

NCS INTERGENERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

Request for Letters of Interest

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

SUMMARY

The National Community Strategies (NCS) team at the Annie E. Casey Foundation is seeking four organizations to serve as grantee partners for a learning collaborative focused on the development and testing of an intergenerational community engagement tool kit aimed at deepening youth-adult partnerships within community change initiatives. The intergenerational learning collaborative is a multi-phased initiative placing Casey grantees, partners and affected community parties at the center of design innovation and implementation. In the second phase of the collaborative learning model, the Foundation will fund four organizations to pilot Casey-drafted guides, tools and evaluation practices to improve their youth engagement and outcomes for youth and families with a larger community partnership. These grantees will form a two-year peer learning community with access to Casey-funded technical assistance.

ELIGIBILITY

NCS is seeking nonprofit organizations with demonstrated organizational capacity and relevant expertise and knowledge to carry out this project. The selected grantees should have extensive experience in supporting youth leadership and engagement and have an existing community or systems-based partnership where the aim is to create and/or strengthen intergenerational engagement. Grantees will be expected to adapt and implement a tool kit co-developed by an intergenerational team of grantees and Casey staff. Grantees will also be expected to receive ongoing technical assistance from a Casey funded provider and participate in a peer learning community to support learning collaborative goals.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The Casey Foundation is a private philanthropy that creates a brighter future for the nation's children and youth by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow.

Across its work, NCS recognizes that community and youth leadership and engagement are key to the effectiveness of any authentic community change initiative. Thus, NCS' charge is to ensure that the people most impacted by decisions are meaningfully engaged in the process development, implementation and evaluation. Furthermore, NCS advances community engagement by clarifying the critical role residents play in its grantmaking priorities and making explicit a commitment to supporting community members as agents of change. By ensuring that our efforts employ an intergenerational engagement and leadership approach, this strategy advances the inclusion of those most directly impacted by the work – young people.

The selected grantees will work with a core team of NCS staff, technical assistance provider, consultants and young people to support a learning process that will a) center a peer learning model with community-specific and collaborative-wide coaching and support; b) create, adapt, test and refine a host of tools aimed at strengthening authentic youth-adult partnerships; and c) generate ideas and aspirations for future intergenerational community engagement efforts. The tool kit is designed to provide tools, resources, and assessments related to readiness, relationship building, productive conflict resolution, mitigating power dynamics, partnership and organizational infrastructure, and best practices for sustaining authentic intergenerational efforts.

The scope of work will be finalized with the selected grantees and includes, but is not limited to the following activities:

- Work with Casey implementation team to learn the context and history of intergenerational and youth engagement within the team and the intended results and learning goals for the next iteration.
- Lead and co-create agendas for site visits with the Foundation and community leadership.
- Support continued development of intergenerational tool kit by participating in feedback sessions and incorporating new information into ongoing refinement process.
- Work with technical assistance provider to adapt tool kit to local needs and develop an intergenerational engagement plan focused on deepening youth engagement strategies.

AWARD

- Grant award ranges from \$75,000 in 2023, with an increase of up to \$100,000 for up to two additional years.
- Four grants will be awarded.

LETTER SPECIFICATIONS

- Letters should not exceed three pages in length.
- Contents of letter:
 - Describe what makes your organization the best fit for completing the scope of work.
 - Describe the history, goals, and purpose of the proposed partnership, including any mutual funding sources supporting efforts.
 - Explain how piloting an intergenerational engagement tool kit aligns with current strategies and priority areas.
 - Explain what you hope to gain from the learning collaborative and any experiences or expertise you would like to share or contribute.
 - What are the strengths in the current partnership you would like to build on? What challenges are you hoping the tool kit and learning collaborative will help you navigate?

KEY DATES

- Due date for letter: April 24, 2023 by 5pm EST. **Organizations must submit a letter of interest for consideration before being invited to apply.**
- Foundation to release invitation to apply for selected prospective grantees: May 3, 2023
- Application due: June 2, 2023
- Announcements made: June 16, 2023

Please submit letters of interest via email to tcallender@aecf.org by 5pm on April 24, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Traci Callender-Brody at tcallender@aecf.org.

SELECTION CRITERIA

SECTION	POINTS
History of effective collaboration with key partners, particularly youth and young adults and individuals from impacted communities	35
Programmatically strong nonprofit organization with experience in supporting youth leaders and community, including individual and group support	30
Capacity to adapt and implement resources to meet the needs of community partners and key stakeholders	25
Alignment with learning collaborative vision and goals	10
Total points:	100