Angels of Change Grant Opportunity
Request for Proposals

Summary

- **Purpose** – Angels of Change grants are collective impact awards made to coalitions working together to address the systemic health and quality of life issues impacting Louisiana’s young people. Specifically, coalitions must include at least two (but preferably more) organizations represented by different Angel Award honorees.

- **Amount** – We will make ten grants of up to $250,000 each to be implemented over one to three years. Multi-year awards will be made in yearly increments with each year increment contingent upon successful performance of previous benchmarks or grant completion.

- **Matching** – Angels of Change grants do-not require a match although matching commitments will factor favorably into calculations of project sustainability.

- **Applying** – Requests are made through a Letter of Intent, submitted online at BCBSLAFoundation.org.

- **Deadlines** – December 1, March 1, June 1 and September 1 until funds are exhausted; If the 1st falls on a weekend or holiday we will accept Letters of Intent through the deadline, but we will not be in the office to answer questions. In this case, we recommend submitting your Letter of Intent no later than 4:00pm CST on the last work day preceding the deadline.
Purpose

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation is committed to improving the health and lives of all Louisianians, but especially the state’s children.

Over the last 25 years, The Angel Award has recognized more than 220 outstanding advocates for children across the state, working in a number of issue areas such as housing, food security, mental health, physical fitness, foster care and many others. Based on observations of their successes, as well as data from our collective impact grant programs, we believe that grassroots coalitions and partnerships are key to making the long-term changes necessary to improve outcomes for our children.

We’re challenging leaders from within our Angel community (past honorees as well as the organizations they represent) to collaborate on proposals to make effective, lasting change. Applicants may choose to partner based on a number of factors:

- **Issue** – Organizations whose missions address the same topic, such as a coalition working on foster care issues across regions within the state
- **Geography** – Organizations working together to provide a deeper level of service to children, such as a coalition working to provide a full range of health and mental health screenings to students within a specific ZIP code

However, the collaboration must identify, propose and execute solutions that work to make lasting impact for the children served.

Project Design

The ideal Angels of Change grant project will identify a pressing issue impacting Louisiana kids and tackle the root causes of that issue through changes in policies, norms, practices, social supports and the physical environment. Projects should have and incorporate:

- A comprehensive plan outlining the children’s need to be addressed, the specific population to be served and a demonstrated link between that need and the proposed project
- Multiple collaborators, including the leadership of at least two or more Angel Award honorees, who make up a coalition capable of achieving the project’s aims and sustaining the effort/programs after the grant period
- A proposal based on research and best-practice models where applicable
- A research component looking at the short-, medium- and long-term effectiveness of the project, which will be funded separately by the Foundation
- Plans for sustaining the project after the grant period ends, including any matching funds already identified

We give preference to projects pursuing new ways of thinking or addressing a problem, projects that can be scaled if effective, and projects that reach children from disinvested communities or who experience disproportionately negative outcomes based on race or poverty. The ideal project will naturally reflect and communicate the values and impact of our Foundation.

**Application Components**

- **Letter of Intent** - We accept Letters of Intent on a quarterly basis. Letters of Intent should outline the project, its partners, a brief statement of need, indicators and outcomes for success, evaluation methods and how funds will be used.

- **Full Application** – Based on Letters of Intent, we will invite the most compelling applicants to complete a formal application. This formal application will provide a narrative outline of the project, target audience/geography, need, deliverables, evaluation method and use of funds and partners.

**Selection and Awards**

Submitting a Letter of Intent is only the first step. If a project is selected for consideration, we will ask applicants to submit a formal application online.

Submitting a full application is not a guarantee of funding. We cannot guarantee that we will invite every interested coalition to submit a full application. Funding is limited; we cannot fund every project even if it meets our criteria for success.

The maximum amount awarded per grant will be $250,000 over three years.

Blue Cross Foundation staff will evaluate full applications based on a number of criteria with assistance from experts. This information will be presented to the Foundation’s
Board of Directors. Funding for Angels of Change grants is at the sole discretion of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation’s Board of Directors.

The ideal Angels of Change project is:

- Led by two or more previous Angel Honorees and their represented organizations
- Based on a clear, measurable challenge faced by Louisiana’s children
- A plan of action backed by research or, at a minimum, a very clear theory of action in absence of research and best practices
- Comprehensive and systemic, addressing root challenges of the issues faced by the children in question
- Properly staffed by an organization with capacity to complete the project, and backed by a community coalition substantial enough to achieve desired outcomes
- Scalable and, if successful, able to be replicated in other places

If your organization receives an Angels of Change grant award, your grant contract will stipulate an annual report on progress/program with data.