

# Roadmap for Reform Learning System Grants

## *Information for Applicants*

The *Roadmap for Reform: Strong families, safe children* highlights the need for the organisations that provide support to vulnerable children, young people and families – including the Department of Health and Human Services – to become a learning system. Where outcomes are measured and services are continually evaluated and improved.

Becoming a learning system requires the best evidence of what works or shows promise for vulnerable children and families in Victoria and the ability to translate this into practice. To strategically direct efforts, the Children and Families Research Strategy 2017-2019 (the Research Strategy) sets out priority areas for research and guiding principles to work as a learning system.

To support the Research Strategy, the Victorian government has made available funding in the form of learning system grants to enable service providers to undertake projects that improve practice. The aim of the grants is to strengthen the sector's capacity to generate and apply evidence (including data, analytics, evaluation and research). Partnerships between service providers and researchers are encouraged.

Successful grants must directly address one or more of the research priority areas or learning system principles as specified in the Research Strategy.

Grant recipients will also need to demonstrate how they will disseminate project findings to strengthen the evidence base and can be directly applied to improve services for vulnerable children, young people and families. **Projects must be completed by December 2018.**

The learning system grants will be administered by the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare. The selection process will be jointly conducted by the Centre with direct input from the Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Who can apply?**

Learning system grants are open to service providers who are registered as a community service organisation under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*, or eligible for registration under the Act.

### **Selection Criteria**

The learning system grants will fund projects that:

- address one or more research priorities or learning system principles as set out in the Children and Families Research Strategy 2017-2019
- demonstrate a strong understanding and application of the learning system principles in approach and methodology
- generate outcomes that will contribute to improvements in children and families services
- demonstrate a track record in using evidence to improve services
- are carried out by personnel with expertise in children and families services and the generation and use of evidence.

## **Applications for learning system grants close 5.00pm, 31 July 2017.**

Applications must include the following information:

- Response to selection criteria
- Project description
- Detailed methodology and timeline
- Deliverables and how success will be measured
- Costing of project
- Details of personnel undertaking the project including qualifications, experience and time allocated to project.

### **Further information**

For information on the learning system grants and the application process, please contact Dr Michele Lonsdale on 03 9094 3521 or [michele.lonsdale@cfecfw.asn.au](mailto:michele.lonsdale@cfecfw.asn.au)