Request for Proposals:

Micro-grants to support responses to COVID-19 and the movement to end structural racism

Community-based organization professionals are working long hours to support their postsecondary education students and themselves in response to COVID-19 and the movement to end structural racism and police brutality. Trellis Foundation recognizes the inherent relationship between wellbeing and the ability to achieve longer-term educational outcomes. We know that our colleagues are generally overextended and are often generating coping tools and advocacy resources on top of their other work.

In response, we are accepting proposals from community-based organizations focused on postsecondary access and completion for micro-grants to support staff time and resource development dedicated to these rapid responses needed to support the community and our students.

Proposals may range from $500-$2,000. Preference will be given to proposals where stipends will be awarded to professionals of color. If a proposal relies on the lived experience of a professional of color, it is expected that a stipend will be included; our intent is to avoid the "POC tax" often seen in the professional world, where colleagues of color are asked to provide additional work in support of DEI measures but are not compensated accordingly.

Preference also given for proposals providing resources or information that can be shared beyond the applicant organization.

Timeline:
- RFP release: Aug. 11
- Application closes: Aug. 25 at 10 pm
- Awards announced: Sept. 9

Application link: https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_1474?SA=SNA&FID=35039

Organization eligibility:
- Community-based organization [501(c)3]
  - Note: Colleges and universities—or their foundations—are not eligible
- Organization should be based in Texas and serve Texas students
- Mission or vision statement on website, or organizational goals, includes an emphasis on postsecondary/college degree attainment
- At least 50% of the students served for postsecondary degree attainment are 18 or older (i.e., programming includes students after high school graduation)
- Organizations serving adult learners or reconnecting learners who have stopped-out are eligible

Priority focus areas:
- Coping/trauma
- Race and Equity
- Access to supports during COVID: economic, mental health, etc.
- DEI Taskforce initiatives

Examples of eligible proposals:

- Production and dissemination of a guide for students and/or staff on finding and accessing mental health resources in their community. Examples of costs could include a staff stipend to develop it, translation resources to offer in multiple languages, and marketing consultant if needed to develop the collateral.
- Developing and hosting an interactive webinar on recognizing and avoiding micro-aggressions in the workplace. Examples of costs could include consultant and facilitator stipends, curriculum licenses, webinar technology.
- Creating a blog post on one's experience maintaining work/life balance with specific recommendations. Examples of costs could include a stipend.
- Translating a suite of resources addressing the priority content of this RFP. Examples of costs could include a staff stipend or a contract with a professional translator.
- Creation of equity task force/committee to address structural or programming needs; funding request examples could include stipend for coordinator; purchase of curriculum, training tools or structural documents; if none exist, creation of training tools, structural documents; membership in relevant professional/resource network.

Application Questions:
(For ease of reference only. Applications must be submitted through the online form)
Eligibility Quiz:

- We are a community-based organization [501(c)3]
- Our mission statement or our vision statement on our website, or our organization's public goals, includes an emphasis on postsecondary/college degree attainment
- At least 50% of the students we serve for postsecondary degree attainment are 18 or older (i.e., programming includes students after high school graduation; may also include adult learners and reconnecting learners)
- We are based in Texas and serve Texas students

Questions:

- Brief description of organization (include mission statement)
- Board leadership & org leadership race/ethnicity—numerator and denominator [chart to upload]
- Which focus area selecting:
  - Coping/trauma
  - Equity & Racial Justice
  - Access to supports during COVID: economic, mental health, etc.
  - DEI initiatives at your organization
- One-sentence description of the proposed deliverable
- Full description of the proposed deliverable (anticipate 2-5 paragraphs). Include a brief description of the need, what you plan to develop, and how it can be shared with other organizations.
- Budget narrative. If requesting a staff/consultant stipend, include the staff person's name, position, and race/ethnicity. Preference given to applications applying any staff stipend to professionals of color.