

December 28, 2017

Dear Community,

Rose Youth Foundation, an initiative of Rose Community Foundation, engages Jewish high school students in collaborative grantmaking. In spring of 2018, Rose Youth Foundation will make grants totaling \$60,000 to support efforts to close the third grade literacy achievement gap. Grants will fund programs in kindergarten through third grade and will focus on efforts to train and support teachers in creating culturally responsive and inclusive classrooms and schools, and programs to increase high impact family engagement strategies that empower parents as partners in their child's education.

Each year, Rose Youth Foundation members work together to explore Jewish teachings and traditions of giving, explore community needs, and practice strategic philanthropy. We, the 23 members of Rose Youth Foundation, encompass the spectrum of Jewish denominations and collectively we have identified the following Jewish values to guide our grantmaking:

- *Lo ta'amod al dam rei'echa*, Do not stand idly by: As a group of high school students, we have witnessed achievement gap disparities among our peers. We want to help address the gap early before it has lasting effects on a person's education and career.
- *Chesed*, Lovingkindness: We recognize and respect those who are most effected by the achievement gap and hope to restore their honor and dignity through our grantmaking.
- *Tzedakah*, Give in the Pursuit of Justice: Judaism teaches us the importance of education, and we believe everyone should have equitable access to educational opportunities.

We will fund efforts within the two school districts with the greatest achievement gaps: Denver Public Schools and Boulder Valley School District. We invite nonprofit organizations (including charter management organizations), districts, and schools (district, innovation, and charter) with programs serving students, parents or teachers in kindergarten through third grade to respond to this request for proposals. Up to \$60,000 is available to grant and we anticipate making grants that range from \$2,500 to \$15,000. Because funds are limited, it is anticipated that not all applicants will receive funding.

Sincerely,

Rose Youth Foundation 2017-2018 Members

Chanah Reznick and Joseph Reiff, Co-chairs

Austin Barish
Melanie Brown
Rebecca Chapman
Ari Diamond Topelson
Charlie Downing
Sydney Gart
Sam Glaser

Andrew Goldblatt
Lindsay Herz
Asher Kark
Cailey Karshmer
Ellianna Lederman
Isabel Levine Clark
Max Makovsky

Macy Miller
Hannah Pederson
Danit Schinagel
Teddy Schoenfeld
Maddie Solomon
Eden Turnbow
Livy Zeitler

Grant Priority and Request for Proposals
Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2018

The education achievement gap is defined as the disparity in academic outcomes between white students and students of color. It is a widespread problem, affecting the entire country; however, in Colorado, the achievement gap is large and persistent. Test scores show the gap in Colorado is equivalent to two grade levels, which means, on average, Latino and black students are performing about two full grades levels behind their white peers.¹

We will fund efforts to close the third grade literacy achievement gap that serve students, parents or teachers in kindergarten through third grade. After third grade, a student is no longer learning to read, but rather reading to learn. Identifying and addressing the achievement gap in these early years is essential to breaking the cycle of poverty and social inequality.

Our grants will fund programs that build culturally responsive and inclusive teaching practices and/or increase high-impact family engagement strategies that empower parents as partners in their child's education.

Creating schools and classrooms in which students feel safe, welcomed and have a sense of belonging correlates with students' academic success. These practices focus on the "whole child," taking into consideration the physical, mental, emotional and social health of a student. This approach is an effort to transition from a focus on narrowly defined academic achievement to one that promotes the long-term development and success of all children.²

Parent involvement at school and parent educational expectations also have a strong association with children's educational achievement.³ This engagement can occur both in and out of school, and may include home-visits, involvement in parent-teacher conferences, attending at-school programs and events and helping students with homework. We hope to increase engagement between teachers, students, parents and the school so that each child feels supported in her/his education.

We will consider applications from partners within the two school districts with the greatest achievement gaps (Denver Public Schools and Boulder Valley School District), including:

- Districts
- Schools (district, innovation and charter)
- Nonprofit organizations (including charter management organizations)

We will fund:

- Efforts to train and support teachers in creating culturally responsive and inclusive classrooms and schools

¹ Donnell-Kay Foundation, Colorado Children's Campaign, Center for Education Policy Analysis, Piton Foundation. *The achievement gap: Colorado's biggest education problem*. Denver, 2006.

² "Whole Child." ASCD, 19 Dec. 2017. Retrieved from: <http://www.ascd.org/whole-child.aspx>

³ Lee, Jung-Sok and Bowen, Natasha. *Parent involvement, cultural capital and the achievement gap among elementary school children*. American Educational Research Association, 2006.

- Efforts to increase high-impact family engagement strategies that empower parents as partners in their child's education

We will not fund:

- Teacher salaries (applicants may request funds for stipends or incentives)
- Private schools
- For-profit district partners
- Advocacy work
- Efforts serving districts and schools beyond Denver Public Schools and Boulder Valley School District

Eligibility and Application Information

Deadline

All applications must be received through Rose Community Foundation's [online grants portal](#) by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 20, 2018. Late or incomplete proposals may not be considered. All applicants, regardless of whether or not their requests are granted, will be notified in late April 2018.

Funds Available to Grant and Grant Period

\$60,000 is available to grant for this Request for Proposals. Rose Youth Foundation anticipates making grants ranging in size from \$2,500 to \$15,000. Rose Youth Foundation makes one-year grants; funds must be expended between May 2018 and April 2019. Because funds are limited, it is anticipated that not all applicants will receive funding.

Eligibility Requirements

Rose Youth Foundation will accept proposals from nonprofit organizations (including charter management organizations), districts and schools (district, innovation, and charter) serving Denver Public School District and/or Boulder Valley School District.

Applicants must be nonprofit organizations with tax-exempt classification from the Internal Revenue Service, be a tax-supported institution such as a school or government agency or must have a formal fiscal sponsorship arrangement with a tax-exempt organization.

Organizations with a pending grant request to Rose Community Foundation may also apply for this grant opportunity. Organizations may only submit one application in response to this request for proposals. In cases where two or more organizations are partnering on a program or project, one organization should submit a single proposal on behalf of the partnership.

Questions

If you have questions about Rose Youth Foundation's funding priorities, contact Emily Kornhauser, Initiatives Manager, at ekornhauser@rcfdenver.org or 303.398.7417. If you have questions about the online grants portal, contact Kelli Rojas, Grants Manager, at krojas@rcfdenver.org or 303.398.7446.

Completing Your Application

Applications must be submitted online through Rose Community Foundation's online grants portal. You can access the portal [here](#) or at rcfdenver.org/login. You will need to create or log into an existing account to view and complete the grant application. Only applications submitted through Rose Community Foundation's online grants portal will be accepted.

After Submitting Your Application

Once you have submitted your online grant application, you will receive an email confirming your application was successfully submitted in the system. If you wish to access your application after submittal or to apply for another grant in the future, log in to your account by visiting rcfdenver.org/login to access the system.

Site Visits

Rose Youth Foundation will conduct site visits with some applicants as part of the grant review process. If your organization is selected for a site visit, the visit will take place between March 19 and April 18, 2018 and should include any key staff working on the project.

Application Questions and Required Attachments

All grant applications must be completed and submitted online where character limits are enforced. The following information is provided as a resource to help you prepare your proposal.

Section I

- Project Name (Character Limit: 100)
- Executive Director/Principal or Superintendent's Name (Character Limit: 50)
- Name and Title of Primary Contact for this Project (Character Limit: 70)
- Primary Contact's Email Address (Character Limit: 50)
- Primary Contact's Phone Number (Character Limit: 20)
- Total Grant Amount Requested from Rose Youth Foundation
- Description: Provide a brief description of the grant request (Character Limit: 500)
- Possible site visit dates: Rose Youth Foundation will conduct site visits with some applicants as part of the grant review process. If your organization is selected for a site visit, the visit will take place between March 19 and April 18, 2018. Please provide a list of dates and times at which key staff working on this project could meet with a small group of Rose Youth Foundation members. Because members are high school students, they are generally available after school hours. Provide three site visit date and time options between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. If it is possible for your key staff to meet on a Sunday, please also provide one Sunday date and time. Site visits typically last from one to two hours. If there is an opportunity to observe an element of the program for which you have requested funding in action, please let us know. (Character Limit: 1,000)
- Fiscal Sponsor: Does your organization use a fiscal sponsor? If yes, provide the organization name, address and website as well as the name of a contact person and his or her phone number and email address. If no, please indicate. (Character Limit: 500)
- Information Sharing: May we share the programmatic information you have provided with donor-advised fund holders at Rose Community Foundation who may be interested in this

work? Your answer will not have an effect on the funding decision for this request. (Multiple choice: Yes, No)

Section II

- Mission and Vision Statements, Goals and Objectives: Provide your organization's mission statement, vision statement along with current goals and objectives. (Character Limit: 2,000)
- Project Description: Describe the work for which your organization seeks funding including specific activities you will undertake during the grant period of May 2018 through April 2019. Include a description of the population served and the number of people who will be served. (Character Limit: 2,000)
- Project Outcomes, Past and Future: List the outcomes (measurable results) your organization has achieved with this program or project in the past, including academic outcomes narrowing the achievement gap. Also state the outcomes the organization seeks to achieve with this program or project in the grant period. What evaluation methods are used to track results and measure outcomes? If this is an evidence-based program or promising program, what is the evidence base or proof? If this is a new program, explain why this new approach is needed.(Character Limit: 2,000)
- Priority Alignment: Describe how the program or project aligns with Rose Youth Foundation's stated grant priority. Include a statement of how your work aligns with our stated Jewish values. (Character Limit: 1,500)

Section III

- Fiscal Year End Date (Character Limit: 10)
- Organization's Operating Budget: Provide the organization's operating budget including all expenses and revenue for the period covered by the grant (May 2018 through April 2019). An Excel file is preferred. (File Size Limit: 1 MiB)
- Program Budget: Provide a detailed line item budget for all program expenses and revenue. Itemize each major budget category and include the total cost of the program. In the case of revenue, include all funds available for the program and indicate pending or secured for each. Include the amount requested from Rose Youth Foundation as a pending source of revenue. An Excel file is preferred. (File Size Limit: 1 MiB)
- Program Budget Narrative: A brief description of all line items (Character Limit: 1,000)
- Most Recent Year End Statement of Financial Position or Balance Sheet (File Size Limit: 1 MiB)
- Most Recent Year End Statement of Activities or Income and Expense or Profit and Loss Statement (File Size Limit: 1 MiB)