

Here Are Some Examples Of Grants That Have Been Funded

We are interested in funding ideas that bubble up from the community. Here are just a few examples:

- **Sacramento Mom's Playgroup:** A weekly dance along for parents and children ages 2-5 was held to bring families together, encourage networking, and increase interaction. The dance activities and social time provided a great opportunity for kids and parents to get to know each other and increase social interaction.
- **LaHoma Court & Nonnie Ave. Neighborhood:** Several neighbors with young children organized monthly, outdoor child friendly movie nights and potlucks. These activities brought families in their neighborhood together and helped families get to know one another.
- **Mis Vecinos:** A group of parents wanted to bring Spanish and English speaking families came together to learn about and share traditions and culture. Monthly cultural and educational activities were held and included bilingual play, arts, movement, and music activities for families with children 0-5. Children and parents learned, had fun, and spent time together. In the process, families became better connected to each other, to resources and to their cultural traditions and heritage.
- **Tea Club:** Some of the Mongolian moms of young children in Sacramento feel isolated, don't speak English and don't have access to information about raising healthy children. The groups held monthly gatherings that brought moms and their young children together to socialize and support one another. Moms were also able to discuss different topics related to raising children and learn from each other.
- **Neighborhood Reading Network:** This project connected families with young children through storytelling, reading, singing and play. The group hosted monthly "I love reading" days at parks and libraries with fun activities such as storytelling with puppets and a flannel board, singing songs with sign language, lots of books to read, a nutritious snack, book swaps, crafts, and fun playtime. Families connected with other families and parents found support while their children had fun.
- **Friends of Grant Park:** A group of parents with young children saw that there were many families in their community, yet no one talked to each other or knew each other very well. In addition, the local park was under utilized. By holding fun and enriching art activities for parents and kids at the local park, community members were drawn out their homes and began to socialize and interact. Kids explored different forms of art together and created new friendships. Parents volunteered to help at the art days and met and got to know other parents while spending time with their children and other children.

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- **Elk Grove Mothers of Multiples:** A group of families with multiples (twins, triplets, etc.) found that there are unique challenges they face and wanted to connect to other families with multiples to decrease isolation and increase support. A playgroup was held to build and strengthen relationships. The group met weekly to allow children 0-5 to interact and socialize, as well as allow mothers to share, discuss common issues and concerns, and exchange ideas around the various challenges and special needs their children have. Play, arts and crafts were available for the children and parents to do together while the parents connected.
- **Castori Parent Committee:** This group wanted a way for their young children to learn culture, bond with each other, and build community based on a common ground. Through fun story time with bilingual books, crafts, arts, and dance activities organized by parents and community members, the families came together to create lasting bonds and decrease isolation.
- **Vietnamese Young Mother's Group:** The group's goal was to bond together Vietnamese mothers of young children and to support each other in preparing their 0-5 year olds for school. The group held a series of community events for families to learn about healthy food, music, language/art, and play activities with young children. Community parents helped to set up and facilitate the activities that helped families learn about great, simple things they can do with their children. The activities also provided a forum for families to share and discuss ideas, have fun trying ideas out, and interact with one another. Follow up meetings were held to continue the activities, have circle time to discuss successes and challenges of what they've learned, and continue bonding.

As you can see, the ideas and possibilities are as varied as the different neighborhoods in our community. If you are considering applying for a grant, remember that you know what is best for you and your children. Brainstorm ideas that you know will help families come together and connect. Call and talk to us about your ideas – we would like to hear from you and work with you on your grant application.