

January 2021 Request for Proposals:
**Regional ecosystem innovation for
reskilling/upskilling in Texas**



Agenda

- Overview of Trellis Foundation
- Competitive RFP
 - Objectives
 - Application Process & Timelines
 - Review Process
- Q&A

Trellis Foundation

Advancing equitable educational opportunities in Texas by supporting postsecondary programs, practices, and systems that reduce disparities and lead to success for low-income students and students of color

Strategic Framework – Focus Areas



Holistic Student Support

Enhancing the development, delivery, and integration of the broad set of support services that are critical to persistence and completion.



Streamlined Pathways

Improving the availability of clear and easy-to-navigate paths for students into, through, and beyond postsecondary education, with an emphasis on key momentum points.



Reconnection for Returning Learners

Creating opportunities and removing barriers for students with gaps in education to successfully resume and complete their academic journey and advance their career goals.

Strategic Framework – Approaches



**Supporting Localized,
Direct Impact**

**Scaling Proven
& Promising Practices**

**Driving Structural
& Policy Change**

Convening & Catalyzing Collaboration

Equity Framework

Trellis Foundation has already been working on racial equity by...

- Developing **mission statement that is explicit** about focusing on low-income students and students of color
- Using potential to address persistent disparities as a lens when selecting **focus areas**
- Provide grants to organizations and programs that **focus on students of color**
- Support the **most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations**, such as justice impacted individuals, in grant making
- Support **capacity building** for grantees

Trellis Foundation can continue to live into its commitment by bolstering practices in 5 areas:



Communicating about the work



Attracting and selecting grantees



Supporting grantees and partners



Aligning internal organization to equity



Tracking and evaluating progress

Of Note

- Reflecting Trellis Foundation's commitment to equitable outcomes for Texas students, our grantmaking now considers diversity and inclusion
 - Related to the applying organizations' boards, leadership, and staff
 - As articulated in the goals of proposed work related to the students served
 - Related to the data collected and outcomes intended to be achieved

Regional Collaboration: Reskilling/Upskilling

- Acknowledges tremendous need and opportunity related to economic resilience for Texans and for the state as a whole
- Recognizes potential for intentional collaboration between higher education and workforce

RFP Priorities

- Collaboration – Regional/Community Approach, may be emerging or advanced
 - Workforce Development Board, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corp.
 - Education/Training Providers (community colleges, universities)
 - Community-based social services organizations, community members
 - Major employers or industry representatives

RFP Eligibility

- Location - Work must take place in Texas and benefit Texas working learners
- Impact - Short- and long-term
 - Responsive to COVID-19
 - Creates sustainable collaborative for educational attainment and economic development
 - Prefer a mix of student-level outcomes and community/system-level outcomes

RFP Award Amounts

- Anticipate awarding 4-6 grants
- Amounts not to exceed \$250,000 each



Application Process

- All applications must be submitted through the online portal (link in the RFP document)
- Sections and descriptions are found in the RFP document – needs, plans, measures, etc.
- Required attachments include project budget and a demographic worksheet; other documents may be required as well (letters of support, 990s, audited financials)

Budget Considerations

- Trellis Foundation funds cannot be used for
 - Annual fund-raising events
 - Performances or competitions
 - Building infrastructure, physical plant, construction
 - Motor vehicles
 - Endowments or debt retirements
 - Lobbying efforts to influence specific legislation
- Up to 10% of may be applied to indirect costs.
- At least 20% of the total project costs must be covered by other funders or in-kind support

Timeline

- Proposals due by 5 p.m. (CST) on February 19
- Staff review through March
- Board consideration and applicant notification no later than March 29
- Projects may begin as early as May 1

Review Process

- Additional details may be requested by email, phone or through virtual site visits
- Anticipate that the most competitive applications will demonstrate
 - Clear understanding of workforce needs and higher education/training capabilities in their region
 - Promotion of reskilling/upskilling efforts that lead to family-sustaining wages in high-demand occupations
 - Capacity to disaggregate data by race/ethnicity and gender at a minimum

Review Process

- Anticipate that the most competitive applications will demonstrate
 - Committed partnership from multiple organizations across the community
 - Well-articulated short- and long-term goals for the work
 - Understanding of what equitable outcomes will look like for the work proposed

FAQs:

Updated regularly on [webpage](#)

+ I started an online application and saved it. What link do I use to continue my application?

+ How is “region” defined for this RFP?

+ Can our organization be named as a partner on multiple applications?

+ What type of organization is best as the lead organization/grant applicant?

+ What percent of awardees do you anticipate will be emerging versus established collaborations?

+ Can we include nondegree credentials?

+ Can we include industry-based certifications?

+ For-profit technical or academic programs?

+ What constraints do you have on the funding?

+ Is the 20% match required?

Q & A

info@trellisfoundation.org

@TrellisFdn on Twitter

*RFP Guidelines, FAQs
available online at*

www.trellisfoundation.org





www.trellisfoundation.org