

Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Grantee Overview

Aviellah Curriculum & Consulting

Geographic Area: Twin Cities Metro Area

Focus Population: Caregivers of Black children

Activities to Support FFN Providers: Aviellah will provide coaching to FFN providers using a uniquely designed curriculum to support Black children in child care settings. For this grant, Aviellah will build upon previous work which supported six cohorts (12 FFN's in each cohort) of providers and increasing this to 12 cohorts, and will expand the age-focus of the curriculum from a focus on early childhood development to include five to eight year olds. Recruitment and traditional marketing will leverage networks of community partners and offer incentives to motivate providers for participate.

Change Inc.

Geographic Area: Twin Cities

Focus Population: Latinx-Hmong-Karen-Somali-American Indian-African American

Activities to Support FFN Providers: Change Inc. will assist FFN providers in implementing cultural and linguistically competent child care trainings with local partners. As they help train FFN providers, they will also equip providers with tools and technology such as laptops, hotspots and culturally attuned tech support for FFN providers as needed. Change Inc. believes that strategies for health equity must be co-created by and with populations who are facing the inequities, and they recognize that community-led initiatives are critical to their FFN work.

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)

Geographic Area: Metro

Focus Population: Latina

Activities to Support FFN Providers: Outreach will continue and expand successful engagement and partnership with Latino FFN providers, building on our existing network of 120 FFN providers. We will work in partnership with CLUES, Minnesota's largest Latino-led nonprofit organization. CLUES will hire a Navigator to provide one-on-one support to participants in accessing resources and information. Many in the community are not eligible to become Legal Nonlicensed providers given immigration status and barriers related to access. CLUES will also offer customized referrals to workforce training and small business development, as well as additional internal programs to support FFN provider goals.

Families First of Minnesota (MN)

Geographic Area: Winona, Rochester, Mankato

Focus Population: Hispanic, Somali and Middle Eastern Immigrant and Refugee Communities

Activities to Support FFN Providers: Families First of MN plans to employ one full-time staff member who will work across their regions to increase the diversity, number and educational capacity of FFN providers both existing and those not yet recognizing themselves as FFN caregivers.

Families First of MN hope to use their relationships within the communities they serve to focus on educating FFN providers and their families of the services and connections available to support their work as well as the families in their care.

Developing relationships within their cultural communities and developing strategies to meet the diverse needs of FFN providers will allow the FFN work to become an integrated part of the early childhood system.

Fond du Lac (FDL) Tribal College

Geographic Area: Fond du Lac Community

Focus Population: Indigenous-Ojibwe

Activities to Support FFN Providers: Four Ojibwe-speaking FFN trainees will receive 850 hours of training and experience in Ojibwe-based child care and education, immersed in Ojibwe language and culture at Grandma's House, with elders, parents, young children and OOG (*Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang*) language staff. An announcement of the FFN program will be circulated to over 200 graduates of the OOG language programs, as well as other members of the FDL community who speak Ojibwe. The final months of the project will be devoted to assisting the FFN caregivers with information and applications to become Legal Nonlicensed or licensed child care providers.

Indigenous Visioning (IV)

Geographic Area: Statewide Indigenous-Native American communities

Focus Population: Indigenous-Native American

Activities to Support FFN Providers: Indigenous Visioning will develop an Indigenous FFN Network throughout Minnesota through community outreach, tribal media and marketing; It will also provide FFN providers with supports such as mini-grants, resources and training opportunities; identify and support needs of FFN providers through focus groups, surveys and events; identify and support FFN providers who are interested in becoming a legal non-licensed (LNL) provider or licensed provider. Additionally, Indigenous Visioning will establish statewide partnerships to support FFN providers that provide culturally relevant learning, health/safety, child development and age appropriate educational activities.

Hmong Early Childhood Coalition (HECC)

Geographic Area: Twin Cities

Focus Population: Hmong

Activities to Support FFN Providers: HECC will continue to build a Hmong FFN network by attending community events and meeting individuals one-on-one, convening FFN on a monthly basis, and in-home coaching for FFN providers. As they connect with FFN providers, culturally and linguistically appropriate monthly trainings will be offered on topics such as child development, social emotional supports and growth opportunities. HECC will host quarterly session to assist Hmong FFN providers to become registered legal non-licensed providers or licensed care providers.

Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership (CAPLP)

Geographic Area: Child Care Aware Region 4: Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin Counties

Focus Population: Latinx

Activities to Support FFN Providers: Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership (CAPLP) Child Care Aware serves the nine counties of Region 4 (Becker, Clay, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Grant, Douglas, Traverse, Stevens, and Pope) in west central Minnesota. Currently CAPLP is seeking to hire a Child Care Navigator from within the Latinx community. This Navigator will help ensure that FFN caregivers feel supported with a foundation of racial and cultural relevance. The Navigator will work with caregivers to determine what resources they would most benefit from. This may include trainings, play and learn groups, home visits, health and safety kits and educational/early literacy supplies.

The Navigator will also help Latinx caregivers pursue legal nonlicensed (LNL) registration, as well as advocate to overcome some of the systemic barriers to becoming a LNL caregiver. These barriers include immigration status, home ownership status and the setting in which care is allowed. Initially, the Navigator will focus work in the Morris community through a partnership with Conexiones, a local non-profit that connects immigrants to the community. CAPLP is eager to extend services to Region 4 Latinx communities and welcomes the opportunity to partner with local non-profits and organizations with like-minded interests.

La Red Latina de Educación Temprana (Latino FFN Childcare Providers Network)

Geographic Area: Twin Cities (mainly Richfield/Bloomington)

Focus Population: Latino

Activities to Support FFN Providers: La Red will implement funding to pilot a new home visiting program and continue to carry out three primary components of La Red's model. This includes building credibility and expansion of the network and model, child care provider trainings and advocacy for policy and systems change.

MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership (CAP)

Geographic Area: Todd-Becker-Otter Tail-Wadena-Marshall Counties

Focus Population: Spanish/bilingual

Activities to Support FFN Providers: MAHUBE-OTWA will identify and recruit Spanish/bilingual FFN providers into support services and provide ongoing support to identified FFN providers. MAHUBE-OTWA will provide consistent, coordinated support to FFN providers, including technical assistance and registration support for Legal Nonlicensed (LNL) providers. By doing this, MAHUBE-OTWA will increase the number of registered LNL providers

Milestones

Geographic Area: Child Care Aware Region 7W: Benton-Sherburne-Stearns-Wright Counties

Focus Population: BIPOC-Somali-Sudanese-Latinx-African American

Activities to Support FFN Providers: To ensure that we are providing targeted focus to racially and culturally diverse FFN providers, Milestones plans to contract with Promise Neighborhood and Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization to provide the bulk of the work within their respective communities. This will include ensuring that all supports are available and implemented in a way that is racially and culturally relevant. The FFN supports and resources that are part of this project are available to all FFN providers without needing to register with the county. This will create opportunities to build relationships with FFN providers. When barriers to becoming a Legal Nonlicensed (LNL) provider are encountered, partners/contractors will work together to first understand what the barrier actually is and whenever possible will work to eliminate it. Milestones currently provides limited support for FFN providers to become LNL providers in order to access the Child Care Assistance Program. Through this work with Employment Services, relationships are in place with County partners to navigate this complex process.

Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (YCB)

Geographic Area: Broader Minneapolis

Focus Population: All races

Activities to Support FFN Providers: YCB will identify natural leaders in communities throughout Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs, and connect those leaders to existing resources so they can support FFN providers. We will also identify community partners working within the formal early childhood community who understand the importance of FFN providers and can help bridge the connection to benefit both systems of care. Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board will make intentional connections with programs supporting immigrant and refugee families to ensure access to early childhood supports and services for FFN care providers. We plan to expand our work with the family hub project to include resources for FFN providers. We have a strong relationship with both Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minneapolis Health Department. These relationships allow us to be consistent in providing the necessary support to providers and families that may need help with accessing screenings or referrals for their children. Through our partnership with Hennepin County, we have the ability to support providers who wish to become Legal Nonlicensed providers and help them

navigate the registration process. We can also help families in accessing Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), scholarships and/or placement in high quality early learning programs. We plan to stay connected to forums for sharing what works and lessons learned, as well as for celebrating successes and innovation.

Northland Foundation

Geographic Area: NE Minnesota

Focus Population: 7 counties (Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Lake, Itasca, Koochiching, and St. Louis County) 5 Tribes (Bois Fort, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, and Mille Lacs)

Activities to Support FFN Providers: The Northland Foundation will build on the groundwork of our highly successful state-funded pilot project focused on FFN providers, as well as our continued efforts to support informal caregivers through our community-based educational sessions from 2011-2021. The goal of the DHS-funded program is to build the capacity of informal caregivers to enhance their skills to promote children’s physical and social-emotional development. Together with our partners from across the region, we will: conduct outreach to identify needs, recruit participants, and engage new and existing FFN providers in programming; provide community-based education sessions for FFN providers in targeted sites; create a regional network to facilitate information sharing, provide training, strengthen relationships, and provide sustained supports for FFN providers; and increase the number of registered legal non-licensed (LNL) providers. Through this collaboration, we will build a strong regional network to support FFN providers and the young children and families they serve for years to come.

Restoration For All, Inc. (REFA)

Geographic Area: Twin Cities

Focus Population: African Immigrant & Refugee

Activities to Support FFN Providers: REFA will increase collaboration and participation among communities to create an enabling environment. This will build awareness and understanding of FFN. Additionally, REFA will deliver culturally relevant outreach and training. that increase Using this culturally and holistic approach, the quality of care that FFN caregivers provide will increase to children and families. Finally, REFA will provide support and connect current and potential FFN caregivers to community resources. This includes professional development opportunities to increase the quality of care to children and families.

Rice County Growing Up Healthy (GUH)

Geographic Area: Rice County

Focus Population: Latinx

Activities to Support FFN Providers: The project involves more than a dozen different strategies to help provide racially and culturally relevant outreach, training and materials to Rice County's FFN providers. From offering Spanish CPR and first aid to creating a fund for one-time purchases to make environments safe for children, to having a menu of community partners willing to lead educational sessions, these activities have been developed from the intentional conversations GUH has had with FFN providers over the past two years. Each year, GUH conducts more than 4,500 one-on-one conversations with community members living in mobile home parks and low-income apartment complexes.

One of the questions GUH will continue to ask during these conversations is around who cares for their children. Through this process, GUH's neighborhood organizers learn about new FFN providers and can make those direct referrals. As FFN caregivers encounter financial or training barriers to Legal Nonlicensed (LNL) provider registration for CCAP, GUH will coordinate scholarship assistance and free training (including CPR/First Aid) to remove these barriers. GUH will document the barriers and challenges FFN caregivers face when trying to register as LNL and will raise those up with partners at the local and state level to advocate for system improvements.

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.

Geographic Area: Child Care Aware Region 1: Roseau-Kittson-Marshall-Pennington-Red Lake-Polk-Norman

Focus Population: All communities needing assistance with an extra effort in the Somali-Russian Orthodox-Lao communities

Activities to Support FFN Providers: Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. will provide outreach to individuals already providing Family Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care and Legal Nonlicensed (LNL) care and recruit new FFN caregivers. Special emphasis will be made in cultural communities and for persons with English as a second language. Community partners will be an important part of this work since they may already have the connections and relationships needed to engage potential caregivers and parents. As we develop relationships with the FFN caregivers, we will provide information on becoming a LNL caregiver to enable parents to use the CCAP program. If caregivers express an interest in caring for additional children or getting licensed, we will provide assistance and ensure that interpreters are available to provide translation. Activities will vary and will specifically meet the needs of the community being served. To ensure children have developmentally appropriate learning opportunities, we will provide resources and school readiness materials to caregivers. There will also be health and safety items distributed to caregivers to assist with providing a healthy and safe environment.

United Community Action Partnership (UCAP)

Geographic Area: Child Care Aware Region 6E: Kandiyohi-McCloud-Meeker-Renville counties

Focus Population: BIPOC-Somali-East African-Karen-Latino-Native American

Activities to Support FFN Providers: UCAP will begin by marketing and sharing information to define FFN caregiving, including flyers and delivering presentations to community groups. UCAP will actively recruit FFN caregivers to engage in surveys, listening sessions and conversations with cultural navigators and child care specialists and encourage them to partake in support services. Through the collaboration of child care specialists and cultural navigators, UCAP will offer supports individualized to each FFN provider needs, while encouraging the goal of becoming a Legal Nonlicensed provider. There will also be technical support to understand the community resources available to them and their families. When engaged in mentoring activities, the early childhood specialist and cultural navigators will practice reflective communication. All of these activities will be tracked and analyzed for participation numbers, resources given, community in-kind and support and gaps seen.

Wilder Foundation African American Babies Coalition & Projects & St Paul Promise Neighborhood (AABC & SPPN)

Geographic Area: Urban & Greater MN

Focus Population: BIPOC-Black-Brown

Activities to Support FFN Providers: AABC and SPPN will develop and facilitate culturally relevant crisis prevention and intervention training for licensed and unlicensed FFN providers. This will utilize a newly developed curriculum that uses cultural humility and builds on the innate assets of the African American community. This ensures children and families in St. Paul and rural Minnesota have the resources needed to address trauma in families and communities, and responds to current stressful events. FFN providers will receive training on this curriculum to support FFN providers.