

The Grandparent Resource Site Initiative

Request for Proposals

The *Grandparent Resource Site Initiative* has been funded by the Kellogg Foundation to provide a holistic system of services to custodial grandparent families. Faculty at Western Michigan University will be assisting local agencies to design and implement programming to meet basic needs (education, respite and support) of grandparents and will emphasize school readiness for preschool-aged children. Ten sites will be created during this initiative and each site will be guided by a Local Advisory Committee (LAC).

Services will be organized into a tiered system (see program model) with all levels building on programming offered in year one (support/educational groups for custodial grandparents and preschool-aged grandchildren and educational opportunities for community/educational professionals). Additional services in years 2, 3 and 4 could be implemented as determined by community needs assessments and recommendations from the Local Advisory Committee (LAC). Not all sites will choose to implement services from each tier; one site may choose implement Tier 1 services and then skip to Tier 3 or 4 services while other sites may implement specific services from sequential tiers.

Tier 1 Services: (all sites will plan to offer these services)

Grandparent Groups: Training and materials will be provided to enable agency professionals to implement and evaluate support and educational groups for grandparents using the *Second Time Around: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* curriculum. Groups will meet weekly for 10-12 weeks.

Grandchildren's Groups: Psycho-educational groups for grandchildren will meet concurrently with grandparent groups. Using the *Grand Ideas for Grand Kids* curriculum, grandchildren will participate in a literary-based program which exposes children to developmentally appropriate activities while providing opportunities for peer interaction and adult modeling.

Training Opportunities for Community Professionals: The holistic nature of this program recognizes the important roles played by a variety of family service professionals (ie: educators, social workers, public health workers, gerontologists, medical professionals, etc.). In-service meetings will be planned to assist professionals in recognizing unique strengths and challenges associated

with grandparent-headed families and to more effectively adapt programming to meet these needs.

Tier 2 Services: (sites may choose to select any or all of these services)

Continuation Groups: Grandparent/Grandchildren's groups will continue to meet monthly at the conclusion of the weekly groups. The majority of participants in previous groups welcomed opportunities for continued support and group involvement. Resources and training will be provided to assist interested sites in extending their programming beyond the initial groups.

In-Home Services: Services for some custodial grandparent families, who may profit from individualized support, will be provided in grandparents' homes by teams of trained professionals and selected graduates of the grandparent support groups. Topics will be similar to those covered in the Grandparent/Grandchildren's groups.

Child Care Providers Training: Many grandparents provide substantial amounts of child care for grandchildren who may or may not be living in their own home. Training and materials will be provided to support sites choosing to offer *Grandparent Child Care* training sessions. Research will be conducted to identify needs of grandparent child care providers and to document their important roles and the extent of the services they provide.

Tier 3: (sites may choose to select any or all of these services)

School-Readiness Mentors: Community members, who may or may not be grandparents themselves, will attend training sessions to prepare them for mentorship roles with children from grandparent-maintained homes. Mentors will learn skills related to school readiness and will interact weekly with preschool-aged children in the school, childcare or home settings.

Contemporary Grandparents: Participating sites will partner with community agencies to offer interactive workshops that emphasize grandparent strengths and contributions in the extended family context. Developed activities will focus on strengthening grandparent-grandchild(ren) relationships in both custodial and non-custodial grandparent families.

Tier 4: (sites may choose to select this service)

Grandparent Centers: *Grandparent Centers* will provide sites where grandparents can access a variety of services, network with other grandparents, and enjoy respite and educational opportunities. Each center will regularly assess and modify service to continue effectively meet grandparent family needs within their communities.

Tier 5: Continuation of Services and Evaluation

All involved personnel will be active partners in refining best practices and developing programs for grandparent-headed families. All *Grandparent Resource Sites* will be recognized as active and contributing members for this national-level initiative. Ongoing training, support and consultation services will be provided by Dr. Linda Dannison and Dr. Andrea Smith. Training for participating site personnel will occur via site visits, individual telephone and email contacts, and an interactive website. Additional trainings may occur at pre-arranged conferences. Curricular resources for all programmatic services will be provided. In addition, participating sites will have opportunities for regular interaction with other Grandparent Resource Site partners. Participating sites will receive up to \$3,500 per group for Tier 1 services. Proportionally increased financial support is available for services from other tier levels. These monies can be used for supplies (ie: materials, refreshments, child care, transportation, participant incentives, etc.) and staff costs (grandparent group facilitators, grandchildren's group teachers, para-professionals and/or child care aides).

Agencies who wish to apply for participation in this project must complete the RFP, accessed via the Grandparent Resource Site website (www.wmich.edu/grs/). Project-related evaluation will be guided by the Project Evaluator; participating sites will be expected to collect data according to published guidelines. In addition, each site will submit an annual report detailing both ongoing and proposed programmatic activities. A format for this report will be provided on the website.

Only non-profit agencies are eligible to apply for this grant. Evidence of non-profit status must be included. Each proposal should be prepared simply and economically, providing a concise description of the agency's ability to meet the proposal's requirements. Emphasis should be on clarity of content. Proposals should be no longer than 6 pages, with 1 inch margins and 12 point type, double-spaced. Electronic or hard copies must be received by December 15, 2006. Addresses are listed below. An accompanying letter of support, signed by the agency or program director, must be included.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- 1. Plan for Ongoing Services: (35 points)**
 - a. describe program activities and where they will take place
 - b. describe program population
 - c. goals
 - d. objective
 - e. timeline

- 2. Advisory Board: (10 points)**
 - a. proposed membership
 - b. proposed meeting dates
 - c. agendas

- 3. Budget: (10 points)**
 - a. budget
 - b. budget narrative
 - c. agency contributions

- 4. Staffing Plan: (10 points)**
 - a. roles and responsibilities
 - b. staff qualifications

- 5. Plan for Sustainability: (35 points)**
 - a. short term plan
 - b. long term plan

Please send electronic copies to Dr. Andrea Smith at andrea.smith@wmich.edu.

Please address hard copies to:
Dr. Linda Dannison
3018 Kohrman Hall
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008.