

Early Education Organizations in Kansas City Receive More Than \$1.2 Million in Funding

Organizations will use grants to support kindergarten-readiness for low-income families and children of color

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Dec. 2, 2016) — The Early Education Funders Collaborative has announced its second round of funding for 2016, awarding more than \$1.2 million to eight non-profit organizations that serve children ages birth to five in the six-county metro area. Comprising of 10 philanthropic organizations in Kansas City, the Collaborative has awarded more than \$5 million in 2016 to increase early education quality and access for more than 7,000 low-income children and children of color.

The grant recipients are:

- Kansas Action for Children
- Missouri Children's Leadership Council
- Olathe Public School Foundation
- Shawnee Mission School District
- Start at Zero
- The Family Conservancy
- The Literacy Lab
- United Way of Wyandotte County

“We are thrilled to recognize eight new grantees for the critical work they do to help prepare children for success in kindergarten,” said Denise St. Omer, vice president of grantmaking and inclusion initiatives at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, a member of the Collaborative. “We believe the grants these organizations are receiving will allow them to have a positive effect on more than 1,000 Kansas City children.”

Several of the organizations will use the grant funding to expand capacity and accept more children. Others are using the funds to provide training for child care providers, hire additional staff, expand programming and parental engagement activities, and advocate on behalf of children in Missouri and Kansas.

More information about the Collaborative is available at www.growyourgiving.org/early-ed. The next application period will begin in February 2017.

About the Early Education Funders Collaborative

The Early Education Funders Collaborative formed in 2014 with a vision that all students served by early childhood education providers in Kansas City are kindergarten-ready and able to transition to schools that will build on that preparation through at least third grade.

Partner organizations include the Francis Family Foundation, George K. Baum Family Foundation, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Hall Family Foundation, Hispanic Development Fund, The H & R Block Foundation, Kauffman Foundation, Sherman Family Foundation, Stanley H. Durwood Foundation, United Way of Greater Kansas City and William G. McGowan Charitable Fund.