

## **Request for Proposals (RFP): 2018 Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Innovation Awards for Districts**

**Do you have a great idea for improving students' social and emotional skills in your district?  
Are you looking to deepen or expand your current social and 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. We can—and must—create space for educators and students to imagine, build, and lead us toward a better future built on racial and social justice, equity and restorative practices. In addition to this fund, NoVo pursues multiple partnerships to help achieve these changes. Learn more at [www.novofoundation.org](http://www.novofoundation.org).

### **RFP details**

We are offering up to \$25,000 grant awards for district projects that span multiple schools in the 2018-19 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 early 2019.

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 restoring relationships and repairing harm. 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
- LGBTQI students

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](#)
- A brand new web site, [www.SELforteachers.org](http://www.SELforteachers.org), and video series on teacher practices to support social and emotional learning

### **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 and requirements**

Please apply using the [online application for district-wide awards](#). A full list of application questions are available below. Optional: within your written application, submit a short video (via a link) and/or artifacts (e.g., student work, photos, lesson plan; via a link) to supplement your application. Detailed instructions are on our FAQs sheet and in the application.

### **Budget and timeline**

We will consider requests for awards from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for district-level projects, defined as being implemented in multiple schools. Selected projects should be implemented during the 2018-19 school year.

Proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis. 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 2018.

**No applications will be accepted after 5:00pm PT on Friday, April 20, 2018.**

### **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
- Bring an orientation and analysis of racial and/or social justice
- 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 early 2019 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 2018-19 school year.

## Questions?

Please send any questions about the RFP or application process to [InnovationAwards@education-first.com](mailto:InnovationAwards@education-first.com).

## Application Questions

All applications must be submitted using the [online form](#). The following questions are part of the application, which also includes contact and demographic information about the applicant and district. It may be helpful to prepare your responses before beginning the online form as the form does not save your responses.

1. Please describe your project in 250 words or less.
  2. What are the goals of the project?
  3. Does your district have a vision for SEL? If so, what is that vision and what progress have you made recently toward realizing that vision?
  4. What specific student SEL needs will this project address?
  5. What specific SEL skills or competencies will be taught or developed through this project?
  6. If your project is selected for support, what's one success you could achieve over the 2018-19 school year that would mean the most to you?
  7. How many students will benefit from this project? Please specify a number, even if it is an estimate.
  8. Describe the major activities this project will include to achieve the goals.
  9. Describe how the project will be innovative (e.g. with respect to instructional practices, method of delivery, targeted student population, etc.).
  10. What outcomes do you expect this project to produce by when? How will you measure impact?
  11. Describe the project team and each member's role.
  12. What is your timeline to implement this project's activities? Note that the grant period will generally be from August 2018 to July 2019.
  13. What amount (\$5,000 to \$25,000) are you requesting for this project?
  14. Please describe how you would use the requested funds, such as for purchasing materials, staff stipends, etc.
  15. What is your primary motivation for seeking support for your work?
  16. Is your district a current or previous SEL Innovation Award recipient?
  17. If you answered yes to the previous question, describe how your project will build on your current/previous work, if applicable, or how this project is different.
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18. (Optional) If you would like to provide attachments (five pages or less) to supplement your application, please provide links to them here. Please use links from Google Drive, Dropbox or any shareable platform.
  19. (Optional) If you would like to provide a video (or video clip) of five minutes or less to supplement your application, please include a link to that video here. Feel free to use YouTube, Vimeo or any shareable video platform.