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**Funding Available for Early Education Providers
and Support Organizations in Kansas City**

*Applications now being accepted from local child care centers
and non-profits for grants of up to \$500,000*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (August 1, 2017) — The Early Education Funders Collaborative announced today that it is seeking proposals for projects/programs that improve early education quality and expand access for low-income families and children of color in Kansas City.

The Early Education Funders Collaborative will award grants up to \$500,000 to eligible nonprofit organizations that serve children ages birth to 5 years old in the six-county metro area, either through direct services or support services for early care and education. Applications are now available at www.growyourgiving.org/early-ed. The deadline to apply is Sept. 1, and grant awards will be announced in December.

“Preparing more children for success in kindergarten and beyond is essential for our region,” said Denise St. Omer, vice president of grantmaking and inclusion initiatives at the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, a member of the Collaborative. “Early childhood programs in Kansas and Missouri need support and resources to maintain and build on quality. By working together, funders can make the best possible investments in effective local programs and practices that support our kids.”

The grants for school- and center-based providers will be used to support teacher and leader development, parent engagement and creation or expansion of quality programming. To be eligible, the provider must serve at least 40 percent of children who qualify for free/reduced price lunch, financial assistance or child care subsidies; be licensed in Kansas or Missouri; enroll at least 30 children ages birth to 5 years old; utilize an evidence-based assessment tool for kindergarten readiness; and be a non-profit organization.

Non-profit organizations that work for systemic change in early childhood education or support direct service providers in Kansas City are also eligible.

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.