

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Funding Process Opens for 2017 United Way of the Midlands Karnett Trust Grants; Focus Is On Programs for Children with Intellectual Disabilities

Applications are now being accepted by United Way of the Midlands for a grant funded through the Karnett Trust. Eligible programs are those providing care, education or training to children-through-age 21 who have intellectual disabilities within the greater Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan region.

The grant process opens on Friday February 24th. Interested organizations have until 5:00 p.m. on April 7, 2017 to complete the Request for Proposal. Eligible organizations must be a 501(c) 3 entity in Douglas, Sarpy or Pottawattamie counties that has been in existence for at least three years. New eligible grantees are selected and enter into a grant-funded partnership for three years, not to exceed \$225,000.

- First year funding requests should not exceed \$100,000.
- Second year funding requests should not exceed \$75,000.
- Third year funding requests should not exceed \$50,000.
- Agency applications should request program support for three years and demonstrate a plan of sustainability for the program during years two and three of funding, and after the grant relationship has ended.

2017 KARNETT TIMELINE:

- February 21, 2017 – Request for Proposal (RFP) is open and can be found at www.UnitedWayMidlands.org/karnett
- February 24, 2017 – Online application portal opens. Link is available at www.UnitedWayMidlands.org/karnett
- April 7, 2017 – Applications must be completed through United Way's online portal by 5:00 p.m. CST.
- Notification of the grant award will occur by June 9, 2017.
- Interested parties may address questions to Mariel Harding at United Way of the Midlands, at 402-522-7958.

(An example of a program previously funded through the Karnett Trust is below.)

SUMMARY OF THE 2013-2016 KARNETT GRANT RECIPIENT PROGRAM & SUCCESS STORY:

The inaugural three-year Karnett Trust grant of \$165,000 was awarded in 2013 to the Munroe-Meyer Institute to create the Autism Care for Toddlers (ACT) Clinic in partnership with Autism Center of Nebraska. The new clinic provided important clinical services to economically-disadvantaged and underserved toddlers, who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The clinic provides early intervention services using applied behavior analysis (ABA), which is the only research-supported treatment for autism spectrum disorders. The clinic offers one-on-one services for toddlers with autism and a caregiver-training program.

(MORE)

RESULTS OF THE 2013-2016 KARNETT GRANT:

From September of 2013 through September of 2016, 40 toddlers and preschoolers ranging in age from 22-60 months were provided at least 10 hours of early intervention services per week.

- Initially, the clinic provided services 2 days a week for 5 hours each day. Currently, the ACT clinic is in operation 36 hours per week.
- The partners improved awareness and recognition of the prevalence of autism, and have begun to reduce barriers to access to care for early intervention services for children with ASD.
- The mean average score of positive responses in a Parent Satisfaction Questionnaire on effectiveness and satisfaction was 93.6%.

SUCCESS STORY:

"I am a parent of a child with autism, who was diagnosed in November of 2014 at the age of 3. At the time, he was barely combining two-word phrases, his eye contact was very minimal, and his tantrums as a result of his lack in ability to communicate were heart breaking. In his first five months, he has made huge strides, often talking in full sentences. His eye contact has improved tremendously, and his last evaluations with the ACT clinic revealed that his autism symptoms have improved and lessened. The ACT clinic has changed not only my son's life, but our family's too, empowering us to assist him with his needs, learning, and skills. We are currently working to address his feeding difficulties, and are having great success, again, thanks to the help from the great therapists at the ACT clinic. Thank you!"

Monroe Meyer Institute – Autism Care for Toddler (ACT) Clinic:

<http://unmc.edu/mmi/departments/psychology/psychservices/act-clinic.html>

About the Karnett Trust

This United Way of the Midlands grant program is funded through the Karnett Trust. Karnett funds are available to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie counties with programs that are focused on the care, education and training of children with intellectual disabilities in the Omaha metropolitan area.

About United Way of the Midlands

Thanks to donors, volunteers and community partners, United Way of the Midlands is not only focused on addressing our community's human needs today; it is focused on what can be, and what should be. It is building on today's strong partnerships to create even more comprehensive human service efforts tomorrow, so our community can solve some of the root causes of poverty. United Way is community-based, community-focused. Thanks to those who share their strength, United Way is COMMUNITY STRONG. We invite you to visit www.UnitedWayMidlands.org for more information