Program Goal
The goal of the Children’s Initiative is to support direct service programs that create and promote stability, resilience, and healing for children who have witnessed domestic violence.

Program Guidelines
In order to be considered, programs must meet all of the following requirements.

1. The program’s targeted age group(s) must be between 0 – 14 years of age who have witnessed domestic violence.
2. Provide direct, age-appropriate services to address the impact of having witnessed domestic violence.
3. Be a new program for the organization that is within its first year of development or implementation. The Foundation does not fund existing programs or the expansion of existing programs.
4. Include a plan for an outcome-based evaluation of the program. The plan should contain rigorous metrics for assessing the program’s effectiveness in healing children who have witnessed domestic violence.
5. Services include a program component that enhances the relationship between the child and parent/primary caregiver.

Priorities
The Foundation gives priority to programs that:

1. Include a specific domestic violence education component for the parent/primary caregiver.
2. Offer therapeutic services beyond crisis intervention and the establishment of initial safety, providing for a continuity of care.
3. Collaborate with other organizations to enhance services, measure outcomes, or expand and share knowledge.

Eligibility
Organizations must be classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Only programs operating within the United States will be considered.

Grant Size
The average grant size for the Children’s Initiative is $25,000 or less.

Multi-Year Funding
The Foundation may support programs for up to three years, but will not commit funds for the second or third year without an annual review. It is the Foundation’s desire to continue funding successful programs, subject to available funds. Because programs will not be funded for more than three years, you are encouraged to plan for the long-term sustainability of the program.

Please note that the Stage 1 Application submission deadline is March 1.
Organizations requesting second or third year funding for programs approved the previous year must continue to submit a Stage 1 Application by March 1. Following the review of Stage 1 Applications, organizations invited to continue the application process must submit a Stage 2 Application by August 1 of each year. Organizations seeking third year funding must also have submitted a grant report for the first year of funding by the required due date stated in the Grant Agreement to be considered for funding.

Restrictions
The Foundation will not consider proposals for:

- Programs that do not directly impact or provide services to children.
- Ongoing projects or general operating support.
- Capital projects, including land acquisition or the construction of buildings.
- Grants or scholarships to individuals.
- Lobbying prohibited by the Internal Revenue Code.
- Conferences.
- Endowments.
- Start-up costs for new organizations.

Definition
Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

Sources: National Domestic Violence Hotline, National Center for Victims of Crime, and 02WomensLaw.org.

Application Process
The Foundation has a two-stage application process. The Stage 1 Application requests information about the organization and the program funding is being requested for. The Stage 2 Application asks follow-up questions to the Stage 1 Application. You will be able to view the Stage 1 Application, but not make edits at the Stage 2 phase of the application process. A Stage 1 Application must be submitted to advance to Stage 2 and be considered for funding. Submission of a Stage 2 Application is by invitation only.

Foundation Process for Decision Making
The Foundation will review Stage 1 Applications at their meeting in June and applicants will be notified by July of the Board’s decision to invite a Stage 2 Application. A site visit will be conducted with all applicants requesting first year funding, typically in the fall. The Foundation will review Stage 2 Applications at their meeting in November and applicants will be notified in mid-November of the Boards decision. Funding will be available in December for the next year.

Deadlines—March 1 / August 1
Stage 1 Applications will be accepted through March 1. The Foundation Board will consider your Stage 1 Application in June and will invite a Stage 2 Application to be submitted by August 1 to be considered by the Board in November. In fairness to all applicants, the Foundation will strictly adhere to its deadlines. Please note that the Stage 1 Application is closed after March 1 and will reopen again on January 1 for the subsequent year funding round.
**Getting Started**

The Foundation requires that all Stage 1 and Stage 2 Applications be completed via our online application system. The link to the online Stage 1 Application is provided below for this Initiative. If the Foundation invites a Stage 2 Application from your organization, a link to the Stage 2 Application will be provided at that time. Foundation staff are available to assist you with any problems in completing your application. Contact the office at wff@fidcouns.com.

All first-time users of the on-line application system must create a login with a user name and password. This is the user name and password for your organization. All users from your organization must use the same log in.

**Returning to an Application**

Your application does not need to be completed in one session and can be returned to and edited until you formally submit the application. You can access your new application using the link provided in the email you receive upon opening a new application and your organization’s user name and password. Saving the link as a “Favorite” provides quick access.

**Budget Template**

A program budget is a required document and must be submitted with the Stage 1 Application. The required template is available by clicking on the link below.

**Uploading Required Documents**

There are required documents that you must upload for the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Applications. Only one document can be uploaded per question. Documents will not appear as uploaded until you have hit UPLOAD.

**Submitting an Application**

Once you have completed and reviewed your application, you may “submit” the application for funding consideration. Please note that once an application has been submitted you will be able to view the application, but not edit or change it. Also, note that submitting your application on the due date may take substantially longer to upload due to high volume. Please plan accordingly.

**Start a New Children’s Initiative Application**

You must have your organization’s tax exempt number ready when starting your application. A printer friendly version of the application is available online to allow you to review the application questions prior to starting. Remember to “Save & Finish Later” even if you have not added any new information.

**Questions?**

For technical support in submitting your application, please feel free to contact the Foundation at wff@fidcouns.com.