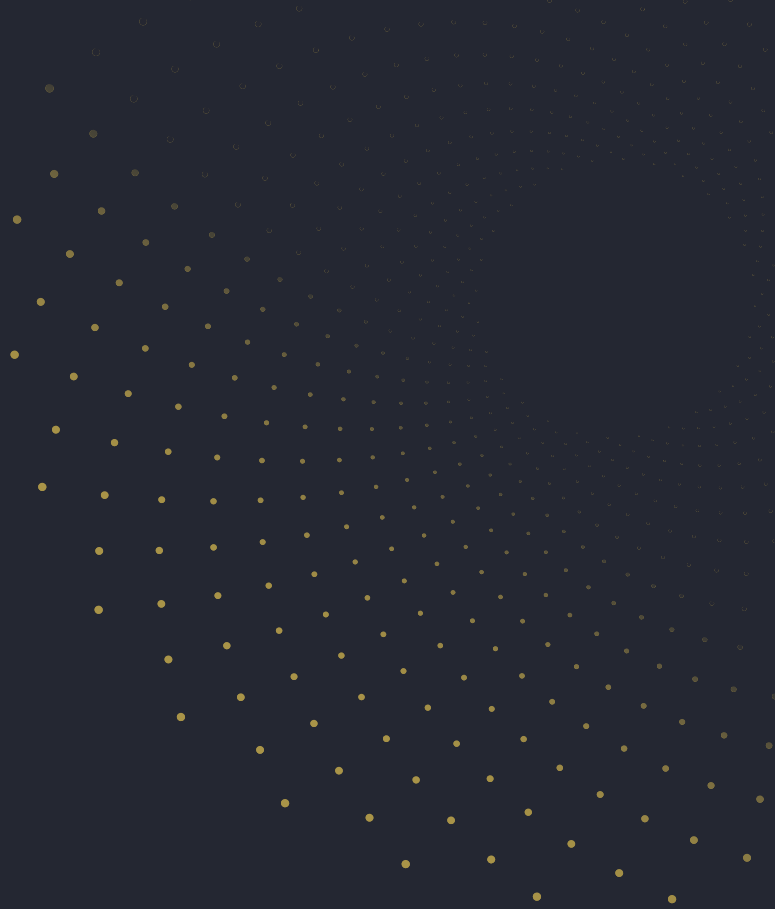




Oberkotter
Foundation



Request for Proposals:

Bringing Hearing Screening and Diagnostic Services to Children and Families

APPLICATION PERIOD: OCTOBER 1, 2026 — NOVEMBER 30, 2026



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1. About the Oberkotter Foundation

The Oberkotter Foundation's mission is to help families ensure their children who are deaf or hard of hearing have opportunities to reach their full potential through listening and spoken language. Since its founding in 1985 by Paul and Louise Oberkotter, the Foundation has awarded more than \$500 million to programs throughout the United States in support of its mission.

The Foundation believes that early listening and learning are critical to a child's brain development and to a bright future with limitless opportunities. It supports innovations and initiatives that will improve access to quality audiological and listening and spoken language (LSL) services for children with hearing loss so that they develop age-appropriate listening, spoken language, and literacy skills. [Read more about the Foundation's beliefs here.](#)

2. Introduction

The Oberkotter Foundation requests proposals for the following funding opportunity, "Bringing Hearing Screening and Diagnostic Services to Children and Families." This document provides background and eligibility information to help organizations determine whether this opportunity aligns with their goals and the needs of the children and families they serve.

Applicants are encouraged to review this Request for Proposals (RFP) in full to understand the project's requirements and assess their eligibility before applying. Additional information, including Frequently Asked Questions, further details about the Foundation, and a link to the application can be found on the Oberkotter Foundation website by visiting www.oberkotterfoundation.org/grants/pediatric-hearing-services-access-rfp. **Applications must be submitted electronically through Foundant, the online grant management system used by the Foundation, by 11:59:59 PM Eastern on Monday, November 30, 2026.**

Only proposals that meet the criteria outlined in this RFP will be considered for funding.



3. Background

According to 2022 U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) data, more than 30% of infants who fail their newborn hearing screening are lost-to-follow-up or lost-to-documentation. Additionally, only about 40% complete diagnostic testing by 3 months of age (CDC, 2002), despite Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (JCIH) recommendations for screening by 1 month, diagnosis by 3 months, and enrollment in early intervention by 6 months (JCIH, 2019). Multiple factors can disrupt or delay follow-up, including geographic obstacles (e.g., rural location), system-level constraints (e.g., limited provider capacity, extended appointment wait times), and infant- and family-level factors such as out-of-hospital birth, additional medical conditions, family education, financial security, and lack of social support.

With this RFP, the Foundation invites proposals for projects that expand access to pediatric hearing screening and/or diagnostic testing by bringing care closer to children and families. The goal of this request for proposals is to promote timely identification of hearing status by addressing barriers preventing families from accessing hearing healthcare services in traditional pediatric audiology settings.

Advancing Access Through New or Alternate Service Delivery

Evidence from the literature shows that approaches that bring hearing healthcare outside traditional clinical settings and closer to families can improve service utilization, reduce loss-to-follow-up, enable earlier diagnosis, and advance health equity. Expanded healthcare delivery models such as, but not limited to, community-embedded services, telehealth, and mobile care, have been introduced across the healthcare spectrum to reduce barriers and increase uptake of important services.

This RFP encourages the development, implementation, or expansion of service delivery models that make hearing screening and/or diagnostic services more accessible, ensuring timely identification of hearing status for families facing obstacles to care. Applicants should address community-specific barriers or considerations and propose solutions to improve early identification of hearing loss and reduce loss-to-follow-up. The Foundation seeks solutions to expand service reach in practical and sustainable ways, ultimately advancing equitable care approaches and increasing access to pediatric screening and diagnostic services.

REFERENCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). 2022 summary of National CC Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Data [Data report]. National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. https://archive.cdc.gov/www_cdc_gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/2022-data/documents/01_2022-HSFS_Data-Summary.pdf
- Joint Committee on Infant Hearing. (2019). Year 2019 position statement: Principles and guidelines for early hearing detection and intervention programs. *Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention*, 4(2), 1–44. <https://doi.org/10.15142/fptk-b748>



4. Opportunity and Requirements

OPPORTUNITY

The Oberkötter Foundation invites proposals for projects seeking to introduce or expand access to pediatric hearing screening and/or diagnostic services by bringing care closer to children and families. With this goal in mind, this funding opportunity is intended to promote timely identification of hearing status and generate insights into approaches that improve service accessibility.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Competitive proposals should include the following:

- **Implementation:** Detailed methods for implementing or expanding a project bringing hearing screening and/or diagnostic care closer to children and families. Proposals should consider family-centered design and address potential risks, risk mitigation strategies, and plans for monitoring progress to optimize impact.
- **Impact:** Clear, measurable, and achievable goals, and a plan for tracking progress toward self-defined goals. Baseline data is not required but may be included if relevant and available.
- **Project Costs:** Plan for monitoring project costs throughout the duration of the grant period, with consideration to sustainability beyond the grant period.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Approaches and Methodology

The Foundation welcomes a variety of solutions and approaches to achieving expanded hearing screening and diagnostic service access. Proposals do not need to be limited to a single model or method; however, funding is not intended for large capital investments such as vehicles, trailers, or the acquisition or construction of physical space.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Proposals should include a plan for documenting the impact of the new or expanded service delivery models to families over the course of the grant. While baseline data is not required, applicants may make comparisons to baseline measures or published benchmarks to assess impact. There are no specific, prescribed data metrics; applicants are expected to choose



measures suitable for their proposed project. For example, projects may track the number of infants served, age at time of re-screening, age at time of confirmation of hearing status, qualitative measures pertaining to patient and provider adoption, etc.

The Foundation seeks projects that prioritize interventions for children from birth to 3 years of age, consider underserved families, and have the potential for broader impact.

Selected proposals will receive up to three (3) years of funding. Competitive applications may include:

- Implementation of a new project, independently or in partnership with other organization(s),
- Expansion or modification of an existing project, and
- Adaptation of a proven project adapted from another setting.

The Foundation will **not consider** proposals for:

- Projects that do not include the provision of direct support or solutions designed to benefit children and families,
- Large capital equipment requests, including the purchase of new mobile vehicles (e.g., vans, buses) or stationary units (e.g., trailers or similar structures), or the permanent procurement or establishment of physical space.

5. Eligibility and Selection Criteria

To be considered for funding, applicants **must** meet the following requirements:

- **U.S.-Based Organizations:** Nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations, primarily 501(c)(3)s, located and operating within the United States or its territories.
- **Organizational Capacity:** Organizations with the administrative, financial, and operational capacity to manage grant funds and deliver on all proposed activities.
- **Relevant Expertise:** Applicants with experience and/or foundational knowledge in early childhood hearing loss, as well as social drivers of health access.

Proposals will be evaluated based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- **Alignment:** Project goals align with the priorities of the Foundation and the RFP.
- **Methods:** Projects have a clear implementation and evaluation plan, including analysis of the impact of the intervention.



- **Feasibility:** Projects are realistic and achievable within the proposed timeframe and budget.
- **Population:** Projects that prioritize interventions for children from birth to 3 years of age, consider underserved families, and have potential for broader impact.
- **Budget:** Projects have a well-planned, reasonable, and clearly justified budget that supports the proposed project.
- **Timeline:** Projects have specific, realistic milestones and deliverables.
- **Team Strength:** Key personnel possess expertise, qualifications, and relevant experience.
- **Potential Impact:** Projects demonstrate potential for meaningful, measurable impact on the intended population.
- **Sustainability:** Consideration has been given to continuation beyond the grant period.
- **Resources:** Necessary resources (e.g., space, tools) are clearly identified, with access confirmed or planned.
- **Collaborative Partners:** Letters of support are included for any collaborative efforts.*

* Any proposals developed in partnership with multiple organizations must be submitted by a single lead organization, but letters of support from all partnering organizations must be included with the application. The lead organization will be responsible for managing and disbursing awarded funds and submitting all required reports to the Foundation.

6. How to Apply

All applications must be completed through Foundant, the online grants management system used by the Foundation. A link to the application can be found on the Grants section of the Oberkotter Foundation website (www.oberkotterfoundation.org/grants). If you have not already done so, you will be asked to create an account before you begin the proposal. Applicants selected for funding will be notified in March 2027.

Technical or clarifying questions related to the application or application process are welcome. Please email your questions to grants@oberkotterfoundation.org by November 9, 2026, to ensure a response. Feedback or guidance on specific projects, methods, or approaches will **not** be provided.



7. Timeline and Key Dates

Please refer to the timeline below for important dates:

Activity	Date
RFP Opens	October 1, 2026
Deadline for Submitting Questions	November 9, 2026
RFP Closes	November 30, 2026
Oberkotter Foundation to Notify Applicants	March 2027
Estimated Grant Start Date	April 1, 2027

8. Funding Details

There is **no maximum or minimum** amount for this grant opportunity. The budget should accurately reflect the funding required to successfully execute the proposed project and include line-item justification of expenses. Budgets must be completed using the provided template, which can be found within the application. **Please refer to the instructions contained within the Excel worksheet when completing it.**

The Foundation will consider indirect costs pursuant to the Indirect Costs Policy located in the appendix of the RFP and within the budget section of the application.

Grants will be paid in annual installments for a period of up to three years. Grantees are required to notify the Foundation in writing of any significant changes to the grant — either before the start of the grant period or at any point during its duration — as quickly as possible.

9. Reporting

Grantees will be asked to track and report outcomes in line with their defined project goals. This includes sharing post-intervention results to demonstrate project impact, as well as providing financial reporting on project costs and plans for sustainability beyond the grant period.

Grantees must submit annual progress reports through Foundant during the grant period and a final report at the conclusion of the award period.



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Indirect Costs Policy

I. Introduction

The Oberkotter Foundation (“Foundation”) is dedicated to investing its resources so that all children who are deaf or hard of hearing have opportunities to reach their full potential. The Foundation operates within the public trust and strives to maintain the highest code of conduct in all its operations. The Foundation has adopted this Indirect Costs Policy (“Policy”) to govern its activities.

II. General Policy

The Foundation is committed to exercising national leadership as an exemplary foundation and pursuing its mission consistent with philanthropic best practices. This Policy is meant to articulate general principles regarding the Foundation’s approach to funding indirect costs, in order to ensure the Foundation’s funds are distributed and used in a manner consistent with its mission and values.

The Foundation recognizes that our funding recipients have indirect costs necessary to support their organizations, and the Foundation’s consideration and payment of indirect costs accordingly promote our funding recipients’ ability to accomplish project-based objectives. The Foundation further recognizes that it may fund various types of organizations, each with their own funding needs, fundraising opportunities and mechanisms, and scopes of operation and impact.

Accordingly, as a general policy, the Foundation has established indirect cost rates for project funding recipients, based on organization type. With this Policy, the Foundation intends to support its funding recipients responsibly and fairly and promote effective allocations of resources to accomplish the purposes of funded projects.

The rates below are the indirect cost rates allowed under this Policy, expressed as a percentage of the total direct costs of the project. Indirect costs for organization types not listed below will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Funding Recipient Type	Indirect Cost Rate
Tax-Exempt U.S. Universities, Colleges, Hospitals and Health Systems	Up to 15%
Other Tax-Exempt U.S. Non-Profit Organizations	Up to 25%
U.S. Government Agencies or Departments or Divisions Thereof (except as noted above); For-Profit Organizations	0%

III. Definitions and Guidelines

The Foundation funds both direct and indirect costs associated with projects. This section distinguishes these costs, defining direct costs as expenses directly attributable to a project and its outcomes, and indirect costs as a reasonable portion of necessary expenses related to the general operations and business needs of funding recipients. More specifically:

- **Direct costs** are expenses directly attributable and allocated to the execution of the specific project. They may include program staff salaries and fringe benefits (or the portions thereof allocated to the project), materials and supplies acquired to complete project work (pro-rated in case of partial use), or fees necessary to execute the project (e.g., required travel, training, consultants, or contractors). Generally, costs that would not exist if the project did not exist often may be considered direct costs.
- **Indirect costs** are general overhead and administrative expenses that support the entire organization and operations of a funding recipient and often reflect shared resources among the organization and its projects as opposed to any particular project. They may include facilities expenses (e.g., rent, utilities, furniture), general operating equipment and services (e.g., office equipment, computers and printers, communications or information systems), salaries and benefits of executives or administrative staff (e.g., C-suite, human resources, finance, legal, information technology), or central administrative functions (e.g., accounting, audits, fundraising, staff development and training). Generally, costs that would exist if the project did not exist often may be considered indirect costs.

The Foundation's expectations regarding indirect costs are summarized within the following general guidelines:

- The rates provided above apply only to project grants. They do not apply to general operating grants or endowment grants, due to the nature of those grants.
- The rates provided above apply only to organizations in the United States. Indirect costs for project funding provided to non-U.S. organizations will be determined on a case-by-case basis, with the requirement that any funding for indirect costs provided to such organizations must be applied toward charitable purposes.
- The rates provided above are the maximum rates allowed under this Policy. The actual indirect cost rate awarded may vary depending on a variety of factors, including but not limited to the type of project, the level of administrative resources required, the finances or organizational structure of the funding recipient, the overall award size, and the structure of the award. The Foundation does not seek to match an organization's self-published rates or negotiated rates with other funders,



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including any U.S. government rates, where such negotiated rates are greater than the rates identified above.

- A project or organization with a lower actual indirect cost rate should not increase the funding request to the maximum allowed, as the intent of this Policy is to fund indirect costs reasonably and not to generate financial surpluses.
- The rates and other parameters set forth in this Policy apply to the primary funding recipient and any sub-recipients (including but not limited to collaborators and contractors) based on their organization type. For example, if a tax-exempt non-profit organization engages a for-profit organization to perform as a subcontractor on a project, while the applicable indirect cost rate for the tax-exempt non-profit may be up to 25%, the indirect cost rate applied to payments to the for-profit subcontractor should be 0%.
- The Foundation reserves the right to request substantiation of any funding recipient's indirect cost rate.

IV. Procedural Issues

In all instances, the Foundation will assess the factual circumstances at the time of funding to reach agreement terms with the funding recipient that ensure the objectives of this Policy are met, while also recognizing and respecting legitimate interests of that funding recipient and other parties.

V. Exceptions and Updates

Exceptions to the foregoing provisions may be made by the CEO in accordance with oversight and approval from the Foundation's Trustees. The Foundation will continually monitor and update this Policy as appropriate.