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**REDUCE AND PREVENT CHILDHOOD TRAUMA
AND EARLY INTERVENTION OF
ABUSE, NEGLECT AND OTHER
ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES**

**Application Grant Program
Funding Guidelines 2016**

REDUCE AND PREVENT CHILDHOOD TRAUMA FUNDING PRIORITY

Childhood trauma can be the result of intentional violence such as physical or sexual abuse, neglect and domestic violence, or the result of natural disaster, accidents, or sudden loss of a parent/caregiver.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) such as childhood abuse, neglect, and exposure to other traumatic stressors are common, and their impact on long-term health and mental health outcomes are well documented. Multiple studies indicate that between 53% and 64% of US adults report at least one ACE, and more than 20% report three or more ACE. While New Hampshire has not replicated the ACE study, extrapolation from other studies and the 2013 US Census suggests that as many as 14,400 New Hampshire children under the age of five experience three or more ACE. According to the US Administration for Children and Families, the NH Division of Children, Youth and Families received 13,643 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect in 2013.ⁱ

The short- and long-term outcomes of these childhood exposures include health problems such as heart disease, bronchitis or emphysema and stroke, cancer, sexually transmitted infections, and depression, as well as behavioral risks such as excessive drinking, substance use, cigarette smoking, and attempting suicide.ⁱⁱ

Adverse childhood experiences and trauma can have significant impacts on young children and infants. Childhood trauma can affect every aspect of a child's development and functioning including cognitive, emotional, behavioral, social, physical and moral development. The negative impacts of trauma seen during childhood and into adulthood can include reduced school readiness and performance, behavioral and mental health problems, increased rates of substance abuse, serious health problems, decreased educational attainment and reduced employment status.

Responding effectively to the impact and results of childhood trauma within the context of larger systems - families, caregivers, child-serving agencies and the community as a whole - can result in better outcomes for children. For this reason the HNH Foundation is interested in approaches that are inclusive of children and their parents, caregivers, and the organizations that support them.

REDUCE AND PREVENT CHILDHOOD TRAUMA FUNDING STRATEGIES

The purpose of HNH Foundation's Childhood Trauma funding is to strengthen protective factors and early intervention practices to prevent or ameliorate childhood trauma and other Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Applications for grant funding to address the Childhood Trauma goal must address one or more of the following strategies:

1. Demonstration and replication of research-informed, emerging and promising practices to promote safe, stable and nurturing relationships between children and caregivers to prevent childhood trauma

A number of individual, family and community level protective factors help prevent childhood trauma. A significant body of evidence points to *safe, stable, nurturing relationships* between children and their parents and caregivers as a *critical protective factor* for prevention of child abuse and maltreatment that leads to childhood trauma.

The HNH Foundation is accepting proposals that promote the protective factor of safe, stable, nurturing relationships between infants and young children and their parents and caregivers. Within this broad framework, the Foundation is particularly interested in strengthening and expanding practices that have been demonstrated to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, for example: comprehensive home visiting grounded in a research base; prenatal care and family planning, and maternal mental health screening and care. Innovative approaches to address specific population needs or cultural contexts are also of interest.

2. Embed capacities for trauma-informed care in all early child-serving environments

Trauma-informed care is an important component of effective service delivery for vulnerable children and families and for early intervention to mitigate the effects of childhood trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

To provide trauma-informed care to children and their families, service providers must have an understanding of the impact of trauma on child development and learn how to effectively minimize its effects without causing additional trauma. Programs and agencies providing trauma-informed care infuse trauma awareness, knowledge, and skills into their organizational cultures, practices, and policies.

HNH Foundation will accept proposals from organizations that provide services to young children, including but not limited to health and mental health care, education emergency response, and recreation. The Foundation is particularly interested in proposals from primary care providers, early child care programs, home visiting and family support programs, community mental health agencies, municipal and State agencies and emergency response programs.

3. Data collection, analysis, communication and advocacy to increase public support and funding of policies and practices to promote safe, stable, and nurturing relationships between children and caregivers and embed capacities for trauma-informed care in early child-serving environments.

Economic realities have taken their toll on programs serving vulnerable families with young children. In New Hampshire and nationally, paying for today's urgent needs competes with funding for programs with longer-term payoff. Ensuring public support and investment in prevention and early intervention requires sustained education and advocacy to build awareness and capacity for advancing and institutionalizing long-term systemic solutions.

The HNH Foundation invites proposals from individual organizations and coalitions engaging in data collection, analysis, strategic communication, education and effective advocacy that increase awareness of root causes of childhood trauma, and advances policies, regulatory frameworks and public funding for prevention and early intervention of childhood trauma.

ⁱ US-HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Maltreatment Report 2013

ⁱⁱ Felitti, Vincent J., Robert F. Anda, Dale Nordenberg, David F. Williamson, Alison M. Spitz, Valerie Edwards, Mary P. Koss, and James S. Marks, "Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 14(4):245-258, 1998.