

# **Grassroots and Parent Activism in Education**

**EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM AND  
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM**

### **Program description**

The Education Support Program and the Early Childhood Program of the Open Society Foundations are pleased to invite applications for its Grassroots and Parent Activism in Education 2019 call for proposals. The program seeks to support grassroots-level Hungarian civil society initiatives that address education challenges of vulnerable school and pre-school age children from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds or with unique educational needs.

Additionally, applicants may also include specific activities aiming to foster parent mobilization, empowerment, collaboration and participation in order to achieve the goals of this call.

### ***Core project activities***

Initiatives that wish to address education challenges of vulnerable children aged 0-18 from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds or with unique educational needs can request up to USD 14,500 for projects spanning no more than 12 months, with eligible expenses from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. One organization or informal initiative can present only one application.

Projects may pursue this goal through a variety of means, **for example** by:

- Introducing, strengthening or facilitating the transmission of classroom and school-level/ preschool-level practices that foster equity in education;
- Strengthening the agency of parents, students and educators in fighting discrimination and improving both access and equitable education provision;
- Developing innovative models of improving or expanding education opportunities for vulnerable school and pre-school age children;
- Securing and expanding joint learning opportunities of vulnerable children and children from more secure backgrounds;
- Challenging negative stereotyping, prejudice and racism among educators, school/ preschool administrators, students, children and parents;
- Articulating and communicating key messages regarding issues of inequality and injustice in education to the wider public as well as local, county and national policy makers.

### ***Optional module – parental organizing***

Through this call, OSF also aims to **support parental groups or informal initiatives that wish to advocate for the right to quality inclusive services, including quality, inclusive education for vulnerable children** aged 0-10 from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds or with unique educational needs. Additional funding of maximum USD 5,000 may be requested for activities aiming to foster parental engagement, empowerment and



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organizing, to be implemented during the same time period (12 months starting on September 1st, 2019).

Examples of additional parent-oriented **activities may include, but are not restricted to the following:**

- Supporting self-organizing efforts of parents in fighting discrimination and improving equitable access to quality education / preschool education;
- Facilitating peer learning, collaboration and networking activities within and between parent groups;
- Mobilizing parents through awareness raising and parent-led community organizing to advocate for their rights and for the rights of their children;
- Supporting informal gatherings of parents and exchanges;
- Providing learning opportunities to parents from disadvantaged background aimed at improving their ability to support children in making the most of available educational opportunities;
- Improving access of parents from disadvantaged backgrounds to school governance bodies and policy making;
- Facilitating improved teacher-parent relations and collaborations, especially where parents from disadvantaged backgrounds are concerned;
- Facilitating contact and collaboration between parents from different social backgrounds.

***Optional budget lines—collaborative work***

Initiatives that wish to dedicate efforts to **increasing the sustainability of their operations in collaboration with other grassroots education initiatives** may include an additional USD 500 to their budget for this purpose. Make sure to fill in the relevant section of the proposal form and budget lines in the budget form. These collaborative work activities will not count towards the applicant's overall score.

**Examples** of eligible activities include:

- active contribution to organizing a workshop, group consultation, mentoring sessions, etc. relating to areas such as fundraising, financial management or volunteer management for a group of staff or volunteers from different initiatives;
- active contribution to collaborative work towards setting up innovative models of sharing resources or jointly owned ventures (sharing office space, accounting services, fundraising or publishing capabilities etc.);
- active contribution towards setting up and coordinating peer learning groups, mutual support groups or supervision sessions for staff or volunteers from multiple initiatives;

- active contribution towards setting up and coordinating working groups to design new interventions, projects or draft joint funding applications.

### **Budget and grant amount**

The overall budget under this call is USD 150,000 for core activities and USD 50,000 for parental organizing modules. Co-funding from other sources is not required. The grant amount will be received in pre-financing as one installment. One organization / informal initiative can only submit a single application, with core activities as a requirement and the parental organizing module as an option.

Applicants may request a maximum of USD 14,500 for core project activities.

Applicants may include additional maximum USD 5,000 within the same application for activities that address the program's goals through fostering parental engagement, empowerment and organizing.

Applicants may also include an additional USD 500 to their budget for activities aiming to increase the sustainability of their operations through collaboration with other grassroots education initiatives.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be considered for support, organizations/informal initiatives applying for this call for proposals must meet all of the following criteria:

- address educational equity challenges of vulnerable school and pre-school age children from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds or with unique educational needs;
- envision activities that build on the grassroots activism of local stakeholders;
- implement project activities in Hungary;
- be of a not-for-profit character if established as a legal entity and have a clearly non-profit public benefit purpose if applying as an informal initiative;
- be an informal group with not-for-profit aims, consisting of at least 3 active individuals older than 18 if applying as an informal initiative;
- work at the community level and make use of volunteer support.

When applying for both core activities funding and the parental organizing module funding, both must meet the same eligibility criteria. The only point of difference is age (0-18 for core activities, 0-10 for parental organizing).

**Evaluation criteria**

The core activities and parental organizing module will be evaluated separately, on the basis of different criteria. Quality of core activities is a precondition for consideration of the proposal's parental organizing module. Applications may be awarded support for their core activities, but not for the parental organizing module. Applications cannot be awarded support only for their parental organizing module, however.

**Core project activities**

The selection committee will consider the extent to which:

- activities in the proposal effectively address well-defined educational equity challenges of vulnerable children aged 0-18 from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds or with unique educational needs (score weight x2.0);
- the proposal clearly defines project target group(s) and sets forth outreach indicators in terms of profile, geography and numbers (score weight x1.25);
- the proposal identifies education stakeholders that are relevant for achieving the project's goals (local administration, teachers, principals, students, parents, policy makers etc.) and includes a vision for cooperation with them (score weight x1.5);
- the initiative has engaged in preliminary dialogue with education stakeholders identified as key for achieving the goals of the project (score weight x1);
- the project envisages engagement with formal education institutions (such as local schools) to effect or amplify its impact;
- the planned activities and their implementation is realistic and described in a clear and comprehensive way (score weight x1.25);
- the budget is justified, balanced, and reflects the activities planned (score weight x1).

***Optional module—parental organizing***

The selection committee will consider the extent to which:

- the module offers a realistic plan for bringing together and fostering self-sustaining collaboration and peer learning among parents of children aged 0-10, particularly parents of vulnerable children (score weight x1.5);
- the module presents a realistic action plan for strengthening the agency of parents (score weight x1.5);
- the proposed activities aspire to foster interaction and collaboration between parents from different social backgrounds (score weight x0.75);
- the module envisages engagement with formal education institutions (such as local pre-schools and schools) to amplify its impact (score weight x0.75).

### **Eligible expenses**

Any project-related expenses for which the organization, informal group can obtain receipts/invoices as required by Hungarian accounting standards may be included, with the following exceptions:

- purchase of real estate;
- purchase of securities, such as company shares or bonds;
- repayment of debts or debt-servicing fees.

### **NOTE FOR INFORMAL INITIATIVES:**

Please make sure to include any taxes and social security contributions to your budget, as the grant will be considered a personal income by public authorities.

### **How to apply and important dates**

**The deadline for application** is Monday, **June 10, 2019 at 5:00 pm CET**. Incomplete or late applications will not be given consideration. Project proposals should be submitted in English using the application form and budget template [available for download](#):

#### ***Required documentation***

Before starting the submission process, make sure to have the following documentation ready. Do not submit the project proposal form or budget in PDF format (use editable Excel and Word file formats).

#### ***REGISTERED NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS***

- fully completed project proposal form;
- fully completed budget template form;
- the organization's latest annual financial report;

#### ***INFORMAL INITIATIVES***

- fully completed project proposal form;
- fully completed budget template form;
- signed and scanned CVs of the 3 project implementers that include the following statement: 'I have read the attached project proposal and agree to fulfil the role(s) associated with my name.'

#### ***Application process***

Applicants need to use the Open Society Foundations [online portal](#) for proposal submissions.

- If you have registered in the past, but would like to use a different email address, simply create a new account using the new email address. Make sure to fill in your organization's legal identification number – this will create a link between the accounts.
- If you cannot remember your password, click on *Can't access your account?* to reset it.
- Once you register, you will have access to an account where you can upload your grant proposal and annexes, as well as to initiate amendment requests.
- If you are applying as an organization, you are not required to upload *IRS tax returns, Tax Determination Letter*.
- If you are applying as an informal initiative, please leave the following fields blank: *executive director, fiscal year start/end date*. Filling in the *current organization budget* field is optional. You are also not required to upload the *Financial Statements, IRS tax returns, Tax Determination Letter, Annual report, or List of Board Members*.
- Please note that you need to complete the application process, including uploading the documents, in a single go – progress cannot be saved.
- Successful applicants will be notified by July 8<sup>th</sup> 2019. Rejection letters will be issued by July 17<sup>th</sup> 2019.
- We wish you a good experience with your application process!