,608 children are living in poor or low-income households
- 5,000 children are experiencing homelessness
- 7,000 child abuse and neglect reports
- 300 children and youth attempted self-harm
- 1,054 juvenile justice complaints
- 41% are bullied at middle school
- 11,839 students are suspended

[The Kaleidoscope Project](#) is based on two important ideas:

1. The places where young children (0 – 8) spend time can have a lifelong impact on their social and emotional well-being.
2. The relationships children have with each other and adults can build their resilience, give them the tools they need when times are difficult and arm them with confidence as they grow into adulthood.

Here is what we are doing in Wake County:

- We are promoting research based best practices for places and relationships that can be integrated throughout the county.
- Site improvements have been made at Wake County kids' places to serve as showcase sites. This new grant opportunity, **Places Kids Grow Grants** will help more projects support more kids.
- We are providing training and technical assistance for building child mental health and working with vulnerable children.
- We are convening the community to connect with each other and build a network of champions for young child well-being.

The Kaleidoscope Project is funded by The John Rex Endowment. Based on research and an extensive community engagement process, The Duke Center for Child and Family Policy completed an Integrated Plan in 2015 that "examined the intersection between what contributes to the positive mental health of children (0-8 focus) and how the physical and social elements of places and spaces affect those contributory factors."



The Plan developed a set of [Best Practices](#). Visit the link to see detailed strategies for each one. Each strategy for implementation is customizable. **The Places Kids Grow Grantees** will implement new strategies (for their organizations) that connect to these Best Practices.

Build Positive Relationships -- Staff and adults who are caring and responsive role models, and clear and open communicators, help children create warm and trusting relationships.

Use Nature to Nurture -- The great outdoors can play a big role in children's healthy development — inspiring curiosity, encouraging creativity, spreading joy and relieving stress.

Create Diverse Spaces and Activities -- Varied, engaging spaces invite children to experience lots of activities of different kinds, so they can explore and master new skills.

Foster Safety and Support -- Comfortable, secure spaces make children feel at ease trying new things, accepting fun challenges and focusing on what's important: being a kid.

Enhance Accessibility and Inclusion -- Welcoming, convenient spaces allow children of all abilities, cultures and backgrounds to feel at home and feel like a valued part of our community.

What We Will Fund: Requirements and Criteria

The Kaleidoscope Project is seeking proposals from organizations to create environments for children that support positive mental health.

Up to twelve projects will be funded at \$6,000 each. The grants committee, comprised of community members, has the option to award more than \$6,000 if the total number of projects is less than 12 or the committee sees significant benefit in an individual project totaling more than \$6,000. Additionally, organizations may partner, with each agency separately requesting \$6,000 towards one larger project. If you are considering a partnership, please consult with a Kaleidoscope staff member before applying. The geographic location and the number of children impacted by the project may be considered.

Eligibility Factors

- Funds are to change indoor/outdoor environments and/or to improve relationship and communication strategies to better support children's mental health.
- Projects must primarily (but not exclusively) support children 0 – 8.
- Organizations must be in Wake County and serve vulnerable children in Wake County.
- Applicants may be from non-profit, for-profit, government, faith-based, health providers, educational or collaborative organizations. Childcare organizations must be licensed in order to apply.
- Applicants must attend a [two-hour training meeting](#) (no more than 2 attendees per organization) prior to the application deadline. At this training, you will learn more about child mental health, get resources and ideas about possible projects, get feedback on your ideas, and have the chance to ask questions.
- The project links to at least two new (to the organization) Best Practice strategies. One strategy must be from the Best Practice, "Build Positive Relationships."
- Organizations that have already received Kaleidoscope funding and Kaleidoscope's partner organizations are not eligible to apply.

What Are We Looking For?

We want you to tell your story, simply and clearly. You won't get extra points for being long-winded. The important things the committee will be looking for include:

- How clearly you identify the problem you want to solve, how you plan to solve it, and how you will know you have succeeded.



- If and how you have engaged the children/families you work with in solving the problem.
- How your project will have an impact that lives on.
- How your project supports vulnerable children’s social emotional development and mental health.
- How your idea specifically connects to The Kaleidoscope Project’s Best Practices.
- Ways in which your project strengthens positive relationships.
- Innovative ideas. You are encouraged to think outside the box.
- Your passion and commitment. Inspire us!

Application Process and Key Dates

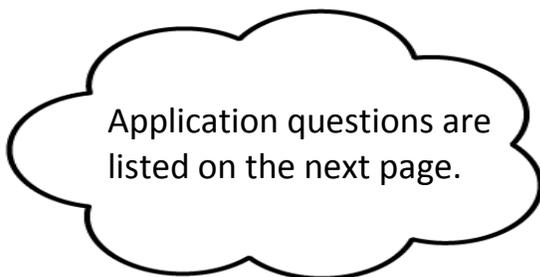
- **Applications will not be accepted from anyone that does not attend the required training.** [Please RSVP for the training here.](#) You may choose one of the two dates.
- The committee reserves the right to request additional financial information about your organization if you are a finalist for the grant.
- Grant awards will be paid in full at the beginning of the project. There is no requirement to match funding. However, you can supplement with your agency resources.
- Grantees must agree to submit a final report about the finished project that will include full documentation for all expenditures.
- Grantees must agree to permit The Kaleidoscope Project to promote the project through social media and other outlets.

Key Dates

Training Date Option 1 Marsh Creek Community Center	September 4, 2019 9 – 11 am
Training Date Option 2 Millbrook Exchange Community Center	September 11, 2019 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Application Deadline	October 18, 2019
Awards Announced	November 15, 2019
Update Report Due	January 30, 2020
Final Report Due	March 30, 2020

If You Have Questions

We recommend that you bring your questions to the training session, however, you may contact Angie Welsh at awelsh@kaleidoscopewake.org or Melissa Forde at mforde@kaleidoscopewake.org.



Application Questions

These questions are for your planning purposes. On the day you attend training, you will be provided the link to the online application. **Applications will not be accepted from anyone that does not attend the [required training](#).** Please submit your application for a grant of \$6,000.

Organization Information

1. Organization name
2. Organization address
3. Organization contact person
4. Organization contact information (email, phone)
5. Which training session did your organization attend? List the names of those who attended.
6. What is your organization's annual revenue?
7. What is the average percent of vulnerable children/families served by your organization?

Project Information

8. Project name
9. Share with us your project elevator speech/project description. (No more than three sentences.)
10. Specifically, which Best Practice strategies does your project connect with? Copy and paste the strategy(ies) [from this document](#).
11. How will your project serve children and families who are vulnerable?
12. Explain in what ways these children and families are vulnerable.
13. Tell us about your project.
 - a. What problem are you solving and why is it a priority for vulnerable children?
 - b. How have you engaged the families/children you work with in finding solutions?
 - c. What are you going to do? How is it innovative (if applicable)?
 - d. What are the project's activities and timeline?
 - e. How many vulnerable children and families will your program serve?
 - f. How will you spend the grant money? Will you contribute other funds or resources?
14. Explain how the project will address the social emotional development and mental health of children.
15. How will this project strengthen positive relationships?
16. How will you know you have succeeded in the short term? How will this project have an impact that lives on?
17. Give us your best closing argument as to why your project matters. Be brief.



Changing places kids go into places kids grow

