





RESPONSIVE GRANTMAKING

THRIVING FAMILIES our responsive grantmaking strategy, focuses on: 1.) Housing, Health and Skill Building and 2.) Social and Emotional Well-Being. This strategy reinforces our commitment to lifting families out of poverty and aims to create community impact with organizations and programs that align with our mission.

How we define family: The Bruening Foundation employs a broad definition of "family." We support ALL types of families; most basically, a minor child(ren) and their trusted adult(s), which may include a parent, relative, legal guardian or other caregiver.

HOUSING, HEALTH, AND SKILL BUILDING

If families are unsafe or faced with social or economic disadvantages, it is difficult to provide the building blocks needed for family stability and well-being. We aim to support **access and connections** to housing, health, skill building and economic mobility services.

EXAMPLES OF A **GOOD FIT** FOR THIS PRIORITY:

HOUSING – Emergency shelter and transitional housing, case management to support housing stabilization and connections to permanent housing, financial counseling/coaching to prepare for homeownership

HEALTH – Navigation services to help locate and access appropriate healthcare and insurance, and connections to other resources that support health and well-being

SKILL BUILDING AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY – Adult literacy, acquisition of high school equivalency credentials, job readiness and training, connections to employment including placement and retention services, financial literacy, case management and barrier removal, translation and English for Speakers of Other Language services for immigrants

EXAMPLES OF WHAT WOULD **NOT** FIT:

- Programs or services for adults *without* family caregiving responsibilities
- Low-income housing development, rent subsidies, housing vouchers, down payment assistance, utility assistance, household items, home renovations and repair, and similar services
- Delivery of physical and/or behavioral healthcare services, physical health and wellness and prevention programs, health education and awareness, and health screening services
- PreK-12 education, career programming for youth, post-secondary education, scholarships, matched savings programs, childcare, and similar programs

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Social-emotional wellness is a person's ability to understand and manage their emotions, make responsible decisions, build and maintain relationships, and understand and empathize with others. It's important because it affects how individuals think, feel, and act.

We aim to support **promotion programs** that strengthen family relationships, increase protective factors and bolster social-emotional wellness making individuals more likely to engage in healthy behaviors.

EXAMPLES OF A **GOOD FIT** FOR THIS PRIORITY:

- Programs that foster social and emotional competencies: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making – with an established social-emotional learning curriculum, evaluation, and demonstrated outcomes
- Youth mentoring that aligns with MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership standards
- Evidence-based parenting programs that educate parents about child development, promote healthy parent-child interaction, and prevent or mitigate adverse childhood experiences
- Family-centered learning and play spaces
- Programs that aim to strengthen family relationships
- Parent café models
- Kinship, foster, and adoptive parent support programming
- Programs aimed at supporting relationships between children and their incarcerated parents

EXAMPLES OF WHAT WOULD **NOT** FIT:

- Behavioral health treatment services for children or adults
- Behavioral health crisis services
- School-based behavioral health services
- Group and recreational therapy (e.g., art or music therapy)
- Behavioral health awareness and education
- Behavioral health prevention services
- Youth programming and/or activities that do not incorporate an established social-emotional learning curriculum or align with MENTOR standards

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