



## FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Generational Change,  
One Child at a Time

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN ANNOUNCES NEW OPEN COMPETITION TO GRANT \$3 MILLION TO ORGANIZATIONS SERVING YOUTH ACROSS THE NATION

*With support from a \$4 million Social Innovation Fund grant, Friends will continue to grow to new communities across the country and increase the number of youth served at existing locations*

PORTLAND, OREGON – Today, Friends of the Children National—a scaling and capacity-building organization supporting the Friends of the Children Network—launched an open competition to award \$3 million to community-based organizations through the *One Child at a Time Expansion Project*.

Fueled by a \$4 million grant from the Social Innovation Fund (SIF), a federal program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), and a \$2 million match from Thrive Foundation for Youth, a division of King Philanthropies, the *One Child at a Time Expansion Project* will expand Friends of the Children’s evidence-based program to reach more youth in foster care and high-poverty, high-crime neighborhoods across the country. Specifically, over the next four years, the project will increase the number of children served by Friends of the Children by 50% nationally. Friends of the Children provides long-term professional 1:1 mentors to the most vulnerable children from kindergarten through high school graduation – 12.5 years – no matter what. The model, proven through rigorous evaluation, increases graduation rates, and decreases teen parenting and juvenile justice involvement while focusing on the growth potential of each child.

As part of the *One Child at a Time Expansion Project*, Friends of the Children recently announced two sub awards totaling \$2.4 million to launch a new chapter in San Francisco and double the youth served by Friends of the Children – Seattle.

Through this new competition, three to five additional high-performing organizations will be selected and awarded to grow Friends of the Children’s impact by replicating the Friends of the Children model. Friends will invest in organizations that are ready to grow in communities where need is greatest, by providing technical assistance, capacity building supports and rigorous evaluation to ensure sustainable results.

The competition is open to organizations and champions working in youth development across the United States. Nonprofit organizations can apply, subject to eligibility rules. Applicants must identify and define a significant community need, as well as provide evidence of sustainable growth in their proposal. Competitive proposals will be meaningful, verifiable, durable, and feasible.

“Closing the opportunity gap for our nation’s most underserved youth isn’t easy, but we believe it can be done,” said Friends of the Children National President Terri Sorensen. “Our goal is to inspire, encourage and mobilize greater community support to address this critical problem and enable real progress toward a solution.”

The selection process for *One Child at a Time* will be rigorous, fair, and transparent. A 1:1 match is required every 12 months and applicants must demonstrate that they have secured the match upon application. Applicants

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proposing to launch new sites must demonstrate that they have secured \$500,000 for the purpose of launching and sustaining a new Friends of the Children site.

To participate or learn more, please visit <http://friendsofthechildren.org/sif>.

**Letters of interest are due by June 30, 2017. All Subgrantees will be selected by October 15, 2017.**

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### **About Friends of the Children**

Friends of the Children changes the story for youth facing the highest risks by providing them a salaried professional mentor (who we call a Friend) from kindergarten through high school graduation – for 12.5 years – no matter what. Our Friends support and guide our children in becoming healthy and contributing members in their communities. Today, Friends serves children in Harlem and the South Bronx, NY, Seattle, WA, Boston, MA, Portland, Gresham and Klamath Falls, OR, Tampa Bay, FL, and Cornwall, United Kingdom.

### **About the Social Innovation Fund**

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the nation's volunteer and service efforts. SIF positions the federal government to be a catalyst for impact—using public and private resources to find and grow community-based nonprofits with evidence of results. The Social Innovation Fund focuses on overcoming challenges confronting low-income Americans in three areas of priority need: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development. To learn more, visit [www.nationalservice.gov/sif](http://www.nationalservice.gov/sif).

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