

A CALL FOR PARTNERS

OVERVIEW

The foundation's work in the U.S. is dedicated to increasing economic and social mobility – helping more people access and realize opportunities that will help them live a healthy, productive lives. Education, early learning through post-high school, is one of those opportunities. That is why we work with schools, colleges, and universities and the organizations supporting them to help many more students achieve their goals and eliminate achievement gaps by race and income.

Our partners' work has demonstrated that there are innovations that can significantly improve student outcomes, like strengthening advising, tapping the power of digital learning, and redesigning remedial education. Through initiatives such as [Completion by Design](#) and the [Frontier Set](#), we have seen that implementing these and other innovations leads to a broader focus on institutional transformation – colleges and universities building their capacity to dramatically improve student outcomes and eliminate success gaps by race and income. This includes having a student-centered mission, using data to make decisions, creating a collaborative environment, setting goals and being accountable for them, and making a commitment to continuous improvement.

Pressure is mounting for colleges and universities to transform – increasing demand for an educated workforce coupled with intensifying financial challenges and wavering public confidence – and a growing number of institutions are responding to that pressure. But they need networking, resources and guidance to do the work.

INTERMEDIARIES FOR SCALE

We are looking for up to 10 organizations (or networks of organizations) nationwide – *intermediaries for scale* – that can work intensively with a range of colleges and universities over a multi-year period in four areas:

1. Increasing awareness of successful and promising transformation strategies among campus leaders and communities.
2. Informing key campus-level decisions about change options and strategies and supporting decision-makers.
3. Supporting transformation by providing guidance and resources for adopting, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining changes in policy and practice.
4. Building connections across colleges and universities and other supporting organizations to accelerate and streamline learning and sharing of promising practices.

The process is open to all organizations that:

- Are a U.S.-based entity with a mission that includes increasing student success in education after high school as a primary area of focus; and

- Have a track record of working across multiple colleges and universities serving a significant number of low-income students and students of color.

Additionally, applicants must demonstrate commitment and experience in:

- Reducing college success disparities by race and income;
- Promoting continuous learning and improvement through the use of data; and
- Identifying, implementing, and evaluating significant campus-level changes in policy and practice.

SELECTING THE INTERMEDIARIES

Intermediaries will be selected through a rigorous, multi-stage process led by foundation staff and advised by field experts:

<p>Stage 1: Letter of Interest <i>Deadline: March 20, 2019</i></p>	<p>Organizations/networks meeting the criteria outlined above are welcome to submit a brief statement outlining their mission, capabilities, and experience in working with diverse types of colleges and universities. Additional information about letters of interest and instructions for submitting materials is available here.</p>
<p>Stage 2: Request for Information <i>Deadline: May 10, 2019</i></p>	<p>A subset of organizations/networks submitting letters of interest will be asked to provide additional information about their operations, approach to innovation, and experience and impact in collaborative efforts.</p>
<p>Stage 3: Request for Concept <i>Deadline: June 28, 2019</i></p>	<p>A subset of organizations/networks responding to the request for information will be asked to prepare and submit a concept paper outlining their proposed approach to supporting colleges and universities in their transformation efforts and sharing learning across networks.</p>
<p>Stage 4: Request for Proposal <i>Deadline: August/September 2019 (specific date TBD)</i></p>	<p>A final subset of organizations/networks (up to 10) will work with the foundation to develop formal proposals for funding, including: a) a multi-year scope of work; b) progress milestones and metrics; and c) a detailed budget and workplan.</p>

The selection process will also include a series of events and webinars where applicants can learn more about the foundation’s strategy for supporting transformation and the process for selecting intermediaries, as well as network with other applicants. Dates are [here](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Organizations with questions about the selection process, criteria, or the proposed work of the intermediaries can:

- View [frequently asked questions](#).
- Contact us at IntermediariesForScaleRFP@gatesfoundation.org.