

**Request for Proposals:
Innovative Partnerships Promoting College and Career Readiness in New Hampshire
Released: May 16, 2018**

Introduction:

New Hampshire's Alliance for College and Career Readiness (The Alliance) is pleased to announce the availability of "Innovative Partnerships Promoting College and Career Readiness in New Hampshire" subgrants to programs and policies that improve student postsecondary success and elevate locally-developed innovations. These grants are designed to advance the capacity of groups and organizations working to improve opportunities for NH students as they progress from high school to a postsecondary program, career, or both.

The Alliance will award approximately 5 grants of \$5,000 each, to fund activities over a 10 month period. The deadline for applications is June 30, 2018. Notices of awards will be issued on July 16, 2018. Successful applicants must be available to participate in a workshop with other grantees on Monday, August 27, 2018.

About The Alliance:

The Alliance is a diverse group of grassroots and grassroots leaders across the K-12, higher education, and business and industry sectors working together to ensure all students in New Hampshire graduate high school ready for life, college, and career. Our members include representatives from PreK-12 education, postsecondary education, business & industry, the nonprofit sector, as well as student and parent groups.

Publicly launched in January 2018, The Alliance is working to create demand for a college and career readiness agenda in NH by staying grounded in the reality of NH's classrooms and by taking a holistic view of the issues. As such, The Alliance operates as an independent and autonomous entity driven by its unique ethos of intentional grassroots engagement and support as an anchor for system-level changes to college and career readiness in New Hampshire.

In practice, The Alliance serves as:

- a hub to aggregate and share information, best practices, and opportunities (e.g., monthly newsletter and annual convening);
- a policy engagement group focused on advancing policy priorities, identified by the alliance, to support college and career readiness (e.g., improving supports and resources for school counselor teams);
- the K-12 working group and thought partner for statewide efforts to realize New Hampshire's goal of 65% of adults having a meaningful postsecondary certification by 2025 (65 by 25); and,
- a community organizer working to bridge silos and connect students and families to the opportunities they need to thrive after high school (e.g., expanding access to high-quality Extended Learning Opportunities).

Grant Background

Purpose: The purpose of the New Hampshire College and Career Readiness (CCR) sub-grants is to **build grassroots support** for programs that promote student postsecondary success and to **surface locally-developed innovations** that improve student CCR outcomes.

Funding Range: We expect to award five grants at \$5,000 each, for projects or work initiated and/or conducted in the period between August 27, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

Funding Priorities: Applicants apply to one, and only one, of the following priorities:

1. **Increasing parent involvement** in college and career readiness – under this priority we will support projects that will improve parental involvement in a program or programs that focus on student postsecondary success;
2. **Increasing student leadership for college and career readiness** – under this priority we will support projects that instill greater student agency over programs that focus on CCR;
3. **Supporting School Counseling Innovation** – under this priority we will support projects that increase the effectiveness of school counselors / school counseling teams to address local issues inhibiting student CCR;
4. **Increasing access to high-quality Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs)** – under this priority we will support projects that expand access to high-quality ELOs; or
5. **Increasing business engagement in college and career readiness** – under this priority we will support projects that will increase the level of local business ownership over programs that support student CCR (e.g., internships, mentorship programs, career days, etc.)

Eligible Applicants:

We invite applications from public entities, such as state education agencies and local school districts, and 501(c)(3) organizations. State and local teachers unions with the requisite tax status may also apply for funding. Applicant organizations, and the work proposed in the application, must be NH-based. Non tax-exempt organizations can only apply for a grant through a fiscal agent which is a 501(c)(3) and which signs a fiscal sponsorship agreement as part of the application process. Examples of eligible applicants:

- School Districts
- Schools, Career & Technical Education Centers, and other formal district-based educational entities
- Nonprofits and community-based organizations

501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) organizations are not eligible to apply.

Application Requirements:

- In order to be considered for funding, applicants must provide written assurance as part of their application that the project leadership will be available for a full-day workshop on August 27, 2018.
- 2-page Project Narrative: Applicants must submit a project narrative (no greater than 2 pages, single-space, size 10 font) that describes:
 - How the project addresses the funding priority;
 - How the project will engage local partners to build sustainable relationships;

- How the grantee proposes to evaluate progress and success (metrics, data, measures of success/impact); and,
- How the grantee defines sustainability for the project.

(Note: All applicants must specify how they will use the funds to serve K-12 students.)

- 1-page Project Work Plan: Applicants must submit a project work plan showing:
 - Project goals
 - Timeline
 - Major milestones
- Project Budget: Applicants must submit a detailed project budget.
- Letters of support from local partners (e.g., school district will need letters from businesses or if the applicant is a local business, then it will need letters of support from the school district).
- Eligibility Verification
 - IRS Exemption Letter for non-profit entities

Format

- Applications should be sent as one PDF via email to jessica@reachinghighernh.org before or by the deadline of 5:00 p.m. EST on June 30, 2018.

Selection Criteria (60 pts total):

1. Extent to which the project will build local support for CCR (between 0 and 20 points): The extent to which the proposed project will engage new partners or deepen connections between existing partners, in support of the proposed outcomes.
2. Quality of the project design (between 0 and 20 points): The extent to which the goals and outcomes to be achieved by the proposed project are clear, specific, and attainable.
3. Sustainability (between 0 and 20 points): The extent to which the applicant describes a realistic, attainable goal for advancing the project’s goals beyond the one-year funding period.

Reporting Requirements:

- Quarterly check-in call;
- Submit mid-grant report and final report;
- Attend at least one NH Alliance for College & Career Readiness meeting; and,
- When applicable, and relevant, host site visit for Alliance members to share key learnings, etc.

Assurances:

Grant funds must only be used for the purposes, over the timeframe, and in the manner set forth in the award letter and approved proposal.

Media Consent:

By applying for a grant, the applicant agrees that if selected for funding, the applicant will share with the New Hampshire Alliance for College and Career Readiness any digital media products (e.g., pictures, film, podcasts, etc.) developed for use as part of the grant.

Technical Assistance:

Grant recipients will receive targeted coaching and support from the NH Alliance for College & Career Readiness and will have the opportunity to connect with statewide experts in their project's area of focus.

Process:

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>RFP Release Date</i> | May 16, 2018 |
| <i>Webinar to go over the RFP and answer questions from potential applicants*</i> | June 6, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. EST |
| <i>Deadline to submit application</i> | June 30, 2018 by 5:00 p.m. EST |
| <i>Notice of Award</i> | July 16, 2018 by 5:00 p.m. EST |
| <i>Required In-Person Workshop</i> | August 27, 2018 |

***Registration for the webinar:**

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AVo93r5CSCuy_tS4GK_e0Q

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Contact Information:

Jessica Rodriguez Boudreau - jessica@reachinghighernh.org