

# Start Early Funders Coalition

**Grant Type:** Both dollar and nondollar

**Grant Amount:** \$ 20,000

**Organization:** The Sheltering Arms Foundation

## What was the objective of your grant or initiative?

Our objective was to work collaboratively with other funders of early childhood programs in Minnesota to advance public policy and community support for affordable, accessible, high-quality care and education in the state so that all children have a strong and healthy start, and are prepared to contribute to our state's vitality.

## What was your approach?

We have had an outsized impact by joining together with other funders to create a statewide coalition of almost 100 organizations to make a difference for young children in Minnesota.

As a small Minnesota foundation, it has been critically important to use partnerships with grantees and other funders—formed over many years of work together—to create change on a level that would never have been possible working alone.

## What were the outsized results?

The Start Early Funders Coalition launched a policy initiative called MinneMinds that, thus far, has successfully lobbied for more than \$27 million a year in state funds to support access to high-quality early childhood care and education for low-income 3- and 4-year-olds in Minnesota.

The coalition is preparing to advocate for the full \$150 million per year so that all eligible children will have access to high-quality care and education.

