



Open Call for Statements of Interest

Community-Led Practices for Strengthening Maternal and Child Health and Reducing Disparities in Fresno County, California

Due Date: Statements of Interest must be received online by 5pm on May 3, 2024

With this Open Call for Statements of Interest, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation hopes to learn about and connect with organizations working to support pregnant people, moms, and families with children birth to age three in Fresno County. The objective for this one-time funding opportunity is to support the development, expansion, or enhancement of innovative practices to improve maternal and child health outcomes and reduce racial disparities in Fresno. We expect to fund approximately five grants. Grant sizes will range from \$50,000 to \$200,000 depending on the scope of the project, typically over a 12-month grant term and we anticipate awarding grants in September 2024.

The Children and Families Initiative

This year, the Packard Foundation launched a new [Children and Families Initiative](#) (CFI), a ten-year strategy dedicated to improving maternal and infant health outcomes and supporting healthy child development from birth to age three, with a focus on Black, Indigenous, and Latino families. We developed this new initiative recognizing that the early years of a child's life set the foundation for a lifetime of health, learning, and well-being. We also recognize that in the United States, Black, Indigenous, and Latino families face stark disparities in maternal health and child development outcomes, driven largely by racial biases in the systems¹ families turn to for support. In partnership with grantees, we will focus on reducing racial disparities because the future we envision – one in which all children and families thrive – is not possible while inequities persist.

As part of the CFI, we will:

- Invest in community partners who are working on innovative practices to reduce racial disparities in maternal and child health outcomes.
- Bolster efforts to strengthen and connect the health care, child care, and financial supports systems that serve pregnant people, moms, and families with young children.
- Support a national and state advocacy effort to connect policymakers and government leaders with the research, data, and analyses they need to champion policies designed to support families with young children.

These approaches are connected and interdependent, and all are needed to create lasting change.

The CFI will make focused investments in select communities in California, Louisiana, and Mississippi, along with funding at the state level and nationally to support advocacy networks. This Open Call is focused on our work in Fresno County, CA.

¹ Systems refer to the web of connected elements (such as government, institutions, markets, ecosystems, communities) influencing a complex problem or issue.



Overview of Open Call for Statements of Interest

The Packard Foundation believes that many on-the-ground practices led by communities have the potential to foster safe, healthy and joyful birthing experiences and provide comprehensive support for families with children from birth to three. Our goal with this one-time funding is to support the development, expansion, or enhancement of innovative practices to improve maternal and child health outcomes and reduce racial disparities in Fresno. We are particularly interested in reaching organizations who do not have existing relationships with the Packard Foundation. We will accept Statements of Interest from organizations of all sizes, and we especially encourage smaller grassroots organizations as well as organizations led by Black, Indigenous, Latino and People of Color to apply.

Project Examples

A wide range of projects will be considered for funding. Examples could include but are not limited to:

- Programs to support birthing people (for example prenatal and/or postnatal support groups, integrated models of care, pregnancy/childbirth education);
- Programs to support families with children birth to age three (for example parent & child play groups, fatherhood involvement programs, supports to address families' comprehensive needs);
- Programs to support the birth workforce (for example training for doulas, community health workers, and others; supporting doulas to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement);
- Programs that test connected systems of care (for example family navigation or universal enrollment in programs; a single lead care manager who coordinates health and social needs);
- Programs to support the implementation of new Medi-Cal benefits including: [doula services](#), [dyadic services and family therapy](#), [community health workers focused on perinatal care](#), and [enhanced care management and community supports](#) focused on [birth equity populations](#).
- Programs to support maternal mental health and well-being;
- Programs that incorporate in-person support alongside new technology innovations; and
- Other programs that reduce racial disparities in maternal and child health outcomes.

Organizations Eligible to Apply

All types of organizations (public, private, nonprofit, and fiscally-sponsored projects) are invited to submit a statement of interest. Please note that the Packard Foundation cannot provide grants directly to individuals. We encourage organizations without existing relationships with the Packard Foundation to submit Statements of Interest. We also encourage smaller grassroots organizations as well as organizations led by Black, Indigenous and People of Color to apply.

Grantee Engagement with the Packard Foundation

This section outlines how we envision the organizations selected through this Open Call engaging with one another and with the Packard Foundation. Funded organizations (grantees) will be part of a cohort and will be asked to participate in the activities outlined below. Details will be finalized in consultation with grantees.



- Grantees will participate in an evaluation funded by the Packard Foundation. The purpose of this evaluation will be to support grantees in learning from their project, to facilitate opportunities for grantees to learn from one another, and to measure progress on improving maternal and child health.
- Grantees will attend one half-day convening in Fresno to share ideas and lessons learned with the cohort of funded organizations.
- Grantees will participate in quarterly check-in calls with Foundation staff and members of the grantee cohort, and a potential site visit. The cadence for calls and the site visit will be mutually agreed upon by grantees and Foundation staff.

Budget

Grant sizes will range from \$50,000 – \$200,000 depending on the scope of the project. Please include any expenses you anticipate related to your attendance at the in-person convening in Fresno and participation in evaluation as part of the estimated budget amount.

For grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, the Packard Foundation is committed to ensuring that our grants cover the full cost of projects we are supporting. Our indirect cost policy calculates the percentage of grant funds allocated to indirect costs (such as rent, utilities, accounting or technology support, etc.) based on the organization's annual budget size. Funds will be paid through a Foundation grant for project support, with the indirect cost rates reflected below.

- 25% minimum indirect cost rate for grantees with budgets under \$5 million;
- 20% minimum indirect cost rate for grantees with budgets between \$5 million and \$50 million; and
- 15% minimum indirect cost rate for those with budgets over \$50 million.
- Indirect cost rates for grants made to universities are capped at 15%.

Please note that no Foundation funds may be used for activities that would constitute lobbying under federal tax laws.

Criteria for Reviewing Statements of Interest

The criteria that will be used to review these Statements of Interest are as follows:

The grant-funded project:

- Serves pregnant/birthing people, the birth workforce, or parents/caregivers of children under the age of three in Fresno County, CA.
- Incorporates the perspectives of the people being served by the project.
- Serves either a diverse range of families or specific populations (including Black, Indigenous or Latino families).
- Has the potential to be replicated or scaled to a larger population or another community if future funding were available.

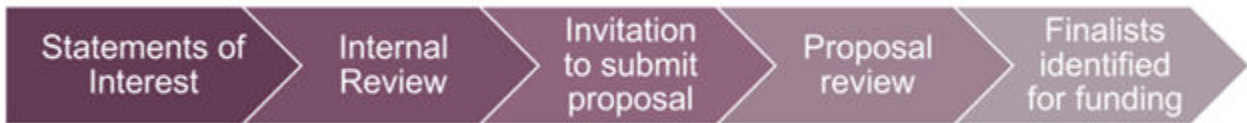


- Is focused on the development of a new program or the enhancement or expansion² of an existing program. **Grant funds will not support continuation of funding for an existing program.**

The organization:

- Has a history of serving families in Fresno County.
- Has the leadership and staff capacity to carry out the project.
- Has the willingness and capacity to collect data about the project, with support from the evaluation team funded by the Packard Foundation (*additional details in the next section*).
- Demonstrates a commitment to establishing trusting relationships in the community.

Open Call Timeline



The Packard Foundation team will review all of the Statements of Interest submitted and select up to 10 organizations to submit full proposals. Organizations invited to submit proposals will be asked to answer additional questions and submit additional documentation. The proposals will be reviewed and scored by a review committee made up of Packard Foundation staff and three external reviewers who have expertise in maternal and child health, community-based grantmaking, and knowledge of the community in Fresno County. The review committee will identify five finalists whose proposals will be awarded grant funding, pending review as part of the Packard Foundation's due diligence process.

Open Call for Statements of Interest Issued	March 27, 2024
Question & Answer Session*	April 11, 2024, 10-11:30AM
Statements of Interest Due	May 3, 2024 at 5PM
Invitation to submit proposals sent to selected organizations	Week of May 20, 2024
Foundation staff will hold office hours for support with proposal development	Week of June 24, 2024
Proposals Due	July 12, 2024 at 5PM
Finalists notified that their proposals will move forward for funding consideration	Week of August 12, 2024
Grants Awarded	September 2024
Grant Project Duration	September 2024 – August 2025

*Additional details on the Q&A session and how to register can be found below.

² Examples for enhancement or expansion could include: expanding to new sites or increasing number of people served; providing more intensive and regular services to target populations; design, testing and adapting programs to be culturally relevant for new populations; or building the capacity of other organizations and communities to implement and support programs.



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Statements of Interest Guidelines for Submission

As a reminder, this is an opportunity for one-time funding to develop a new program or enhance or expand an existing program. Grant funds will not support continuation of an existing program.

The following questions are to be answered with a brief Statement of Interest, submitted by **May 3rd, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** Pacific Daylight Time. Please submit your Statement of Interest form on the [Packard Foundation Website](#).

1. What is your organization's mission and what are the core programs you provide?
2. What is your proposed project, who would it serve, and where in Fresno County will your project focus?
3. How will your proposed project strengthen maternal and child health and reduce racial disparities in Fresno?
4. How does your organization establish trusting relationships with the community you serve?
5. What is your total estimated project budget?

How to Submit

- To preview and complete the Statement of Interest, please [visit our website](#).
- Questions regarding the Statement of Interest should be sent to:
ChildrenAndFamilies@packard.org

Question & Answer Session

We will hold a Q&A session on Thursday **April 11 10:00-11:30am PDT** via Zoom. If you have any questions about whether your work or program is a fit for this Open Call, we encourage you to attend. Those who register will receive a calendar invitation with a link to join the session. If you are unable to attend the session, a recording will be available afterwards. We also have a Frequently Asked Questions document that we will update regularly with written responses to all questions, that can be accessed on the [website](#). To register to attend the session via Zoom and/or receive a copy of the recording please complete the registration form [linked here](#). The session will include closed caption translation in Spanish.

About the David and Lucile Packard Foundation

The [David and Lucile Packard Foundation](#) works with people and communities to create enduring solutions for just societies and a healthy, resilient natural world. We are guided by the enduring business philosophy and personal values of Lucile and David, who helped found one of the world's leading technology companies. Today, their children and grandchildren continue to help guide the work of the Foundation. We work toward a more just and equitable world where both people and nature flourish through three interconnected goals:

Our priorities include:

- **Invest in families and communities:** We collaborate with leaders and organizations to promote resilient and vibrant communities where children and families thrive and have the power to shape their lives.



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- **Build just societies:** We support a strong civil society and inclusive institutions and governance to build just and equitable societies for all people.
- **Protect and restore the natural world:** We champion bold climate solutions, an ocean that sustains us, and scientific innovation and discovery to secure the health and future of people and the planet.

Packard Foundation's Priorities in Fresno

The Packard Foundation has a long history of investing in child-serving systems in Fresno as part of our prior work focused on early childhood education and preschool. We know that leaders and organizations in Fresno are doing important work to address the needs of families with young children, and we look forward to partnering with new grantees to improve maternal and child health in Fresno County. We also recognize that for families to be resilient and thrive, they need access to support across a variety of interrelated issues. For that reason, we are excited to partner with the Packard Foundation's [California Communities Initiative](#) to make intersectional investments in support of housing stability, healthy environments, and community infrastructure in Fresno.