

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION TO AWARD \$4 MILLION TO INCREASE CARE FOR UNDERSERVED CHILDREN**

HINSDALE, IL (MAY 1, 2006) -- The Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) announced today that it is seeking proposals for a \$4 million initiative to increase access to medical services for underserved or uninsured children in Illinois.

The Foundation intends to award grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 to nonprofits that submit the best proposals for expanding services in clinical settings through such activities as adding staff, space or equipment to accommodate the needs of children.

Any nonprofit that currently provides licensed oral or behavioral health services to children; does developmental screening/intervention; or that wants to expand general pediatric services is eligible to apply for funding. These include federally-qualified health centers (FQHC), FQHC look-alikes, school-based health centers, free clinics, and other community health centers.

"This initiative is part of our ongoing effort to identify and address system-wide gaps that prevent children in Illinois from receiving the comprehensive care needed to ensure their healthy development," said Susan Kerr, president, Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation.

The Foundation will give priority to applications from community-based organizations that operate as medical homes for underserved children in the state. Projects selected for support must be able to show evidence from evaluations of their ability to reach and sustain relationships with community residents as well as demonstrate how they can overcome barriers—such as geography, special needs, and/or race or ethnicity that prevent children from receiving services.

In submitting their applications, organizations must be able to show that:

- The project emphasizes care, coordination, and continuity of services.
- The project demonstrates innovative approaches to reach to underserved populations
- The organization offers comprehensive services, either alone or in close partnership with other community organizations.
- Evaluation is integrated into the organization's overall delivery of services.
- The leadership actively advocates for increased access to health care for the state's underserved children.
- The staff demonstrates cultural competency, and has appropriate credentials/experience to provide the services.
- The project has a plan to leverage additional resources, and the ability to sustain the project after one year.
- The costs of the project are realistic and relate closely to the scope of the project.

To learn more about the initiative or apply online, organizations should go to [www.ilchf.org](http://www.ilchf.org).

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The mission of the Hinsdale-based Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation is to improve the health of the state's children. It awards grants designed to remove geographic and financial barriers that prevent children from receiving the care they need. During the past two years the Foundation has awarded over \$11.2 million in grants across the state.

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