Friends of the Children was founded over 28 years ago in Portland, OR with just three Friends and 24 children. Today, we are a national organization with 26 locations across the country. We have set a goal of raising $50 million for our national expansion campaign, which is being fueled by private and public investments.

In May 2021, Friends of the Children received a two-year, $6 million matching gift from the Echo Fund. This gift catalyzed the Friends of the Children 2021/22 Social Impact Fund which will support the expansion of the model in partnership with communities across the country. Friends of the Children – National must match the $6 million investment dollar-for-dollar. Local communities receiving expansion grants will then need to match the investment again, turning $6M into $18M – moving us that much closer to our $50M expansion goal!

$300,000 - $500,000 SOCIAL IMPACT FUND EXPANSION GRANTS available to rural and tribal communities that can demonstrate the ability to:

IDENTIFY YOUTH FACING THE GREATEST OBSTACLES IN THE COMMUNITY
Cohorts of youth ages 4-6 enrolled annually who are at high risk of and/or already experiencing foster care

MATCH THE IMPACT FUND EXPANSION GRANT
Impact fund expansion grant request must be matched dollar-for-dollar with local investments

MEET SEEDFUNDING GOAL
$1M - $2M (including expansion grant) secured by December 30, 2022, from diversified funding sources, e.g., a blend of funding sources that could include foundations, corporations, individuals, tribal nations, and government. Seed capital will be used for expenses incurred over a 3-year period.

ESTABLISH LOCAL CHAMPIONS COMMITTEE
Individual community leaders with the potential to recruit a strong Board of Directors for established organization

LEVERAGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
Local leaders, tribal leaders, community, and government partners to ensure that program needs can be met, and that growth can be financially and programmatically sustained

Friends of the Children estimates funding 6-8 Social Impact Fund Expansion Grants between 2021-22, with numbers varying depending on the number of communities that can meet impact fund grant requirements by December 30, 2022.

SOCIAL IMPACT FUND
Our approach starts with an invitation from communities that see us as an answer to their unique challenges. Whether it’s helping prevent involvement with the child welfare system, supporting families impacted by the criminal justice system, or mitigating trauma that is compounded by social isolation, we listen to the community and partner to identify how our model can have the greatest impact.

SCALABLE, SUSTAINABLE MODEL
Our model is both scalable and sustainable. Now with 26 locations, we built a national network of Friends – salaried, professional mentors who are changing the story for thousands of youth. We will work with local champions to raise three years of seed capital funding and provide technical assistance to launch each chapter. From hiring staff, to establishing accounting procedures, to implementing the model with fidelity, we set each chapter up for success from the start.

For more information, please contact Erinn Kelley-Siel, Chief Officer of Expansion & Policy, at ekelleysiel@friendsofthechildren.org.