**The Footsteps2Brilliance®
Early Learning Literacy Equity Service Grant
Qualification Form - Illinois**

The Footsteps2Brilliance Early Learning Literacy Equity Service Grant provides a game-changing social justice and collective impact approach to eliminating illiteracy in communities that want and need to support their 0 to 5-year-old children, provide high-quality educational resources to their community, and improve parental engagement through our Model Innovation City Program. ([*Click here for a video overview*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7M2vA35KqXk.)) Note that the grant also supports literacy development for students in PreK through 3rd grade.

This grant partnership does not fit every district. A limited number of grants are made available to qualified, transformative, innovative, and inclusive superintendents, literacy advocates, and community leaders.

Footsteps2Brilliance Early Learning Literacy Service Grants are offered directly by Footsteps2Brilliance, Inc., and are delivered in the form of in-kind services and benefits, not cash. Qualifying districts partner with Footsteps2Brilliance to serve all of their PreK through 3rd grade students. (Click here for a video highlighting success with grant in Santa Clara, California: https://youtu.be/yZFNic079Qc)

The Footsteps2Brilliance Early Learning Literacy Equity Service Grant dramatically reduces your expenditure for this program, including two years of free access to support sustainability. In addition, service grant recipients receive our Common Core aligned, standards-based, and award-winning curriculum for all eligible children and families in their entire city and community at NO COST to your organization or your parents.

Based on the overwhelming research demonstrating that children who experience an unequal start to life and school are likely to have long-term challenges, this grant is designed to support all children—birth through third grade—toward academic and life success, with a special emphasis on Latino, Black, and underserved children and communities. (Click here for a video highlighting the importance of early intervention: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ahhj3wxxkdM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ahhj3wxxkdM" \t "_blank).)

The following questionnaire is designed to evaluate the readiness of your organization for this game-changing opportunity. Please complete this form and submit it to Il.grants@footsteps2brilliance.com at your earliest convenience. Award opportunities are limited and may be discontinued at any time.

## Next Steps:

1. Complete all questions in the following questionnaire and provide details to differentiate your approach or need.
2. Save and email your form to Il.grants@footsteps2brilliance.com.
3. Our grant committee will determine your readiness for this opportunity.
4. If our visions are aligned, you will be contacted to arrange a personalized overview and Q&A session.
5. Because this is a White House Partnered Initiative, the Superintendent and his/her leadership team are required to be available for this in-person overview and evaluation session with Footsteps2Brilliance Director of Strategic Partnerships and Equity Initiatives, John Hillsman.

## General Information

1. **Name of organization applying for grant:**

1. **Name and titles of educational and community leaders who will lead your early literacy and learning initiative:**

1. **Main contact name, title, and organization**

1. **Main contact phone numbers, (cell and direct):**

1. **Main contact email address:**

1. **Main contact physical address:**

1. **Has your team met with a Footsteps2Brilliance representative?**

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No, and we would like to schedule a time to meet

[ ]  No, but we have a time scheduled to meet

## Grant Impact

1. **Briefly explain your interest in applying for up to $5,000,000 in Literacy Equity Service Grants.**

1. **Briefly describe any related initiatives currently underway in your district, community, county, or organization.**

1. **How many children ages 0 to 5 do you directly serve?**

1. **At how many sites do you serve children age 0 to 5?**

1. **How many students do you serve in PreK through 3rd grade?**

1. **At how many sites do you serve PreK-3 students?**

1. **Briefly describe how you are engaging the families of the children you serve**

1. **Which literacy programs do your PreK-3 students and classrooms currently use?**

1. **What challenges are you seeking to address in kindergarten readiness and/or 3rd grade reading proficiency?**

## Grant Readiness

1. **List strategic partnerships currently in place with local government and other agencies and community-based organizations that you will be able to leverage for this initiative.**

1. **How do you see Footsteps2Brilliance supporting your community outreach as a pre-emptive approach to combatting illiteracy before children start school?**

1. **What branding or image of your community and schools are you seeking to change, enhance, or improve?**

1. **Are you willing to share generic data about the results of this program to be included in our longitudinal study with fellow superintendents and The White House?**

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

1. **Are you willing to be a part of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence of Hispanics?**

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

1. **Please share any other comments, current initiatives, areas of interest, or information that you believe will be helpful to our grant evaluation team in determining your qualification for this grant.**