

# Request for Innovation Proposals



## Real Kids, Real Faith is reimagining how children's spirituality looks, sounds, and acts in this moment

We are seeking individuals and organizations that want to explore new ways of nurturing children's spirituality based on contemporary research findings. We plan to organize innovation mini-hubs: networks of child-and-family-oriented support sites that will experiment with new methods and strategies and then reflect on their practice with one another and other mini-hub participants around the USA.

**We are interested in hearing about innovative ideas that:**

### **Are based on current social science research**

Many children's spirituality practices and programs are based on old and outdated models of education and child development. An innovative approach will be shaped by contemporary research findings in areas such as neurology, psychology, child development, education, sociology, and technology.

### **Create a new practice or significantly enhance an existing one**

Our preference is for new ideas designed from the ground up in conversation with social science research. However, we know some organizations already have effective, research-driven programs in place for youth and want to think about adapting their work to include children. Others have recently reshaped their approach to children's spiritual development and think it's somewhat responsive to today's families but could use some research-based adjustments. We want to hear about these ideas too.



real kids  
real faith







## Prioritize underserved populations

We welcome all ideas but are especially interested in innovations that address those who are religiously unaffiliated or claim 'none' as their spiritual background. We also prefer ideas that are attentive to diversity (e.g. race, class, ethnicity, gender identity, household compositions) in a meaningful way.

## Lend themselves to exploration in a networked learning community

Each innovation site will be placed in a mini-hub with other innovators. These mini-hubs will meet periodically to discuss their innovation experiments, reflect together on the challenges of nurturing children's spirituality today, and refine their practices.

## Operate outside traditional structures

Families are shifting away from institutional religion and formal religious education programs. Innovation ideas designed to meet this cultural shift will focus on practices and activities within families or through non-traditional programs. Their primary concern will be nurturing children's spiritual development, not recruiting or retaining members.

## Uphold RKRF's guiding principles

Real Kids, Real Faith holds a set of general beliefs that inform all of our work. All innovation site projects will be expected to uphold these beliefs. You can find them at [www.realkidsrealfaith.org/about](http://www.realkidsrealfaith.org/about)



## Proposal Deadlines

Proposals are due based on when you want to begin your innovation.

- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis for programs beginning in Fall 2022, January 2023, and Summer 2023.

Download an application at <https://www.realkidsrealfaith.org/innovation-hubs>.

Not sure how to design an innovation project but know that what you're doing isn't as effective as you'd like? We would love to explore how we might help you design a project using RKRF research findings.

Fill out the Innovation Interest Form at <https://www.realkidsrealfaith.org/innovation-hubs>.

More questions? Email [InnovationInfo@RealKidsRealFaith.org](mailto:InnovationInfo@RealKidsRealFaith.org)