

Pritzker Children’s Initiative

Planning Grant Opportunity for BIPOC/ALAANA-led/focused Organizations with an Interest in Prenatal to Age Three State Policy Efforts

Purpose: The Pritzker Children’s Initiative (PCI), under the leadership of the JB and MK Pritzker Family Foundation, is committed to supporting organizations **led by and focused on** BIPOC/ALAANA* communities around the expressed wants and needs of families with young children. To that end, PCI is inviting an application from a BIPOC/ALAANA-led/focused nonprofit organization in the following states – AR, CA, DC, LA, MD, MI, NE, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, PA, SC, TX or WI - to apply for a planning grant of \$100,000. Please [CLICK ON THIS LINK](#) and complete the short survey by July 5th to express your interest in this grant opportunity.

The purpose of the planning grant *is to build a statewide multi-racial coalition of BIPOC/ALAANA-led/focused organizations to prioritize building awareness of state policy opportunities around prenatal to age three (PN-3) issues and to unite around a plan for educating policymakers and other key stakeholders on PN-3 priorities for BIPOC/ALAANA parents, families and communities. It is hoped that this coalition would be willing to work collaboratively with other PN-3 funded coalitions in the state on common PN-3 priorities.*

Attached is an overview of the PCI strategy to give potential applicants an understanding of the PN-3 efforts PCI is supporting. We expect to fund one application per state and, if there are multiple potential applicants in a specific state, we will ask that they work together to submit a single application.

Our goal is to work with partners in states to reimagine and build anti-racist systems that will support the expressed wants and needs of families with children from prenatal to age three. PCI knows that BIPOC/ALAANA led/focused organizations have historically faced disproportionate barriers and challenges regarding funding - especially flexible funding - and often are not included in the processes that lead to systems policy changes (both legislative and administrative) that impact the communities they work with and in at the local and state level. PCI wants to assure people and organizations most impacted by systemic racism and income inequality are involved in the process of creating solutions by and for their communities and state. To that end, PCI intends to make grants that will advance the ability of these organizations to be involved in and lead state and community education and policy efforts to change systems that affect families with young children in BIPOC/ALAANA communities.

PCI already funds a PN-3 coalition in each of the above-named states and is also offering a separate planning grant to each existing PN-3 state coalition to deepen their work around PN-3 in the state. Ultimately our hope is that the funded BIPOC/ALAANA coalition would work in collaboration with other coalitions in the state on common PN-3 agenda items.

Applicants that successfully complete the planning grant phase and are able to create a coalition of BIPOC/ALAANA-focused organizations with an agenda that prioritizes PN-3 policy issues would be eligible to apply for a 3-year implementation grant of \$1 million over three years.

Grant Opportunity: Eligible applicants (see criteria below) may request a one-time planning grant of \$100,000 for a period of approximately one year for the purpose of building a statewide coalition of BIPOC/ALAANA focused organizations and communities to come together within a state around the idea of education around PN-3 policy priorities. The planning grant would be for the purpose of exploring the interest around such an idea and to consider a potential structure and approach for working together. The planning would also be for the purpose of determining what capacity building supports (financial and other supports) are needed for interested partners to work together around their agreed upon priorities. **We will likely support organizations in approximately 5 states (chosen from among the states in the list above/below) for this planning grant.**

Who is eligible to apply? Eligible organizations must be based in AR, CA, DC, LA, MD, MI, NE, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, PA, SC, TX or WI and meet the following criteria:

1. Either be a public charity as determined by the IRS under section 501(c)(3) or have a fiscal sponsor that has this IRS classification.
2. Be led by and focused on issues confronting BIPOC/ALAANA communities. Such an organization would be defined as meeting this criteria if, ideally, at least two-thirds of senior staff and/or board leadership positions are held by those who self-identify as BIPOC/ALAANA and are representative of the communities they work within. *(There is some flexibility in the specific measure of 2/3rds of board leadership positions.)*
3. Have a demonstrated track record of meaningfully engaging with and centering the lived experience, wisdom and expressed needs of families with young children in historically marginalized and underinvested communities. “Meaningfully engage” can be defined by the applicant as to what they think that means but, at a minimum, should go beyond surveys, questionnaires or focus groups that occur a few times a year and would include ongoing involvement of parents and families with young children throughout any and all processes that an organization is carrying out.
4. Have an interest in and commitment to policy priorities focused on the needs of families with young children as described above. While the foundation’s priority is on prenatal to age three (PN-3), an organization that does not have a history of focus on PN-3 but has an interest in expanding their focus to incorporate this age range would be considered for a grant.
5. Preference is to support an organization that is either currently state-level or may be community-based but is working towards or has a vision for involvement in state-level/statewide policy change and demonstrates a capacity to lead statewide on issues related to infants and toddlers and families beginning prenatally and is willing to work in collaboration with the PCI-funded PN-3 coalition in the state.
6. The grantee organization must demonstrate the capacity and the willingness to seek out and convene other organizations, representing other racial/cultural communities, around the idea of a coalition focused on state policy priorities related to families with infants and toddlers, beginning prenatally.

How do I apply? If you believe you meet the eligibility criteria as outlined above or have an interest in learning more, CLICK ON THIS LINK to express your interest by July 5. If you do meet the criteria and we believe there is viable potential for a grant in your state around PN-3 system building priorities, PCI will then set up a conversation to discuss the opportunity, provide more details, answer your questions and learn more about your current work, interests and goals. Key points to note include:

- **One Application Per State:** Ultimately, we would like no more than one application per state and prefer that all interested parties come together to determine who the applicant will be and how they will organize together to begin building the proposed coalition. To that end, if we get

multiple inquiries, we will connect you all together for further discussion. In the meantime, we are happy to answer any questions you have about this opportunity.

- **Don't spend a lot of time on your answers:** PLEASE do not spend a lot of time responding to the questions in the [survey monkey link](#). This is meant to be a simple process with basic questions that does not take a lot of your own valuable time. The purpose of answering the questions is to start a conversation once we understand your interest and that you meet the initial criteria. If you do, we'll follow up to set a time to talk further, answer your questions and get more information on your work.
- **July 5th Due Date:** If you receive information on this opportunity after the July 5th deadline, please email gcobb@pritzkerfoundation.org to see if the grant opportunity has closed for your state. We wanted there to be a quick turnaround on organizations expressing interest in order to determine how best to proceed. We are open to hearing from you after the July 5th date though and will respond based upon what we have determined at that point as to level of interest in a particular state and what makes sense across all the states under this request for proposal.

Questions? Email gcobb@pritzkerfoundation.org

NOTES:

- ***BIPOC/ALAANA:** When it comes to self-identifying language, the JB and MK Pritzker Family Foundation (PFF) seeks to communicate respectfully and we do not seek to impose language on members of any group. We respect the manner in which anyone prefers to self-identify. When referring to issues of racial equity, "we use the term BIPOC to highlight the unique relationship to whiteness that Indigenous and Black people have, which shapes the experiences of and relationship to white supremacy for all people of color within a U.S. context." We take this explanation and practice from the [BIPOC Project](#). We have also used African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, Native American – represented using the acronym ALAANA – because we know that many believe the term, "people or communities of color," conflates together entire groups of people. This results in a continued centering of whiteness as the norm and the standard from which other identities deviate. (This note is adapted from the Grantmakers in the Arts and reflects PFF's commitment and ongoing learning towards advancing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.)
- ****Lobbying:** As a private foundation, PCI may not fund lobbying activities. We recognize that for some applicants, lobbying activities may be permissible and their plans may involve lobbying activities. If the plan you are creating will include lobbying activities, it is important to identify such activities and the budget for such activities during the planning process.