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## Systemic Solutions Application Template

**PLEASE NOTE:** This form is an outline of GAR's grant application, to help you prepare your application. Applications are ONLY accepted through the online system. To apply, go to [garfoundation.org/apply/application/](http://garfoundation.org/apply/application/).

### Page 1 - Cover Page

#### Important information about this application

This application is used by organizations who seek funding in the categories of Early Childhood Education, K-16 Education, and Economic & Workforce Development.

Before you begin, we have a few tips:

- 1) **Choose one application.** You can only apply to GAR under one category. For instance, if you are requesting support for a program that serves immigrant and refugee communities, in part by providing access to the arts, you must decide in which category the work **primarily** falls and complete that application.
- 2) **Different questions are required for each category.** See below for details on how to complete the application.
- 3) **SAVE YOUR WORK OFTEN.** The system automatically times out after 20 minutes, and if you haven't saved, your work will be lost. We recommend writing the answers to your questions in another document, then copying and pasting them into this form.
- 4) **Fields with an asterisk are required.**
- 5) **Please provide the information requested as succinctly as possible.** Most of our questions do not have word limits, but brevity and specificity are greatly appreciated!
- 6) **Print this instruction page** so that you can complete the correct application pages, as outlined below.

#### ALL APPLICANTS MUST:

- Answer all questions on pages 2 through 5.
- Upload the attachments listed on page 9.
- Complete the [Organization Budget Template](#) and upload it with the attachments.

#### Early Childhood Education requests must:

- Complete page 6
- Skip pages 7 and 8

#### K-16 Education requests must:

- Complete page 7
- Skip pages 6 and 8

#### Economic & Workforce Development requests must:

- Complete page 8
- Skip pages 6 and 7



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	If your grant application is in the category of...		
Then complete...	Early Childhood Education	K-16 Education	Economic & Workforce Development
Pages 2-5	✓	✓	✓
Page 6	✓		
Page 7		✓	
Page 8			✓
Attachments	✓	✓	✓
Organization Budget	✓	✓	✓

If you have any questions or encounter any issues, please contact Jessica Cherok at [jcherok@garfdn.org](mailto:jcherok@garfdn.org) or 330-576-2915.



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## Systemic Solutions Application Template

### Page 2 – Organization Information

All applications must complete this page.

\*Organization's Legal Name

Doing business as / also known as

\*Address

\*City/State/Zip

Website

### Page 3 – Contact Information

All applicants must complete this page

#### Head of Organization

(Who leads your organization?)

\*First Name

\*Last Name

\*Title

\*Email

\*Phone Number

#### Applicant Contact

(Who should we contact to discuss this application?)

Same as Head of Organization?

Check this box to autofill this section with the information above.

First Name

Last Name

Title

Email

Phone Number



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### Page 4 – Financial Information

All applicants must complete this page.

\*Organization's Tax ID  
(or fiscal sponsor's ID, if applying through a fiscal sponsor)

\* Date on 501(c)(3) letter

Name of Fiscal Sponsor  
(if you have one)

\*Annual Operating Budget  
(i.e., what are your organization's total annual expenses?)

Endowment Market Value and Date of Valuation  
(if your organization has an endowment)

\*Major Funding Sources (by percent)  
(e.g., 20% government, 40% individual contributions, 20% foundations, 20% earned income)

\*What percent of your board members make a financial contribution to your organization?



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### Page 5 – General Applications Information

All applicants must complete this page.

\*This is a request for:

(e.g., “for operating support” or “for the XYZ program”)

\*Request Amount

\*In which of GAR’s Systemic Solutions impact categories does this request fit?

Early Childhood Education, K-16 Education, Economic & Workforce Development

1. \*Please provide a brief (4-5 sentence) overview of your organization’s mission and work.
2. If this is a request for a specific project, please provide a brief (4-5 sentence) description of the project.
3. \*What outcomes will you have achieved in one year if this grant is a success? Please provide specific, measurable outcomes in a numbered list (not a narrative).  
(e.g., 1. 60% of clients will leave the shelter for permanent housing; 2. In the 2018-19 school year, absenteeism rates will be reduced by 25% for participants in our program.)  
([Click here to learn more about #WhyWeAsk for outcomes and objectives.](#))
4. \*What are the objectives you will pursue with these grant funds? Your objectives should be quantifiable and correspond to your list of outcomes above.  
(e.g., 1. Provide emergency shelter to 750 women in Akron in 2018; 2. In the 2018-19 school year, provide tutoring services to 100 APS high school students.)  
([Click here to learn more about #WhyWeAsk for outcomes and objectives.](#))
5. \*How many people did you serve **last year**? Please provide details for the following demographic categories:  
(If this is a request for operating support, include numbers served throughout your organization. If this is a request for a project, specify the number served by that project.)
  - Total number served
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Race
  - City of Akron residents



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6. \*What population will you serve with this proposal **in the coming year**? Please provide details for the following demographic categories:  
(If this is a request for operating support, include numbers served throughout your organization. If this is a request for a project, specify the number served by that project.)
  - Total number to be served
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Race
  - City of Akron residents
7. \*Who will lead this work? Please provide a short description of his/her experience in this area.
8. \*GAR believes partnership and collaborations are key to addressing issues in our community. Who are your key partners and collaborators with respect to the work for which you are seeking funding? Describe their roles. Please be specific.

GAR Foundation is committed to tackling structural barriers rooted in racial and economic inequity. Please answer the following questions about diversity in your organization and among your client population.

([Click here to learn more about #WhyWeAsk about diversity and inclusion.](#))

9. \*Please describe the diversity of your **board** for each of the following categories:
  - Total number of board members
  - Male / Female / Other
  - Under age 40 / Over age 40
  - White / People of Color
10. \*Please describe the diversity of your **staff** for each of the following categories:
  - Total number of staff members
  - Male / Female / Other
  - Under age 40 / Over age 40
  - White / People of Color
11. \*How does your organization ensure its work is shaped and informed by diverse voices and perspectives?



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### Page 6 – Early Childhood Education

ONLY Early Childhood Education requests need to complete this page.

GAR Foundation's Goal: 80% of Akron children are Kindergarten ready by 2022

Our Strategies:

- Improve transitions from early learning to Kindergarten settings
- Strengthen high quality adult-child interactions
- Empower and engage families to be their child's first and best teacher

12. Please describe the specific curriculum that will be used in the proposed program. Why did you select this curriculum, and what evidence supports your choice?  
(If you'd like to provide a link to resources about this curriculum, please do so here.)

13. It is a core belief of GAR Foundation that high-quality adult-child interactions are key to success for young children. What professional development is planned to ensure high-quality adult-child interactions as part of the proposed program? Please be specific as to the curriculum and training provider to be used for the professional development.

14. What assessment or evaluation tool do you use to evaluate the quality of adult-child interactions in your program setting?  
(e.g., CLASS, ACII, PICCOLO, etc)

15. If the proposed programming is provided at an early childhood center, are you using the Transition Skills Summary (TSS)? Yes/No

16. How do you use TSS results to inform your practices?

17. How do you inform parents/caregivers of the information on the TSS report?

18. How do you engage with families? How are you supporting a family's efforts to improve their child's likelihood of success?



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### Page 7 – K-16 Education

ONLY K-16 Education requests need to complete this page.

GAR Foundation's Goal: Akron Public School students experience high-quality teaching and engaged learning to be college and career ready.

Our Strategies:

- Support the development of College and Career Academies of Akron
- Support quality out-of-school-time learning experiences
- Support school investment in high-quality teacher professional development

GAR Foundation has joined the growing number of philanthropic organizations seeking to understand impact in a more meaningful way, because we want to maximize the good we can do. To be considered for funding, all K-16 education programs **must**:

- Work with students who attend Akron Public Schools
  - Offer **sustained** interactions with children. “Sustained” is defined as:
    - 15 or more total contact hours over at least 4 weeks for summer programs
    - 20 or more total contact hours over at least 9 weeks for all other programs
  - Work with Summit Education Initiative (SEI) to track student outcomes
    - Register as an Out of School Time Provider (OSTP) with SEI
    - Attend required FERPA and OSTP trainings provided by SEI
    - Attend quarterly OSTP meeting hosted by SEI
  - Administer the Youth View® Survey, if your program works with youth age 12 or older
  - Provide outcome data from the OSTP Portal and/or Youth View® Survey to GAR Foundation
12. Summit Education Initiative has identified six critical transition points on the Cradle to Career Continuum. Which of these transition points is the primary focus of the proposed programming? Kindergarten Readiness, 3rd Grade Reading, 8th Grade Math, 9th Grade Success, College & Career Readiness, or College & Career Persistence  
([Click here to review how SEI defines each transition point.](#))
13. How will the proposed program support students to advance along the key transition point you identified above?
14. Describe any opportunity gap(s) you see in the student population(s) that you serve, such as racial, socioeconomic, ESL and/or non-English speaking, students. How does this proposed program address the identified gaps?  
([Click here for a definition of “opportunity gap.”](#))
15. What tools or methods do you use to measure the success of your OST programming?  
(e.g., MAP scores, YouthView®, etc.)



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16. Please share the data and any evidence you have collected that demonstrates the effectiveness of your proposed approach.
17. What are the qualifications and credentials of those who will manage and deliver the proposed program?
18. Please describe the steps your organization has taken to guard against harm occurring to youth (ages 0-18) that you serve. Include a description of the activities related to staff and volunteer training, screening/background checks, supervision, transportation policy, facility safety, and the reporting of incidents or allegations.
19. Does your organization have insurance coverage for staff and volunteers who interact with your youth?
20. If your request includes funding for professional development/training, what is the goal of the proposed professional development/training, and how will you measure effectiveness? Please describe in detail the provider, curriculum, duration, and assessment of the proposed program.



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### Page 8 – Economic & Workforce Development

ONLY Economic & Workforce Development requests need to complete this page.

GAR Foundation's Goal: Improve Akron's economic health as evidenced by a decrease in poverty, and an increase in the median household income and family-sustaining jobs.

Our Strategies:

- Help to design a high-functioning network of economic and workforce development providers whose work is driven by shared goals, defined roles, accountability for outcomes, and a single data platform
- Support implementation of the network design for economic and workforce development in Akron
- Encourage Akron's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem, as evidenced through population-serving businesses, creative placemaking, and neighborhood development

12. Into which of GAR's Economic & Workforce Development strategies does your request fit?

- Advance economic and/or workforce development in Akron through a networked approach that is driven by shared goals, defined roles, accountability for outcomes, and a shared data platform.
- Encourage Akron's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem through support of population-serving businesses, creative placemaking, or neighborhood development.

13. What is your theory of change with this work? In other words, how do you think your work will advance economic or workforce development in Akron? Please be specific and include evidence that supports your theory of change.

GAR Foundation supports **inclusive economic and workforce development efforts** that acknowledge and intentionally address systemic barriers to economic opportunity for people of color.

14. How will your efforts acknowledge and intentionally address systemic barriers to economic opportunity for people of color?

15. In what ways would your work change as a result of this grant? How will economic inclusion be advanced through this proposal?

16. How will you know if you've been successful in improving racial inclusion in your work?

GAR believes that data is essential to understanding issues, evaluating outcomes, and guiding decisions. Please answer the following questions about how you track and evaluate your work.



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17. How does your organization measure its impact and effectiveness?
18. What economic and/or workforce metrics do you track? What methodology do you use to track these metrics?
19. How do you use your program data to inform your work? Do you modify or adapt your program based on the data you collect? If so, please explain how.
20. Does your organization partner with other local, regional, or national organizations to do this work? If so, please describe those partnerships and how they impact your work.
21. Describe how your work ties to Akron Public Schools' College & Career Academies of Akron (CCAA), if at all.

### Attachment Page

Please attach the following documents:

- A copy of your 501(c)(3) letter
- A cover letter, signed by your board president, indicating intent to apply for this grant
- A current board list with contact information for all board members
- The [Organization Budget Template](#) provided on our website
- A project budget, if you're applying for a specific project
- Your current year-to-date financial statements
- Your most recent 990
- Your most recent audit, or, if your organization does not have an audit, the most recent year-end unaudited financials
- A list of all grants you've received in the last 2 years, including the years they were received and the amounts awarded
- A list of other funders you've approached for this project or purpose