

## **Abstract: TN Strong Families Grant Program**

Pregnancy can be challenging and stressful, even with the most favorable circumstances. Many families and individuals experience unmet needs during pregnancy, whether due to not meeting specific eligibility criteria for existing programs or a lack of available resources. To meet the needs of vulnerable families and expectant mothers, Governor Bill Lee and the General Assembly made significant investment in the FY2023-FY2024 state budget to improve maternal healthcare and boost critical resources by supporting local pregnancy centers and nonprofit organizations providing direct perinatal services. Every community has different needs, so this grant program will provide the opportunity for pregnancy centers and nonprofit organizations to partner with the state to provide support based on the unique needs of the mothers, children, and families they serve while improving optimal outcomes for Tennessee families.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to work with the [University of Tennessee, SWORPS](#) to access training and technical assistance with basic grant writing and grant oversight skills for planning and implementing grant activities, and evaluating the impact of their programs.

### **Program Description**

The state has made TN Strong Families grant funding available for two project types: [Supplies and Assistance Grants](#) and [Support Services Grants](#). Each project type has its own specific Scope template. Please be sure your agency is using the correct Scope template for the project type you are applying.

#### **Strong Families Supplies and Assistance Grants:**

The state has allocated a maximum liability per contract not to exceed \$100,000.00 for pregnancy centers and nonprofit organizations in TN that provide direct service to the mothers, children, and families while improving optimal outcomes for Tennessee families.

Funding can be used for Goods Assistance for families and individuals such as new baby equipment, furniture, diapers, food, clothes, and supplies for maternity care, postnatal care, and breastfeeding. Assistance is voluntary and based on need. Funding may be used for pregnancy centers and nonprofit organizations to provide subcontract services such as translation services, counselors, doulas, and transportation. Supplies and assistance are to be used/provided within the lifetime of the contract. Refer to allowables/unallowables in the [Grants Manual](#) for equipment and supplies that can be purchased.

#### **Strong Families Support Services Grants:**

The state has allocated a maximum liability per contract not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 for pregnancy centers and nonprofit organizations in TN that provide direct service to the mothers, children, and families while improving optimal outcomes for Tennessee families.

Projects should support one or more of the program priorities provided in section 1.4 Program Purpose of the solicitation, and funds may be used to provide support services including the following:

- Direct services for pregnancy support, which can include medical, mental health or other counseling services
- Support for Tennesseans who are considering adoption
- Workforce assistance to prepare new moms for self-sufficiency
- Housing assistance to help moms in crisis find a safe and stable place to live

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- Additional wraparound services to support vulnerable mothers and their children including, but not limited to, childcare and transportation assistance.

Applicants are encouraged to use evidence-based programming to support families, which can be found on the Results First Clearinghouse [Results First Clearinghouse Database | The Pew Charitable Trusts \(pewtrusts.org\)](#). Yellow and Green rated programs demonstrate positive impacts on those served.

All Support grants must allocate at least 20% of the maximum liability to Goods Assistance in their budget. Assistance is voluntary and based on need determined by the recipient of the assistance. Supplies and assistance are to be used/provided within the lifetime of the contract. Refer to allowables/unallowables for equipment and supplies that can be purchased.

### **Program Goals, Objectives, and Activities**

**Goals** reflect what the program/strategy is trying to accomplish. Your scope can have one or multiple goals, depending on your project design. Goals are stated broadly. Below are examples to choose from, and you may also create your own.

- Improve the well-being of the child, mother, and/or family.
- Increase resources and supplies for the child, mother, and/or family.
- Improve accessibility to services for individuals and families.
- Provide support to individuals and families experiencing pregnancy.
- Promote the healthy development of the mother, child, and the family system.

**Objectives** are strategies that describe the results to be achieved and help monitor progress toward program goals. You can have multiple Objectives for one goal, but you need at least 1 Objective for each goal.

- Educate clients on available resources at the state-level.
- Increase employability skills which support financial independence.
- Support safe and stable housing.
- Help clients obtain services and benefits.
- Meet clients' needs for baby supplies and equipment.

**Activities** are the specific way your agency plans to achieve the Goals and Objectives. This is the work that will result in your program's outputs. Examples of activities will include:

- Assess individuals and families to identify their specific needs.
- Research and identify state programs for families and children to refer to.
- Purchase or locate needed items and resources.
- Provide donated goods.
- Provide translation services, counseling services, etc.