



## Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Program

In 2019, the legislature passed and the Governor signed into law the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant program. **This historic program focuses on improving measures of well-being for children of color and American Indian children in Minnesota prenatal to age 8 through a community and equity-centered approach across the state.**

The grant program, housed in MDH's Center for Health Equity, is guided by a [Community Solutions Advisory \(CSA\) Council](#) comprised of 12 community members who bring professional expertise and lived experience in racial equity, early childhood development and advocacy. The council envisions a Minnesota where all experience health equity and communities most impacted by historical trauma, structural oppression and health inequities can control and contribute to their own futures and are able to thrive.

**It is time to increase the state's investment in community solutions** and listen to the voices of community members who for too long have said that solutions for significant challenges facing children and families should come from communities closest to those challenges and closest to leverage local assets to make meaningful change.

Community Solutions Grant Program was included in Governor Walz and Lt Governor Flanagan's supplemental budget at \$10M a year for three years. This is a great start! And our children and Minnesota need more. With the historic surplus and federal recovery dollars, the legislature has the opportunity to **increase the appropriation to \$20M a year for three years.** Minnesota has the need and Minnesota has the resources. The first round of applications requested funds of almost 12 million without factoring in costs for staffing and supports. We have an opportunity to more fully fund programs and extend the important work that has been critical during this increased time of need. We need to leverage more community led solutions beyond the pilot group of grantees as an upstream way to support children and families.

### Community Solutions Grant Program Highlights:

- MDH received 46 applications requesting \$11,590,981 for the first two years
- 23 organizations were awarded funding to work on culture and early education, health, and parenting and family support
- The final award amounts range from \$25,000 to \$86,226 and total \$1,750,000 per year



### Community Solutions Grantee Spotlight:

Division of Indian Work's (DIW) Ninde doula program assists American Indian women who struggle with substance abuse during pregnancy.

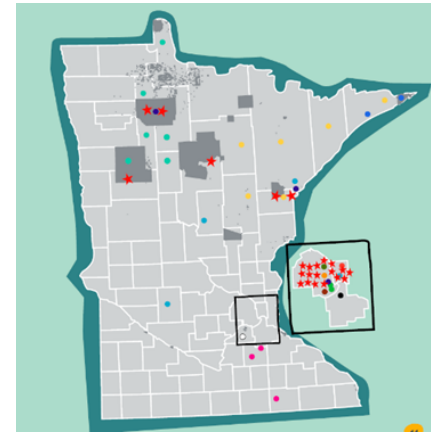
## **Background and Overview**

The Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant program was created through the tireless advocacy work of Voices and Choices for Children Coalition, Children’s Defense Fund, and several other community organizations aiming to bring the voices of people of color and American Indians into decision-making spaces. Voices and Choices listened to the voices of community members who said that solutions for significant challenges facing children and families should come from communities closest to those challenges and closest to leverage local assets to make meaningful change. They helped pass the legislation to fund this grant program in 2019. As part of the grant program, MDH convened a [Community Solutions Advisory \(CSA\) Council](#) comprised of 12 community members, including parent representatives, who bring professional expertise and lived experience in racial equity, early childhood development and advocacy.

Minnesota Department of Health’s Center for Health Equity released the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Request for Proposals on December 9, 2019. The council co-created the grant [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) and served as the reviewers for these grant applications. Since the release of the RFP, Minnesota received additional federal funding from the [Preschool Development Birth through Five Grant](#), which provided an additional \$750,000 to MDH to fund Community Solutions grants following the same criteria as outlined in the Community Solutions RFP. Therefore, the estimated total amount to grant has increased to approximately \$1.75 million annually. The grant application period closed on February 7, 2020. The council continues to provide support to grantees and state agency staff to look at equitable implementation of the grant program.

Full list of the 23 recipients of the [Community Solutions Grantees](#):

- African Community Services
- Centro Tyrone Guzman
- Children's Dental Services
- Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio
- Division of Indian Work
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Fond du Lac Tribal College
- Hallie Q. Brown Community Center
- Hmong Early Childhood Coalition
- Indigenous Visioning
- Korean Service Center
- La Red de Educacion Temprana
- Leech Lake of Band Ojibwe
- Minnesota CarePartner
- Montessori American Indian Childcare
- Multicultural Autism Action Network
- Network for the Development of Children of African Descent
- Northwest Indian Community Development Center
- Parents in Community Action, Inc.
- Red Lake Comprehensive Services
- Roots Community Birth Center
- Tserha Aryam Kidist Selassie Church (TAKS)
- Wicoie Nandagikendan



 **Community Solutions Grantee**

For more information, see “The Minnesota Community Solutions Fund for Healthy Child Development: A New Tool for Equity” by Betty Emarita or contact May Losloso, Voices and Choices lead staff, at (651) 855-1187 or [mlosloso@childrensdefense.org](mailto:mlosloso@childrensdefense.org)