THE TEAGLE FOUNDATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

COLLEGE-COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PARTNERSHIPS: PHASE III

The Teagle Foundation invites proposals for projects to refine, expand the reach, and institutionalize the existing partnerships between community-based organizations with strong college preparatory programs and NYC-area colleges / universities. The purpose of the partnerships is to develop academically challenging and stimulating programs that will enhance the college readiness -- and success -- of talented but financially disadvantaged New York City high school students. The Foundation anticipates making a maximum of eleven grants. The maximum value of each grant will be $270,000 over three years.

Background and Context for this Initiative:

The Teagle Foundation has long felt a special responsibility to the community from within which it operates, and over the years, has contributed to a wide range of organizations that work with young people in New York City. This responsibility is coupled with the Foundation’s commitment to higher education -- and in particular, liberal education -- which cultivates in students the higher order capacities (such as critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills) that will not only equip them for jobs right out of college, but also for the work they will do over the course of a lifetime, in industries and positions that may not even exist yet. Seven years ago, as an expression of these core commitments, Teagle began supporting partnerships between community-based organizations (CBOs) that offer college preparatory programs and colleges and universities in the metropolitan area. The goals of the partnerships were:

- To enhance the college readiness of highly talented but disadvantaged high school students served by CBOs in New York City.
- To encourage these students to aim high in setting their academic goals, and to succeed in reaching them.
- To provide opportunities for faculty and students at colleges and universities in the New York City area to work with these students.
- To encourage academic departments or established programs (e.g., American studies, film and media studies, women’s studies, etc.) at colleges/universities to commit to the partnership over the life of the grant.
- To encourage CBOs and colleges to explore ways in which such partnerships can be more fully integrated, and eventually institutionalized, at their institutions.
- To support college preparatory programs at CBOs.

Current Program Design and Goals:

The “College Community Connections: Phase III” initiative retains these core goals, but challenges existing partnerships in a number of important ways. The overarching purpose of this initiative is to help
financially disadvantaged, but talented high school students prepare for and succeed in college. We pursue this end through the development of programs that engage students in academically ambitious programs that increase their knowledge and skill base even as they encourage students to think expansively about the colleges to which they might ultimately apply.

Successful proposals will give special and explicit attention to the specific goals for this iteration of the initiative:

(1) Refine program content based on lessons learned during the past iteration. Individual partnerships may determine what is most needed in terms of revisions (e.g., deeper faculty involvement, increased access to campus resources, etc.). Access to engaging and enriching academic content grounded in the Arts & Sciences must remain central to the program.

(2) Expand the reach of the program to the extent that it is possible, aiming to serve a greater number of students. The most recent CCC evaluation made clear the wide range in costs per student among the partnerships. Ways to increase reach while controlling costs may include, for example, the strategic use of technology and/or offering academic year programming to a larger number of students than the college-based summer component. As part of the proposal, please calculate per student costs.

(3) Find ways to include an emphasis on college success. CBOs, for instance, may wish to enhance their tracking mechanisms and programming for students who have participated in the program in the past and are now in college. CBOs may also wish to invite CCC alumni who are now in college to come speak about strategies for college success.

(4) Actively disseminate the work of the program, with an eye not only to informing colleagues about your model, but encourage others to undertake similar efforts on their own campuses. This dissemination work could include— but is not limited to— presenting at conferences, publishing results of the work, and running workshops about the partnership model for colleagues at other institutions.

Sustainability: In the years ahead, the Teagle Foundation anticipates maintaining its commitment to programming to support college access and success for as many students as possible, and we anticipate that the partnerships will go well in this third phase of the work. We are less able to anticipate, however, the precise nature of the programming that will follow this round of grantmaking—that will depend to a high degree on what we learn from this round of grants—but have a keen interest in developing plans to continue the work and ideally spread the effect of the good results that we are seeing. We therefore ask that you dedicate a section of your proposal to discussing how the work you are doing may be institutionalized and sustained – in some form – over the long term and also explain what levels of funding (external or internal) would be needed. For example, while partners might develop a plan to sustain the programming that they have offered every year, they might also decide - more modestly - to distill the academic heart of the experience by arranging for faculty who have taught in the program to offer a series of lectures or workshops at the CBO during the academic year, and to provide an overnight campus visit for CBO students during the academic year. Perhaps a development officer at the institution, for instance, can also be tasked with seeking funding for this work. These are simply
examples; we seek your wisdom and creativity in configuring sustainability plans that best suit your partnership.

**Funding Opportunity:** For the purposes outlined, the Teagle Foundation invites selected partnerships to apply for grants of up to $270,000 to be used over three years. Up to $90,000 can be requested for each partnership, $45,000 of which must go to the CBO for direct support of its college preparatory program.

**Application Timeline and Process:**
CCC proposals will be considered at the February 2012 board meeting. The Foundation will notify applicants of the Board’s decision by the end of February 2012, and for successful applicants, the first round of funding will be released in July 2012. This timeline is designed to allow ample time for partnerships to plan for summer 2012 grant activities. If you have any questions about this timetable, please let us know.

Full proposals are due by **January 6, 2012**. Please let us know of your intention to apply no later than December 16, 2011. Foundation staff members are also available to answer questions by phone or email, as well as to read drafts of proposals provided that they are submitted no later than December 16, 2011.

**Full proposals must include:**

- A 5-7 page narrative proposal that outlines the project as specifically as possible and includes: background and context for the partnership, including discussion of how the two organizations’ mission and philosophies align; purpose and goals for this iteration; a work plan, timeline (including start and end dates), plans for sustainability; and criteria for judging the grant’s success.
- A one-paragraph abstract of the project, suitable for posting on the web
- The contact information for the person at each organization in charge of the project
- A letter of endorsement from at least one senior leader at each organization. Experience has taught us that projects succeed when senior leaders make clear their support of the work.
- A 1-2 page budget, based on July 1 – June 30 operating years. The maximum grant is $270,000 over 36 months, and funds may be used for all direct – but no indirect – costs of the program. Please show cost-sharing where possible, including both direct and indirect costs borne by the CBO and the college/university. The per student cost of the program should also be calculated.

An electronic copy of the final proposal (as a single PDF if possible) should be sent to proposals@teaglefoundation.org. In addition, one hard copy of the final proposal should be sent to:

The Teagle Foundation  
570 Lexington Avenue, 38th Floor  
New York, NY 10022

**Foundation Contacts:**
If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact Donna Heiland (dheiland@teagle.org) or Annie Bezbatchenko (abez@teagle.org) at the Teagle Foundation.