



FR1ENDS of the CH1LDREN

Generational Change,
One Child at a Time

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN RECEIVES NEW FEDERAL GRANT TO SERVE THOUSANDS MORE CHILDREN

\$4 million from Social Innovation Fund will bring Friends to new communities across the country and increase the number of youth served at existing locations

PORTLAND, OREGON – Today, Friends of the Children National announced that it has received a federal grant from the Social Innovation Fund (SIF), a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service totaling \$4 million over 4 years to expand its evidence-based program to reach more youth in foster care and high-poverty, high-crime neighborhoods across the country.

Friends of the Children serves thousands of high-risk youth ages five through young adulthood living in some of the most impoverished and crime-impacted neighborhoods. Currently, there are nine locations: Harlem and the South Bronx, NY, Seattle, WA, Boston, MA, Portland, Gresham and Klamath Falls, OR, Tampa Bay, FL, and Cornwall, United Kingdom.

Friends of the Children employs salaried, professional mentors (called Friends) and commits to youth for 12.5 years. To date, 83% of Friends' program graduates earn a high school diploma or GED, 93% of Friends' youth have avoided the juvenile justice system, and 98% of Friends' youth have avoided early parenting.

These funds will mobilize public and private support to accelerate the organization's impact by bringing the Friends model to more cities throughout the nation and increasing the number of youth served nationally by more than 50%.

"We won't stop until every youth who needs one has a Friend," says Terri Sorensen, Friends of the Children's National President. "The SIF grant is a major leap forward in our national expansion plan to scale our proven model to more cities to impact thousands more children."

"Friends of the Children has earned this award by focusing at all times on its core mission of helping young people to overcome life's most difficult challenges," said U.S. Senator Ron Wyden. "I am thrilled that Friends has achieved this well-deserved recognition and the resources to expand its proven model to empower even more youth to realize the possibilities that exist within themselves and their communities."

The Social Innovation Fund is a powerful approach to transforming lives and communities that positions the federal government to be a catalyst for impact – mobilizing private resources to find and grow community solutions with evidence of results. As part of the SIF, Friends of the Children must match the federal funds dollar-for-dollar and again by the organizations they select to receive grants. Friend's federal grant will leverage approximately \$10 million in private funds.

Sorensen believes communities across the country are up for the challenge. "This award is an incredible opportunity to combine public funds with private funding to impact many more children, their families and communities," Sorensen said. "We look forward to other social investors, corporations and foundations joining us in our quest to end generational poverty, one child at a time."

"The Social Innovation Fund is an innovative program that seeks to invest in truly compelling solutions to the persistent challenges facing their communities," said Lois Nembhard, acting director of the Social Innovation Fund at CNCS. "Friends of the Children has a proven track record for finding solutions that work, and CNCS is thrilled to award them a Social Innovation Fund grant. The competition process is highly selective, and we are eager to have the opportunity to work with Friends of the Children to expand their high-impact work to serve more people in need."

In the next several months, Friends of the Children will hold an open competition to select community-based organizations to receive subgrants of at least \$100,000 for periods of three to five years. The selected organizations will expand their reach to impact more people and will participate in evaluations to continue learning what works.

Since its inception in 2009, the SIF and its private-sector partners have invested almost a billion dollars in compelling community solutions. In 2014 the SIF launched its' Pay for Success program to reinforce its commitment to supporting innovative solutions and changing how public and private sector investors allocate philanthropic resources. The SIF portfolio includes 46 awards to grantees who have selected over 458 nonprofit organizations to grow and further evaluate proven solutions to our nation's challenges in 46 states and the District of Columbia. In total, as a result of \$295 million in federal grants, more than \$627 million in non-federal match commitments has been leveraged.

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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, 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.

The Social Innovation Fund 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, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.

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