



Sample Grant Request for Cribs

Needs Statement

The SIDS Network of Kansas, Inc. is requesting \$6,500 to purchase 100 Graco® Pack 'n Play® portable cribs to distribute to families who cannot afford a crib. The funds requested will be used for the 'Kansas Cribs for Kids' project, whose mission is to reduce infant deaths by providing an appropriate sleep environment through education and safe cribs at no charge. This should be addressed because according to the Kansas Child Death Review Board 2011 report, in 2009 thirty-four infants died from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS. Of these infants, 68% were in unsafe sleep environments, such as a bed or couch, and 71% were in an unsafe sleep position, such as on their stomach or side. Aside from SIDS, twelve infants died in 2009 due to suffocation. The Kansas Child Death Review Board states these infant deaths from suffocation were often the results of improper sleeping arrangements. According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the leading causes of infant deaths in Kansas are birth defects, preterm/low birth weight, SIDS, maternal pregnancy complications, and unintentional and intentional injuries.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2011 Policy Statement "SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Expansion of Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment" says that sleep related deaths such as suffocation and asphyxia are increasing, and recommends all babies be placed to sleep alone, on their backs, and on a firm sleep surface without soft or loose bedding.

SIDS and other infant deaths occur at a much higher rate among African American infants in Kansas than white non-Hispanic infants. According to the KDHE the non-Hispanic black infant mortality rate in 2009 was 2.6 times higher than the rate for non-Hispanic white infants. In addition, while Kansas maintains an infant mortality rate close to that of the national average, Kansas ranks worst in the nation in black infant mortality, according to the Kansas Blue Ribbon Panel on Infant Mortality. The Kansas Blue Ribbon Panel also reports that from 1998 through 2007 Sedgwick County had the largest number of infant deaths (22%) in the state and the highest rate of infant deaths among the black population (36%). African Americans have disproportionately higher rates of infants being born premature and infants dying from SIDS and other sleep related causes. The causes of the disparities in infant mortality are not thoroughly understood. There are, however, some factors that may be contributing to the existence and continuation of this problem. These factors include a higher teen pregnancy rate among African American women, higher instances of single-motherhood, lower education levels, poverty, stress, racism, and limited resources for assuring access to needed health services and community-based programs.

The SIDS Network will purchase cribs through coordination with Cribs for Kids and the Graco Corporation. The SIDS Network staff will then drop ship the cribs to Healthy Start Home Visitors across Kansas, who will in turn, distribute the cribs to infants from low-income families who are at a high-risk of dying from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) or accidental suffocation due to bed-sharing or being placed to sleep in an unsafe sleep environment. Prior to receiving a crib, a crib eligibility assessment will be conducted by a Healthy Start Home Visitor and parents will be provided with specific education on safe sleep and reducing the risk of SIDS.

The qualifying criteria for receiving a crib will be as follows: (a) the family must have an infant under one year of age and (b) financially unable to provide a safe sleep environment for that infant; (b) except in cases of multiple births, each family may receive only one crib; (c) a parent or caregiver must complete the Cribs for Kids referral and questionnaire form as well as the hold harmless agreement prior to receiving a crib; (d) additional resources available to the family will be explored, and (e) the Healthy Start Home Visitor or SIDS Network staff must provide training on safe sleep practices to each family receiving a crib.

Objectives

The SIDS Network plans to provide portable cribs and safe sleep education to infant caregivers who are unable to provide a safe environment for their infant to sleep in. The Network will do this in collaboration with Healthy Start Home Visiting programs across the State. The purpose is to educate Kansas infant caregivers on how to safely place their infants to sleep, to show them what a safe sleep environment looks like, and to provide them with a portable crib, which allows them to have a safe sleep environment for their infant wherever they are. Thus, the anticipated health improvement is fewer Kansas infant deaths due to unsafe sleep environments.

The objectives of this project are:

1. The SIDS Network of Kansas, in collaboration with Healthy Start Home Visitors from across the State, will provide a free portable crib to new or expecting infant caregivers in Kansas who are unable to purchase a crib for their infant.
2. The SIDS Network of Kansas, in collaboration with Healthy Start Home Visitors from across the State, will provide safe sleep education to all caregivers who receive a crib for their infant through this project.

Purpose of Organization

The SIDS Network of Kansas, Inc. is a non-profit statewide support organization located in Wichita, Kansas dedicated to providing grief and bereavement support services to families that experience the sudden death of an infant. Additionally, the Network provides community awareness and professional education specific to sudden infant death.

The mission of the SIDS Network of Kansas is to serve those who are or may be touched by the tragedy of SIDS by providing supportive services for all those affected, community awareness, professional development and support for medical research efforts.

Target Population

The SIDS Network is taking steps to reduce infant mortality in Kansas. The target population consists of infants under 1 year of age that are at risk of dying from SIDS or accidental suffocation because they are sleeping in unsafe environments (i.e. on a couch, co-sleeping). The project aims to serve infants with disproportionately high rates of infant mortality, which includes, but is not limited to, Native Americans, African Americans, and low-income families.

Community and Volunteer Involvement

The SIDS Network works with various agencies and communities across Kansas to educate the public on SIDS and SIDS risk reduction strategies, including training child care professionals and the public on infant safe sleep.

The SIDS Network receives volunteer support from over 200 people throughout the year. These people are vital in helping the Network fulfill its mission

How Results of the Project will be Measured

A crib assessment and referral form will be completed for each person who receives a crib. Prior to receiving a crib, the caregiver will sign a statement of understanding, acknowledging that the safest place for his or her baby to sleep is on his or her back in a safety-approved crib. Three months after receiving the safe sleep education and crib, Home Visitors conduct a follow-up questionnaire with the caregivers. The questionnaire assesses whether or not crib recipients are practicing safe sleep and SIDS prevention practices. For example, it asks crib recipients if they always place their babies to sleep on their backs, if their babies are exposed to cigarette smoke, if their babies use a pacifier, and if other caregivers always place their babies on their backs. The questionnaire also asks recipients where their baby would sleep if they had not received the Cribs for Kids portable crib.

The results from this project will also be measured qualitatively by feedback from community members and persons who receive a crib. The questionnaire asks crib recipients to leave comments and suggestions, which will be used to continue to improve this project.

Plans for Continued Funding

The SIDS Network has received grant support to purchase cribs from.....

The SIDS Network will seek additional funding as necessary through community grants.

Project Budget

The SIDS Network will purchase cribs through coordination with Cribs for Kids and the Graco Corporation. Each crib costs \$50.00 plus \$15.00 shipping per crib, making the total cost per crib \$65.00.

The budget is as follows:

100 Graco© Pack 'n Play® portable cribs	\$6,500.00
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Total	\$6,500.00
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