

Idaho Children's Trust Fund Capacity Building Grant Initiative Letter of Intent (LOI)

NOTE: This is a very short turnaround! Letters of Intent must be received before midnight on May 8th.

About the Grant

This initiative provides funding to community-based organizations working to prevent child abuse and neglect through family strengthening and support.

Grants will prioritize organizations that:

- Build on existing programs or established relationships
- Focus on long term capacity and infrastructure
- Engage in intentional, data informed practice
- Are prepared to participate in a cohort based learning and technical assistance model

Purpose of the LOI

The Letter of Intent (LOI) is designed to identify organizations that are aligned with the goals of this initiative and prepared to engage in meaningful systems level growth.

This grant is not intended to fund one-time events, new standalone programs, or short-term activities. Instead, it supports organizations that are ready to strengthen, refine, and expand their organizational capacity to improve outcomes for children and families.

Organizations selected through the LOI process will be invited to submit a full application.

Funding Focus

Funding is intended to support the development, expansion, and refinement of initiatives that strengthen organizational capacity and impact.

This funding is not intended to sustain general operations or support large capital projects. Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate how funds will lead to lasting improvements in practice, systems, and outcomes for families.

Important Expectations

Selected applicants must:

- Participate in monthly cohort meetings and shared learning
- Engage in ongoing technical assistance and training
- Complete organizational self-assessment and reflection activities
- Implement data collection and evaluation practices

- Focus on continuous improvement over the grant period
- Utilize the Standards of Quality assessment process including baseline assessment, goal setting, and progress tracking

Areas of Focus

Applicants must select one of the following focus areas. All work should align with child abuse prevention, strengthening families, and an understanding of the impact of ACEs including their connection to substance use and prevention strategies.

1. Family Centeredness: *Engagement and Relationship Building*

- Strengthening outreach to a clearly defined population
- Building systems to sustain meaningful relationships with families over time
- Enhancing the quality of engagement through training, tools, or improved outreach strategies

Organizations that already provide outreach or engagement are expected to demonstrate how they will improve the quality, consistency, or effectiveness of those efforts and not simply continue existing activities.

2. Family Strengthening: *Program Quality and Staff Capacity*

- Strengthening staff knowledge related to family and child development
- Enhancing program design to better support families
- Incorporating training, tools, or structured approaches that improve delivery and impact

Required for All Applicants: Evaluation

All applicants must implement a structured evaluation approach grounded in the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support framework.

This includes:

1. Completing a baseline assessment
2. Identifying target areas for improvement
3. Developing an action plan aligned to findings
4. Tracking progress using indicators and scoring methods
5. Using data to inform decisions and implement changes to practice.

Applicants will be supported through ongoing technical assistance to implement this process effectively.

Letter of Intent Questions (Maximum 2 Pages Total)

Submission Guidelines

- Maximum length is 2 pages
- Include contact information: organizational name, contact person, email, and website
- Responses should be clear, concise, and aligned with the intent of the grant
- Organizations must demonstrate an existing foundation of work in the selected focus area

Organizational Readiness: Briefly describe your organization/collaboratives current work with families including how your work promotes child abuse prevention and strengthening families. Include your understanding of how adverse childhood experiences impact children and families, including connections to substance use or behavioral health.

Target Population and Engagement Strategy: Describe the specific population of families you serve including who, why, and how you currently engage this population and what expansion would entail. Describe your community partnerships and how you plan to expand them.

Area of Focus: Describe what currently exists and what you will refine, strengthen, or expand including any training, tools, or systems. Explain how this work strengthens protective factors and contributes to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Commitment to Growth and Participation: Describe readiness and capacity to engage in required technical assistance, cohort learning, and continuous improvement/development.

Capacity: Describe your experience with implementing projects with rigid timelines.

Sustainability: Describe how you hope this work will continue beyond the grant period and how you are embedding the work in your community.