



## Frequently Asked Questions November 17, 2016

### Funding/Match

1. Will United Way provide any assistance to subgrantees in securing matching funds?  
*United Way is currently exploring ways to coordinate and leverage local philanthropic and corporate funds to help subgrantees meet the dollar-for-dollar match requirement. However, subgrantees are ultimately responsible for securing 100% of matching funds.*
2. Will each of the four targeted neighborhoods be guaranteed an investment?  
*No. UWCI will award up to 8 grants across up to 4 targeted neighborhoods. Selection will be based on the quality of applications. Selection of the subgrantees for the entire duration of the initiative will happen prior to year one and be renewed annually.*
3. Will United Way partner agencies' annual allocations be affected if any are selected as subgrantees?  
*No. Any United Way agency that may be selected as a subgrantee will not see their annual allocation changed as a result of participation in Great Families 2020.*
4. Can an organization's existing funds be used for match?  
*Yes, as long as the existing funds are unrestricted.*
5. How much funding can be requested for each application?  
*Allowable funding for a proposed project depends on the number of subgrantees partnering on an application. The range for each subgrantee is a minimum of \$100,000 to a maximum of \$350,000.*
6. Must each application's budget include funds for participation in the annual SIF convening in Washington, DC?  
*Each applicant should budget for at least one team member to participate in the annual SIF convening.*
7. What is considered allowable funds for match?  
*Matching funds can be new or existing dollars as long as they are unrestricted and used for the purpose of the grant. Federal funding cannot be used as match. Please refer to the Uniform Guidelines referenced on the Great Families 2020 website for more details on match requirements.*
8. If you don't apply and/or are not selected in year one, can you apply in future years?  
*No. Great Families 2020 is a multi-year initiative in which all subgrantees will be selected prior to year one. Applications are for a three-year cycle.*
9. Does the optional renewal in years 4 and 5 provide the opportunity to replicate the approach into additional neighborhoods?



*No. Years 4 and 5, if awarded, will be for the same projects initially selected in year one. However, UWCI will review evidence from Great Families 2020 to inform its future ECE and FES investments beyond year 5.*

10. Is there someone to whom we can direct our questions about the application?  
*In order to maintain an equal playing ground and promote transparency, all questions need to be submitted via email at [greatfamilies2020@uwci.org](mailto:greatfamilies2020@uwci.org). No phone calls or personal meetings will be accepted.*
11. Must applicants secure DUNS numbers and establish an account with the System for Award Management prior to submission of applications?  
*At a minimum, applicants must demonstrate that they have applied for a DUNS number and an account in SAM. Contracts cannot be executed with subgrantees until the DUNS number has been obtained and a SAM account established.*

### **Programmatic**

12. If I'm already a Center for Working Families, can I use Great Families 2020 to support what we are already doing?  
*FES is just one piece of the puzzle that makes the Two Generation Approach work for families. Great Families 2020 is not about business as usual. It's about systems and organizational change. We are focusing on integration versus segregation of services for families. Subgrantees must show an expansion of services and identify the added value that Great Families 2020 will bring to their programs.*
13. Must all families who participate in the program include children under age 5?  
*At the time of enrollment, participating families must include at least one child under age 5. As children "age out" of the program, adults participating in FES should continue to receive services needed for them to achieve employment and income outcomes.*
14. Must children and adults in enrolled families begin ECE and FES services at the same time?  
*Ideally, children and adults will begin participating at the same time. However, it is very likely that there will be situations where the child and adult begin at different times. A child or adult should not be the sole participant from a family for a protracted period of time. Subgrantees should strive to keep the gap between initiation of services to 60 days or less.*
15. Should adults in families enrolled in the program be a cross section of unemployed and employed?  
*Adults should meet the criteria for participating in CWF or other FES approach. United Way expects that participants will be a mixture of unemployed and employed adults.*
16. If a young child is already enrolled in ECE, can his/her family participate in Great Families 2020?  
*The ECE provider must be at PTQ Level 3 or 4 and the provider must agree to share data and collaborate with the subgrantees to ensure ECE, FES and wrap around services are integrated. Great Families 2020 funds (SIF or match) cannot supplant funds that are currently paying for ECE services.*



17. Must each application address both ECE and FES?

*Yes, as well as wraparound services (i.e., behavioral health, social capital development, case management services). Applications will be accepted from single organizations or from partnerships who submit a joint proposal. Each organization identified in an approved application will be a subgrantee, with a separate budget and contract. Subgrantees coming together in a single application will be expected to have worked out details of their collaboration and formalized these in an MOU. UWCI understands the complexity of these relationships and expects that these MOUs may need to be revised as we enter implementation.*

18. What evidenced-based practices are acceptable to include in an application?

*Subgrantees must implement the pre-defined ECE and FES interventions discussed in United Way's approved application and in the RFP. These interventions are evidence-based practices that meet the criteria for preliminary level of evidence. During the course of Great Families 2020, the initiative must increase the level of evidence for these ECE and FES practices to moderate or strong and demonstrate scalability.*

*The two-generation approach is deemed a promising practice with the first experimental-control study design evaluation currently underway. The primary goal of Great Families 2020 is to demonstrate that evidence-based ECE and FES services provided in an integrated, family-focused approach will yield better ECE and FES outcomes than when these services are provided separately.*

19. United Way's approved SIF application indicates that case management services, mental health (behavioral health) services, toxic stress, social capital development and flex funds are to be included in the integrated two generation approach, Should applicants budget for all these services and resources?

*Yes, all of these services must be included in an integrated two-generation approach and supported in the budget.*

20. What is toxic stress?

*Toxic stress is the excessive or prolonged activation of stress response systems in the body and brain which can have damaging effects on learning, behavior, and health across the lifespan. (See <http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/toxic-stress/>) Trauma informed care builds awareness of the challenging context in which many children and youth live, helps develop an understanding of the possible multiple trauma exposures that children and youth encounter and helps build understanding of how adults can support youth and help them more quickly return to their normal functioning following exposure to trauma and toxic shock (See <https://injury.research.chop.edu/violence-prevention-initiative/trauma-informed-care-approach-child-traumatic-stress#.WCtUYiRWjeo>)*

21. Is an applicant required to have experience working in the neighborhood(s) selected for the proposed project?

*Applicants should have experience in delivering neighborhood services in partnership with other organizations. Experience in the selected neighborhood(s) may strengthen the case applicants make for readiness and capacity to implement Great Families 2020.*



22. Can FES providers other than designated Center for Working Families (CWF) sites be a subgrantee or contractor?  
*Non-profit organizations that operate FES programs that are evidence-based (minimally at the preliminary level) and provide a similar scope of services as CWF are eligible to be a subgrantee or contractor.*
23. Must all families participating in Great Families 2020 reside within the strict neighborhood boundaries identified in the RFP?  
*The intent of Great Places 2020 is to test the hypothesis that evidence-based ECE and FES provided in an integrated, family-focused approach in the targeted neighborhoods will yield better ECE and FES outcomes than when these services are provided separately. United Way expects that there will be some reasonable “blurring of lines” of neighborhood boundaries, but the focus must remain on the targeted neighborhoods.*
24. Are there specific requirements for hiring contractors, developing their scope of work, and evaluating their work?  
*The need for contractual services should be identified in the application, but the actual contractor will not be selected until after the selection process. There are specific guidelines around the procurement of contractors, including a competitive bidding and selection process. UWCI will need to approve all contractors and will provide technical assistance around compliance issues with subgrantees. Please refer to the Uniform Guidance referenced on the Great Families 2020 website for more details on procurement. Developing the scope of work and collecting data for project evaluation will be left to the subgrantee who is ultimately responsible for meeting implementation and impact evaluation requirements.*
25. Is there a minimum number of families a subgrantee should serve?  
*The approved United Way SIF budget requires 600 adults and 600 young children be served in each year of Great Families 2020. Individual subgrantees are expected to serve approximately 100 to 175 per neighborhood. Enrollment of families will obviously occur on a rolling basis. United Way recognizes that a number of factors will create variability in these numbers from neighborhood to neighborhood.*

## **Evaluation**

26. What is the difference between implementation evaluation and impact evaluation?  
*Implementation measures how well the intervention approach (evidence-based practice) was carried out (i.e., was the approach implemented with fidelity and according to plans?). Findings provide information that can improve how services are organized and delivered. Impact evaluation measures the effects that the intervention approach had on the participants (i.e., what percentage of participants achieved specific program outcomes?).*
27. What evaluation costs should be included in the budget?  
*Staff time should be budgeted for data collection and working with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluator to implement the evaluation plan. Some subgrantees may need to budget technology cost for data collection and sharing.*



28. Is there a mandated data collection system that all subgrantees will be required to use?  
*Subgrantees have flexibility on the data collection system they choose to use as long as it has the capability to export data in an accessible file format.*
29. How will the Great Families evaluators interface with a subgrantee's existing evaluation plan?  
*The Great Families 2020 evaluators will be looking at implementation and impact across the initiative and will not dig into unrelated aspects of the subgrantee's work. Subgrantees should not use the Great Families 2020 evaluation plan to replace their own organizational evaluation plans.*
30. What are you looking for in the evaluation section of the application?  
*In the application, we are looking for organizations with a proven track record of data collection and an understanding of the purpose, practice, and value of evaluation as an implementation tool. UWCI and its 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluators are designing and executing the evaluation plan and need applicants to show they how they will be strong, collaborative learning partners.*