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Request for Proposals (RFP): Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Innovation Awards for Districts

**Do you have a great idea for improving students' social-emotional skills in your district?
Are you looking to deepen or expand your current social-emotional learning practices?**

Summary

NoVo Foundation is committed to supporting the spread of innovative social and emotional learning (SEL) practices in schools and districts nationwide. We know practitioners have some of the most inspiring and effective ideas out there. NoVo Foundation, in partnership with Education First and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, aims to support teacher-led projects that foster social and emotional skills in students, families and staff in grades PK-12. Whether you have an idea for a new initiative or want to expand or continue an existing project, we want to hear from you.

Why we do this work

NoVo Foundation is dedicated to catalyzing a transformation in global society, moving from a culture of domination to one of equality and partnership. We support the development of capacities in people—individually and collectively—to help create a caring and balanced world. We envision a world that operates on the principles of mutual respect, collaboration, and civic participation, thereby reversing the old paradigm predicated on hierarchy, violence, and the subordination of girls and women.

This grant program focuses on educators as key catalysts in supporting all students and changing schools. We want to lift up, celebrate and learn from educators. At the same time, we want programs and systems to be able to build and foster much greater compassion, and to build skills in people and groups to be able to work through differences, problems and conflict and lessen incidents of violence and vulnerabilities to all forms of harm. We seek a change here because our present systems (families, schools, political and economic systems) do not, or cannot, presently emphasize, prioritize, teach or address these things. In addition to this fund, NoVo pursues multiple partnerships to help achieve these changes. Learn more at novofoundation.org.

RFP details

We are offering up to \$25,000 grant awards for district projects that span multiple schools in the 2017-18 school year. In addition, you will have the opportunity to present your work to and connect with a group of national SEL practitioners, experts and advocates at a convening in October 2017.

We are looking for proposals from district leaders seeking to improve systems that foster social and emotional skills across multiple schools in fresh, inventive or innovative ways. Examples can include novel interventions or instructional practices focused on improving competencies such as resilience, learning mindsets, compassion, self-management, sense of belonging, etc.

We seek applications that will create places, environments and practices that value belonging, well-being, tolerance, compassion, listening, non-violence, inclusiveness, working productively together and looking out for one another. NoVo seeks a change from a world based on domination towards collaboration and

partnership, and understands that this has to be valued, taught and modeled to and with children in order to make this shift a possibility.

Though all proposals are welcome, we are also seeking proposals that specifically support one or more of the following student populations:

- Students from indigenous communities
- New arrivals (such as refugees) or immigrants
- English learners
- Students with significant adverse childhood experiences
- Single-sex environments

For more information about NoVo's approach to SEL or for additional resources, see:

- NoVo Foundation's [What is Social and Emotional Learning](#)
- CASEL's [SEL Competencies](#)
- Turnaround for Children's [Building Blocks for Learning](#)
- The 2016 [SEL Innovation Award Winners](#)

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a \$25,000 district-wide grant, you must be:

- Employed at a public school district or charter school organization in the United States
- Committed to exploring and sharing best practices with other like-minded practitioners.

Proposal Process & Requirements

Using the [online application for district-wide awards](#), please describe:

- A summary of the proposed project
- The goals of the project
- The demonstrated student need and the number and types of students who will participate in the project
- The specific SEL skills or competencies that will be taught or developed through this project
- How the project meets the selection criteria (see below)
- Implementation timeline and budget
- The anticipated outcomes and how you will measure impact

Budget & Timeline

We will consider requests for awards from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for district-wide projects. Selected projects should be implemented during the 2017-18 school year.

Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis. It is to applicants' advantage to submit proposals early. Finalists may be contacted with follow-up questions regarding their proposals and will be required to submit a letter of support from their superintendent or CMO leader. We aim to notify all applicants with their status by June 2017.

No applications will be accepted after 11:59pm PT on Friday, April 28, 2017.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

We will give priority to projects that:

- Address a specific student SEL need
- Serve students within a high-needs school
- Are student-focused
- Are able to be implemented during the 2017-18 school year
- Deepen or continue existing work with proven impact
- Are original and innovative

- Are sustainable
- Demonstrate district leader support

Expectations for Selected Projects

In addition to fulfilling the commitments outlined in each selected application, leaders and/or teams of selected projects will have the opportunity to present their work and connect with other project leaders, SEL experts, advocates, district and school leaders, and other partners at an October 2017 convening. Leaders of selected projects will be required to sign an agreement with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and submit a report at the end of the 2017-18 school year.

Questions?

Please contact Erin Popelka epopelka@education-first.com with any questions about the RFP or application process.
