



## OVERVIEW OF THE MILLER FOUNDATION GRANTS PROGRAM

In 1967, Earl and Loraine Miller’s love for children prompted them to establish the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation.

For the past 50 years, it has been guided by the mission: **“To provide support for organizations serving the Long Beach community with emphasis on the health and well-being of children in need.”** The Miller Foundation supports the concept of “treating the whole child” and adopts the World Health Organization’s definition of health: “Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

The Miller Foundation’s grantmaking is focused on achieving meaningful impact towards our mission and honoring the legacy of Earl and Loraine Miller. We support high-impact organizations in greater Long Beach within our three program areas: Health, Education and the Arts.

Enclosed in this overview is more detailed information regarding our grantmaking program guidelines and application process.

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## KEY CONSTITUENCY SERVED

**Background:** Long Beach, the 7<sup>th</sup> largest city in California, is on one hand a city of great resources: culturally rich, boasting beautiful ecological features, and home to esteemed higher educational institutions. On the other hand, it is a city of great needs: facing high levels of poverty and its multiple effects, environmental pollution, and rising housing costs.

Over the years, Long Beach has become “a tale of two cities,” where certain neighborhoods are characterized by the benefits and resources of affluence and other neighborhoods are bearing the brunt of low incomes, decreased resources, and the challenges of communities of poverty.

Long Beach’s areas of affluence—concentrated primarily on the east side of Long Beach— are characterized by high annual median family incomes, longer life expectancies, higher employment levels, and overall community safety. Children have access to a vast array of resources that promote their development including high-quality schools and after-school enrichment programs of diverse types, excellent access to healthcare, and safe spaces to grow up and recreate.

Areas of critical need are concentrated primarily within **North, West Central, and Southwest** Long Beach. These neighborhoods experience high levels of poverty, exposure to environmental pollutants, and low levels of educational attainment. Families and children in these areas face great barriers in accessing health care resources, support in early education and educational attainment, and affordable arts programming. These neighborhoods also contain the largest concentration of children in the city.

**The Foundation’s Focus:** The Miller Foundation is committed to investing our resources to give children living within these high-need neighborhoods the opportunity to flourish, develop, and reach their full potential. Foundation funding will be primarily directed to programs that address issues within our three focused program areas that impact children in these identified vulnerable neighborhoods of greater Long Beach.

## PROGRAM AREAS

The Miller Foundation supports organizations that address the needs of the whole child within our three program areas:

- Health
  - Education
  - Arts
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### HEALTH

#### *Priority Focus Area: Access to Care*

**The Foundation's Focus in Health:** The Miller Foundation seeks to support organizations and programs that break down barriers and promote access to health care for vulnerable children. Types of care could include medical care as well as vision, dental, and mental health.

**Background:** A child's ability to receive appropriate and quality health care is fundamental to their overall health status and development. Children who lack access to early prevention, who are unable to obtain regular primary care to address health concerns before they escalate into serious conditions, and who do not have access to specialized care when they face health challenges or deteriorating chronic conditions cannot grow up to reach their full potential. They will not thrive in educational attainment, they will face more severe adult health conditions and lower health outcomes, and they are likely to die earlier than children with access to quality health care.

True to the intentions of Earl and Loraine, the Miller Foundation believes that all children have the right to quality health care regardless of their socioeconomic status, where they live, or what languages they speak. Although over the years enrollment in public health care insurance coverage has grown, significant disparities exist in relation to the health status and outcomes of children. Their ability to access the care they need is handicapped by barriers such as language or cultural differences of a child's family; limited hours, locations and availability of service providers; lack of awareness of available services; burdensome costs of co-pays, prescription drugs, or lost wages for parents; insurance systems that are difficult to navigate; and lack of transportation. Those most at risk of negative health outcomes often face the greatest challenges to getting the care they need.

Examples of programs the Foundation supports include (but are not limited to):

- Community or school-based clinics
- Promotion of a primary care “home” and early intervention rather than emergency room use when conditions reach a critical stage
- Expanded hours, transportation, or local facilities that increase ability to access services
- Programs that educate families about how to access care for their child (e.g., available resources in the community, how to navigate the insurance system)
- Programs that help connect children to care that is linguistically or culturally sensitive

**Desired Outcomes:** With its partners in the nonprofit and public sector in Long Beach, the Foundation hopes to help move the needle for children’s health in North, West Central, and Southwest Long Beach. Here are some of the indicators we hope to see as a result of our joint efforts:

- Improvements in the health status of children in these neighborhoods
- Reduced emergency room visits
- More underserved children enrolled in insurance
- Increased availability and use of primary care clinics and prevention services

## EDUCATION

### ***Priority Focus Area: High-Quality Educational Support for Young Children***

**The Foundation's Focus in Education:** The Miller Foundation is focused on supporting education for young children through the third grade. This includes organizations and programs that engage vulnerable parents and families in their child's development as well as programs that provide young children who are most at risk of lower educational success with high-quality pre-school and early childhood education.

**Background:** The impact of education extends far beyond the classroom and plays a decisive role in shaping children's futures. For example, its impact on health status is profound. Children who receive a quality education are more likely to have health insurance coverage, are less likely to be overweight or obese, and have a lower mortality rate and live years longer than children who face unaddressed learning challenges and do not advance in the educational system.

Pre-school and early education for children through the third grade builds a strong foundation (e.g., mental and social development, literacy skills) that promotes a child's long-term success in education. These resources are especially valuable for young children more at risk of lower educational attainment including those living in poverty or in non-English speaking households. These children often start school well behind other students in reading comprehension, writing, and overall skills needed for educational success. The gap in achievement continues and escalates throughout their education, given this lack of a strong foundation.

Despite what we know about their importance, those most at risk and in need have severely limited access to early education programs, special tutoring, and other resources to enable them to have a good start in the educational system. Expansion of resources is critical.

We also recognize the pivotal role parents and families play in children's early development and educational attainment. Many families and caregivers want to increase their ability to meaningfully engage in their child's development and learning, but also lack the resources to support their own language acquisition, good parenting skills and approaches, and how to navigate the educational system to access resources for their children.

Examples of programs the Foundation supports include (but are not limited to):

- High-quality, accessible childcare or pre-school services
- Programs that engage families in promoting the educational success of their child (e.g., parenting workshops, family-based programs, family literacy, and language acquisition)
- After-school programs focused on providing education-based support (e.g., academic tutoring, literacy, and English language learning)

**Desired Outcomes:** With its partners in the nonprofit and public sector in Long Beach, the Foundation hopes to help move the needle for young children's education in North, West Central, and Southwest Long Beach. Here are some of the indicators we hope to see as a result of our joint efforts:

- Increase the total number of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who are reading at grade level and hitting benchmarks in literacy
- Increase the number of children who have access to academic supports out of schools (e.g., computer labs, after-school programs)
- Increased enrollment in childcare and pre-school education
- Eventually, we hope to see long-term academic success of children, including boosting attendance and retention of students through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and high school graduation rates

## **ARTS**

### ***Priority Focus Area: In-School Arts Education***

**The Foundation's Focus in the Arts:** The Miller Foundation seeks to support organizations or programs that partner with schools and school districts to provide arts education programs directly in the classroom on a regular and consistent basis. We are interested in the visual, performing (e.g., music, theater, dance), and literary arts.

**Background:** A child's regular participation in the arts substantially promotes healthy human development. Important outcomes of arts involvement include: promotion of creativity and analytical thinking, coordination and mind-body agility, language development, educational advancement, mental health, and positive social expression and confidence.

These positive outcomes are best achieved when a child's involvement in the arts occurs over a prolonged period of time, is sequential and builds increased awareness and skills, and involves active engagement through direct participation. Arts education is an important vehicle for getting children involved in the arts, and is most effective when it is fully integrated into the classroom. This philosophy pertains to general or specialized arts education programs focused on dance, music, theater, visual arts, and literary arts.

Cuts in funding, focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) curricula, and the requirements of standardized testing have significantly reduced the arts in education. Parents, teachers, and administrators in affluent Long Beach neighborhoods have made up for this deficit through contributions, volunteering, and fundraising for special programming and facilities in their local schools as well as ensuring the availability of after-school arts classes and enrichment.

Students in low-income areas are hard hit, because parents and schools are not able to provide the resources to integrate the arts into children's education to make up for school budget shortfalls. Yet students in low-income areas are the very students that would most benefit from regular exposure and engagement in the arts.

Examples of programs the Foundation supports include (but are not limited to):

- Teacher training that enables regular classroom instructors to teach the arts and integrate the arts into core classroom studies
- Partnerships with arts organizations for sustained artists in residency programs where artists are engaged in classrooms in instruction and hands-on experiences

- Specialized arts training on campus that enable talented students to pursue in-depth arts studies
- Leveraging the Foundation's involvement and resources to improve school policies to integrate the arts into the core curriculum of children's education
- Programs that promote arts engagement among children and youth exhibiting low academic performance or negative social behaviors

**Desired Outcomes:** With its partners in the nonprofit and public sector in Long Beach, the Foundation hopes to help move the needle for children's development through the arts in North, West Central, and Southwest Long Beach. Here are some of the indicators we hope to see as a result of our joint efforts:

- Increase the number of children receiving regular high-quality arts programming in the classroom including measuring the number of art experiences for each child
- Raise academic performance (e.g., attendance in school, increased success in school) among children participating in arts education programming
- Demonstrate the linkage between arts engagement and promotion of positive social behaviors and mental health
- Grow the diversity of arts instruction offered, raising children's experiences in the arts across more than one form of art

## **TYPES OF SUPPORT**

The Miller Foundation provides funding for the following types of requests:

- Program (new or existing programs)
- Core operating support
- Capacity-building

Capital requests will not be considered unless they are directly tied into program delivery (e.g., equipment, technology, software, supplies, renovations). If you would like to make this type of request, please submit an application under our program support category and be sure to communicate your request clearly in both the written proposal and supporting budget documentation.

## **LENGTH OF SUPPORT**

Due to limited available funding, the Foundation will only consider one-year requests.

## PROPOSAL REVIEW CRITERIA

Funding priority will be given to programs or organizations that demonstrate:

- **Alignment:** Our nonprofit partners help us to achieve our mission and make an impact on children's health and well-being in the greater Long Beach community. We look to support organizations and programs that promote our mission and grantmaking goals through the services they provide in the community.
- **Program Impact:** We support organizations that provide demonstrable high-quality and efficiently operated programs. We value organizations that address the most pressing needs, and who prioritize their service delivery to the children of greater Long Beach that are most vulnerable. A key piece of impactful service delivery is evaluation and self-assessment, and we thus also look to support organizations who measure their outcomes and who strive to constantly improve service delivery through review of evaluation results and staying up to date on community trends and needs.
- **Sustainability:** Nonprofit organizations are critical pillars within the community; children and families most in need depend on steady service delivery and availability of resources. We value organizations that plan for and take actionable steps to ensure the sustainability of their organization and programs.
- **Leverage:** We want our grantmaking to empower our nonprofit partners and strengthen the capacity of the greater Long Beach nonprofit sector. We look for organizations that can leverage our grants to stimulate new funding (e.g., matching gifts, new revenues, or earned income) and build a strong base of support (e.g., individuals, business support, or foundations in and outside of the region).
- **Meaningful Collaboration:** Effective partnerships promote the sharing of best practices, reduce duplication of services, and enhance impact. We value organizations that integrate collaboration into their program design and delivery. This could include partnership with other nonprofit organizations or cross-sector service providers including local government, school districts, faith-based organizations, hospitals, etc.
- **Outstanding Governance:** Strong Board and staff leaders are cornerstones for effective organizations and impactful programs. We look for organizations that have Board and staff leaders who significantly contribute to the vision and innovation of their organization and bolster its operating capacity.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Organizations must meet one of the following basic eligibility criteria:

- Nonprofit organizations that are tax exempt under IRS Section 501(c)3
- Community groups that have a 501(c)3 organization serving as their fiscal sponsor
- Government agencies (e.g., city department, public school) that are able to provide proof of status as a government entity

The Foundation will only consider proposals for programs and services that serve the greater Long Beach community.

### **Ineligible**

The following are not eligible to receive Foundation funding:

- Organizations that have been in operation for less than three years
- Individuals
- For profit agencies
- Private foundations
- Endowments or deficit reduction campaigns
- Annual fund drives
- Political campaigns or lobbying
- Medical research
- Religious programs that are exclusionary to those outside of their religion (e.g., require membership to participate or use programs to promote membership in their religion)
- Organizations that discriminate by race, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation or national origin

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### ❖ ARTS PROGRAM AREA:

We are currently accepting applications within our Arts program area. Organizations should complete the attached grant application and submit a hard copy of their request via mail to:

*The Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation  
192 Marina Drive  
Long Beach, CA 90803*

**The deadline to submit applications is February 28, 2017 (application must be postmarked by this date).** Applications will not be accepted via fax or email.

### ❖ HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM AREAS:

Health and Education program area applications are by invitation only. Organizations who are invited to apply will receive their invitation letter and application instructions no later than January 15, 2017. Applications will be due by February 28, 2017.

The Foundation anticipates opening the Health and Education application process in the future.

### NOTIFICATION

Funding decisions for all three program areas will be announced in June 2017.

For more information, please email us at [info@eandlmillerfdn.com](mailto:info@eandlmillerfdn.com)  
or visit our website at <http://www.eandlmillerfdn.com/>.