



Boston University Institute for Early Childhood Well-Being
University-Community Partnership Research Awards
Request for Proposals

The BU Institute for Early Childhood Well-Being (IECWB) is pleased to announce its inaugural Request for Proposals (RFP) for our University-Community Partnership Research Awards. These seed grants support research addressing new approaches for sustaining young children’s health and overall well-being locally and globally through collaborations among BU early childhood researchers and community collaborators. We are particularly interested in proposals that address threats to early childhood well-being including the negation of children’s human rights, chronic stress and trauma, poverty, inequities among the social determinants of development, health, and mental health, impact of structural racism, unequal access to high quality early care and education, discrimination based on class, race, sex, gender, and religion, immigration experiences, new and emerging diseases (e.g. COVID-19), and the environmental consequences of global climate change that affect children’s lives.

Eligibility and funding

All BU faculty are eligible to apply for funding. Interdisciplinary collaboration is required. Each proposal must involve at least two investigators from different disciplines or schools/colleges and one non-BU community partner. The community partner must be intricately involved with the research endeavor (e.g. choosing research questions, deciding on research design, choosing research measures). Successful proposals will receive seed funding of up to \$15,000 for a one-year project. It is expected that projects supported under this RFP will lead to a larger grant submission; specific grant mechanisms and funding agencies/foundations must be described. Awards cannot be used to support faculty salaries. IECWB seed grant funding is not able to cover conference travel. We anticipate funding up to 4 proposals. Grant awards should be used within one year with a possible option for a no cost extension in limited circumstances.

An Application Review Committee formed by IECWB faculty and community advisors will review proposals.

Important Dates

RFP Release Date: September 24, 2021

Proposal Due Date: November 19, 2021

Proposal Revision Date: January 31, 2022

Notification Date: February 14, 2022

Program Start Date: April 1, 2022

Program End Date: March 31, 2023

About the BU Institute for Early Childhood Well-Being

The IECWB launched in March of 2020 to research and transform early childhood nurturing ecosystems locally and globally and to mitigate the impact of all types of adversity, including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and broad social inequities. We define early childhood as the period from birth to eight years of age. Early childhood adversity can cause trauma and toxic stress, which in turn creates an enduring public health burden, increasing the risk of mental and physical illness in adulthood and contributing to socioeconomic and racial health disparities. Early childhood well-being means having the requisite physical, cognitive, and social-emotional capabilities necessary for realizing one's full human potential. We are dedicated to creating holistic nurturing ecosystems integrated across disciplinary boundaries to maximize child well-being, improve inequities in health and education, prevent trauma and build resilience.

Institute for Early Childhood Well-Being Priority Areas

All proposals must focus on young children birth through eight years of age. Investigators can propose using various research designs and strategies including: primary data collection, secondary data analysis, pilot prevention or intervention programs, surveys, community-based participatory studies, and qualitative or mixed methods designs. The following is a list of priority areas for this funding opportunity:

- Children's human rights
- Stress and trauma
- Poverty
- Inequities related to social determinants of development, health, and mental health
- Inequities in access to high quality early care and education

- Impact of structural racism
- Immigration experiences and children's well-being
- Discrimination based on class, sex, gender, race, religion, and gender identity
- New and emerging diseases (e.g. COVID-19)
- Environmental consequences of global climate change that affect children's lives

Submission

Please follow our RFP Guidelines for submissions.

All proposals must be submitted as a single PDF and include the following relevant documents: Three page application narrative (maximum; single space), reference page(s), letter(s) of support, budget, and investigators' 3-page biosketches or resumes.

Contact: Questions about the RFP should be addressed to ecinstitute@bu.edu