



The Education Trust–West

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL EDUCATION EQUITY COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM

Grant Purpose:

The Education Trust-West (ETW) is launching a grant program to support and coordinate the efforts of highly effective community-based organizations (CBOs) and civil rights groups who together can effectively advocate for stronger policies and practices that expand K-12 and higher education opportunities to students of color and low-income students with equity at the center

These grants will be awarded to community-based organizations (CBOs) and civil rights groups to support them in:

1. **Championing** issues of equity - including financial aid and access to educational opportunities - in higher education and K-12 systems to close opportunity and success gaps in their respective communities;
2. **Engaging, training and organizing** community and student stakeholders to act and mobilize around postsecondary and K-12 priorities;
3. **Educating and informing** policymakers and candidates at the state and local level on issues including, but not limited to:
 - Broadening access and streamlining transitions to and through postsecondary education
 - Ensuring college is affordable and providing a pathway for students to graduate without debt
 - Fostering and improving accountability and transparency with a strong statewide data system
 - Strengthening accountability and offering meaningful support to struggling schools and districts
 - Building a strong and diverse K-12 educator workforce
 - Restoring fiscal adequacy and ensuring resource equity
 - Offering every student an education that prepares them for college and career opportunities

The organizations chosen will (1) represent target regions in the state, (2) have expertise in mobilizing and organizing the communities they serve, (3) have strong relationships with other local organizations and opinion leaders, and (4) have access to a range of constituencies who are low-income and people of color (parents, students, young adults, marginalized youth, etc.).

Activities

The grants will support organizations to:

Engage Community Members and Students

Reach individuals and communities in their networks by:

(1) Hosting two convenings, meetings, trainings, and other capacity-building events on topics including but not limited to:

- Promising policies and practices that promote equity in K-12 and higher education
- The need for strong data systems that connect K-12 to higher ed and to the workforce
- Understanding financial aid and college affordability

(2) Hosting one roundtable that focuses on financial aid awareness that includes local administrators, counselors, and financial aid practitioners

(3) Actively engaging in Ed Trust West education equity campaigns

Advocate for State and Local Policies

Take action to advocate for equity-focused education policies, including:

(1) Endorsing (or continuing to endorse) equity-focused higher education and K-12 priorities (signature on letters, public statements, or public endorsement of state or local policy) and

(2) Distributing monitoring tools and promoting events that educate and inform communities on K-12 and higher education policies and practices and

(3) Attending and providing public comment at K-12 and Higher Education governing body meetings and hearings (i.e., Assembly Education Committee, Senate Education Committee, Assembly Committee on Higher Education, State Board of Education, UC Regents Meetings, CSU Board of Trustees Meetings, CCC Board of Governors Meetings, CSAC Commission Meetings))

(4) Attending other meetings with key decision-makers, including state and local policymakers, or members of key state legislative and/or other committees

Actively Participate as a Community Partner

(1) Regularly communicate with Allyson Osorio as to the progress of the grant and any support that may be needed

- Partners will be asked to schedule monthly check-ins with Allyson Osorio

(2) Attend a kick-off conference call in early February.

(3) Attend a Community Grantee Launch in early 2019.

Garner Social Media & Media Attention

Partner with ETW to secure media mentions/quotes or publish op-eds or letters to the editor regarding higher education priorities in the mainstream media.

Utilize social media channels to promote higher education priorities.

Document Impact and Lessons Learned in Final Grant Report

Document activities; partnerships; and positive outcomes (as well as the prevention of negative outcomes) – such as policy wins, policymakers reached, etc. in the interim narrative and progress report due June 30th, 2019, and final progress report due October, 30, 2019.