THE TEAGLE FOUNDATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
COLLEGE-COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PARTNERSHIPS: PHASE IV

The Teagle Foundation invites proposals from current participants in its College-Community Connections (CCC) program to institutionalize existing partnerships between community-based organizations and NYC-area colleges/universities. These partnerships have created academically challenging and stimulating programs that enhance the college readiness and success of talented but financially disadvantaged New York City high school students. This phase of the CCC funding aims to support planning to institutionalize partners’ efforts so they are sustainable over the long term. The Foundation anticipates making a maximum of eleven grants. The maximum value of each grant will be $90,000 for one year.

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 higher order capacities 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. More generally, the benefits of liberal education ensure that students are prepared for full participation as citizens in our democracy and meaningful reflection on achieving the good life.

Nearly a decade 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.
Reaching the ten-year mark for the College-Community Connections program is an occasion to celebrate the important work accomplished through these partnerships. It also invites reflection on the ways in which Teagle can strengthen its efforts in promoting access to and success in liberal education for students who have historically been excluded from its benefits. Drawing on the accumulated wisdom, experience, and assessment data gathered to date by the partnerships, we will take the opportunity to refine the College-Community Connections program for the future.

To that end, we invite proposals from grantees in the currently configured College-Community Connections program to support planning for sustainability and institutionalization. While this grant cycle will continue to provide programmatic support, the key area of emphasis in phase IV of funding will be on developing a sustainability plan for the future. In other words, this process is intended to provide currently funded partnerships with a final year of support for their activities from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, while also providing time and support for planning and discussion among the partners on the future of their programs.

Current Program Design and Goals:

In the “College Community Connections: Phase IV” initiative we challenge partnerships to continue their programmatic activities and to explore strategies for institutionalization and sustainability for their work, including identifying alternative sources for financial support.

Successful proposals will give special and explicit attention to the following goals:

1. Discuss and implement plans for institutionalization and sustainability of the partnerships, in some form, over the longer term so underprivileged students may continue to benefit from your good work. We encourage the partnerships to use your collective wisdom and creativity in configuring sustainability plans that best suit your needs.

2. Actively disseminate the work of the program, with an eye not only to informing colleagues about your model, but encouraging 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. Please provide examples of professional forums and conferences where you plan to present your work.

3. Discuss the means by which you will assess impact and track outcomes for participants, and how you will use this assessment to inform your plan for sustainability. The scope of assessment may include a retrospective analysis of outcomes experienced by past participants using high school graduation and college placement data; ongoing measures of engagement and learning by current participants using surveys or focus groups; or other forms of assessment that best meet your needs.

4. A key area for reflection and discussion is how you will balance cost-effectiveness with quality. As part of your discussion of your sustainability plan, please include the per student costs associated with your program for each year in which you received support from the Teagle Foundation. Please schedule a brief telephone call with Desiree Vazquez (desireev@teagle.org) to
discuss what might be the most appropriate way to report your per student cost, taking into account the unique characteristics of your partnerships.

Funding Opportunity: For the purposes outlined, the Teagle Foundation invites selected partnerships to apply for grants of up to $90,000 to be used over one year, of which at least $45,000 must go to the CBO for direct support of its college preparatory program.

We are offering the opportunity for phase IV funding as a demonstration of the Foundation’s commitment to the important mission and activities of the programs. At the same time, however, we wish to reflect on close to a decade of work in this initiative to envision new strategies that provide underrepresented students with access to and success in liberal education. Because the CCC program direction may change in the future, we do not anticipate being able to support all currently funded partnerships beyond phase IV.

Application Timeline and Process:
CCC proposals will be considered at the November 2014 board meeting. The Foundation will notify applicants of the Board’s decision by the end of November 2014, and for successful applicants, the first round of funding will be released in June 2015. This timeline is designed to allow ample time for partnerships to plan for 2015-2016 grant activities.

Full proposals are due by September 22, 2014. Please let us know of your intention to apply no later than August 1, 2014. 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 September 22, 2014.

For those partnerships that need additional time for proposal preparation, we will consider a December submission deadline ahead of our February 2015 board meeting on a case by case basis. If you have questions or concerns about the timetable, please confer with Desiree Vazquez (desireev@teagle.org).

Full proposals must include:

- A 5-7 page narrative proposal that focuses on reporting plans for sustainability, assessment, and dissemination. It should also include a brief outline of the partnerships’ continuing programmatic activities.
- 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 $90,000 over 12 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.

An electronic copy of the final proposal (as a single PDF if possible) should be sent to proposals@teaglefoundation.org.
Foundation Contacts:
If you have any questions about this initiative, please contact Desiree Vazquez (desireev@teaglefoundation.org) at the Teagle Foundation.