



Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant Program

In 2019, the legislature passed and the Governor signed into law the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant program. **This historic program focuses on improving measures of well-being for children of color and American Indian children in Minnesota prenatal to age 8 through a community and equity-centered approach across the state.**

The grant program, housed in MDH's Center for Health Equity, is guided by a [Community Solutions Advisory \(CSA\) Council](#) comprised of 12 community members who bring professional expertise and lived experience in racial equity, early childhood development and advocacy. The council envisions a Minnesota where all experience health equity and communities most impacted by historical trauma, structural oppression and health inequities can control and contribute to their own futures and are able to thrive.

It is time to increase the state's investment in community solutions and listen to the voices of community members who for too long have said that solutions for significant challenges facing children and families should come from communities closest to those challenges and closest to leverage local assets to make meaningful change.

With the historic surplus and federal recovery dollars, **the legislature has the opportunity to increase the appropriation to \$50 million a year through a permanent program.** Minnesota has the need and Minnesota has the resources. The first round of applications requested funds of almost \$12 million without factoring in costs for staffing and supports. Fully funded programs will extend the important work that has been critical during this increased time of need. Leveraging more community led solutions beyond the pilot group of grantees is an upstream way to support children and families.

Community Solutions Grant Program Highlights:

- MDH received 46 applications requesting \$11,590,981 for the first two years
- 22 organizations were awarded funding to work on culture and early education, health, and parenting and family support
- The final award amounts range from \$25,000 to \$86,226 and total \$1,750,000 per year



Community Solutions Grantee Spotlight:

Division of Indian Work's (DIW) Ninde doula program assists American Indian women who struggle with substance abuse during pregnancy.

Grantee Story: Mi Pequeño Mundo

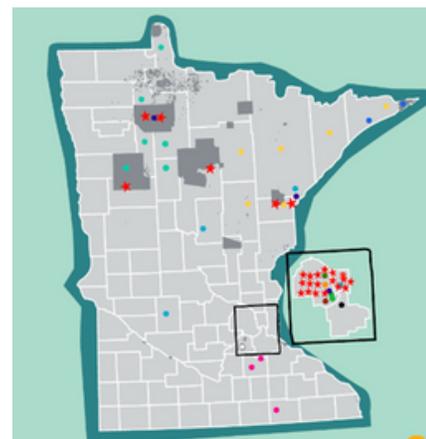
With support from the innovative Minnesota Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development grant program, Centro Tyrone Guzman developed the Mi Pequeño Mundo project. The project uses the successful Siembra Montessori early learning program as a guide to engage parent leaders and community partners to develop and pilot a new, culturally affirming, and Montessori-based home visiting program. The new program is designed to proactively provide early childhood development support to Latine parents with young children, aged birth-three, who speak Spanish in their home. Centro Tyrone Guzman piloted the new community-driven home visiting program in the Twin Cities after developing the program with extensive input from the community and early childhood support professionals.



Here is what Lily, a participant in the Mi Pequeño Mundo project, had to say about her experience with the program: "For me, the Montessori home visiting program was a great help. I was able to better understand what my son's development is by applying the Montessori philosophy about practical life. During the program, goals were set according to what I wanted to work or focus on with my son... Not only did the program help my son but on an emotional level it helped me since I did not feel alone in this process of being a new mom and not knowing about all these aspects of my child's development. This program served me and my son a lot."

Full list of the 22 recipients of the [Community Solutions Grantees](#):

- African Community Services
- Centro Tyrone Guzman
- Children's Dental Services
- Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio
- Division of Indian Work
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Fond du Lac Tribal College
- Hallie Q. Brown Community Center
- Hmong Early Childhood Coalition
- Indigenous Visioning
- Korean Service Center
- La Red de Educacion Temprana
- Leech Lake of Band Ojibwe
- Minnesota CarePartner
- Montessori American Indian Childcare
- Multicultural Autism Action Network
- Network for the Development of Children of African Descent
- Northwest Indian Community Development Center
- Parents in Community Action, Inc.
- Roots Community Birth Center
- Tserha Aryam Kidist Selassie Church (TAKS)
- Wicoie Nandagikendan



 **Community Solutions Grantee**

For more information, see "The Minnesota Community Solutions Fund for Healthy Child Development: A New Tool for Equity" by Betty Emarita or contact May Losloso, Voices and Choices lead staff, at (651) 855-1187 or send an email to mlosloso@childrensdefense.org.