

## **Request for Proposals (RFP): 2019 Social and Emotional Learning Innovation Awards**

**Do you have a great idea for creating or improving systems that foster social and emotional skills in your classroom, school or district?  
Are you looking to deepen or expand your culturally responsive social and emotional learning practices?**

### **Summary**

NoVo Foundation is committed to supporting the spread of social and emotional learning (SEL) practices in schools and districts nationwide. We know practitioners have some of the most inspiring, effective and innovative ideas in the field. NoVo Foundation, in partnership with Education First and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, aims to seed projects that foster social and emotional competencies in students 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 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 pathways to help achieve these changes. Learn more at [www.novofoundation.org](http://www.novofoundation.org).

### **RFP details**

For the 2019-20 school year, we are inviting applications from two applicant pools:

- 1) Individual teachers or teams of teachers seeking to implement SEL initiatives in your classroom or school in the 2019-2020 school year, and
- 2) District-level applicants seeking to implement SEL initiatives district-wide and/or across multiple schools within one district (including a charter network).

Grant awards for teacher-led projects will be a maximum of \$5,000 each. District-level grant awards will be a maximum of \$25,000 each.

For the first time, we will also award a small, select number of two-year grants. We recognize that innovation and effective implementation of any initiative, including SEL practices, take time. Both teacher-led and district-level applicants may choose to be considered for a two-year grant by indicating

so in their application and providing additional information as requested in the application. Applicants for two-year grants may request up to \$5,000 *per year* (2019-20 and 2020-21) for teacher-led awards and up to \$25,000 *per year* (2019-20 and 2020-21) for district-level awards. Two-year grantees' second year grant payment will be contingent upon a year one grant report and evidence of progress.

We are looking for applications seeking to foster social and emotional skills at the classroom, school and/or district level in fresh, inventive or innovative ways. Examples can include novel interventions, instructional practices and classroom and/or school community supports focused on improving competencies such as perseverance, 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
- LGBTQIA+ students
- Girls and young women of color
- Students disproportionately affected by suspensions or the juvenile justice system
- Students with learning disabilities

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

- NoVo Foundation's [What is Social and Emotional Learning](#)
- The National Commission on Social, Emotional & Academic Development (SEAD)'s just-released [From a Nation at Risk to a Nation at Hope](#)
- CASEL's [SEL Competencies](#)
- Turnaround for Children's [Building Blocks for Learning](#)
- Our web site, [www.SELforTeachers.org](http://www.SELforTeachers.org), which features a video series and district- and teacher-created resources to support SEL.
- You can also learn about previous Innovation Award grantees at the [Education First website](#).

## Summary and Eligibility

	<i>Teacher-Led Awards</i>	<i>District-Level Awards</i>
<b>Lead applicant</b>	Must be a classroom teacher in a public school (including a charter school) in the United States in grades PK-12. Applications from teams can include individuals with roles other than teachers, but the lead applicant must be a teacher.	Must be a district employee in any role (superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, teacher, director, specialist, counselor, etc.) in a public school district (including a charter network) in the United States
<b>Maximum request amount</b>	\$5,000	\$25,000
<b>Eligible to apply for a two-year grant</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Estimated number of total</b>	100 (we awarded 90 teacher-led grants for	35 (we awarded 34 district-level grants

<b>grants to be awarded</b>	the 2018-19 school year)	for the 2018-19 school year)
<b>Estimated number of two-year grants to be awarded</b>	30	10
<b>Are former or current Innovation Award grantees eligible?</b>	Yes. Former and current grantees will be required to provide additional information in their applications.	Yes. Former and current grantees will be required to provide additional information in their applications.
<b>Application deadline</b>	11:59pm PT on Friday, March 22, 2019	11:59pm PT on Friday, March 22, 2019
<b>Application</b>	Online only <a href="#">here</a>	Online only <a href="#">here</a>

### Proposal process and timeline

Please apply using the [online application portal](#). After creating a free account, you can log in, review all application questions, draft your responses, and save your work as you go. You can also log out and return to the application at any time prior to the application deadline.

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 principal (for teacher-led awards) or superintendent or CMO leader (for district-level awards). We aim to notify all applicants with their status by June 2019.

**No applications will be accepted after 11:59pm PT on Friday, March 22, 2019.**

### Key selection criteria

We will give priority to projects that:

- Are focused primarily on student outcomes (as opposed to only adult outcomes)
- Are original and innovative, and build off of existing evidence-based practices or the science of learning
- Bring an orientation and analysis of racial and/or social justice
- Serve students within a high-needs school
- Are able to be implemented during the 2019-20 school year
- Are sustainable
- Demonstrate principal, school/district leader and peer educator support
- Bring an orientation and analysis of racial and/or gender justice
- Are rooted in values of social justice
- Consider trauma informed practices, implicit bias and culturally responsive approaches to teaching
- Are creating alternative and restorative practices of accountability

### Expectations for selected projects

In addition to fulfilling the commitments outlined in each selected application, project leaders and/or teams of selected projects will have the opportunity to share your work and connect with a group of national SEL practitioners, experts and advocates at a convening in Fall 2019 (for teacher grantees) or Spring 2020 (for district grantees).

Leaders of selected projects will be required to sign a grant agreement with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and submit a report at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

### Questions?

Please review our frequently asked questions, available [here](#).

If you have additional questions, feel free to email [InnovationAwards@education-first.com](mailto:InnovationAwards@education-first.com).