

Health and Human Services Conference Committee Members:

We are writing today in strong support for the inclusion of the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Program in your negotiations for the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill. We are current grantees of the Community Solutions Grant Program, and we are working on a variety of community-based projects that:

- Improve child development outcomes related to the well-being of children of color and American Indian children from prenatal to grade 3 and their families. This includes, but is not limited to, the goals outlined by the Minnesota Department of Human Services' early childhood systems reform effort: early learning; health and well-being; economic security; and safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.
- Reduce racial disparities in children's health and development from prenatal to grade 3.
- Promote racial and geographic equity.

We support the model for Community Solutions Grant Program because we believe it is a strategy that addresses inequality as well as amplifies the innovative solutions that leverage community assets, are culturally relevant, and center the experiences and dignity of those most impacted by inequity. Community Solutions Grant Program represents more than money, it is also recognition that communities of color, American Indian communities, and geographically dispersed communities have invaluable knowledge, and must be active and valued participants within the creation of solutions for their communities.

We strongly encourage you to fund the Community Solutions Grant Program beyond this pilot stage. The collective health and prosperity of our state is tied to ensuring every child has what they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

Centro Tyrone Guzman
Children's Dental Services
CLUES
Hmong Early Childhood Coalition
Korean Adoptees Ministry Center
La RED Latina de Educacion Temprana
Minnesota CarePartner, LLC
Network for the Development of Children of African Descent
Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang, Fond du Lac, Cloquet, MN
TAKS
Wicoie Nandagikendan