



Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts Polaroid Fund 2018 Call for Proposals

Submission Deadline: February 28, 2018

By email to hstickles@cfsema.org

To enhance the skills and education of the Greater New Bedford workforce

I. Introduction

A. Background

For the past ten years the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts has managed the New Bedford area grant program of the Polaroid Fund, a discretionary fund of the Boston Foundation. The funds totaling \$100,000 will support workforce development programming, with an emphasis on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) and General Education Development (GED) classes, and family literacy programs that integrate early literacy programming for children birth to three years old with ABE/ESOL and parenting courses. A portion of these funds are made possible by the Acushnet Foundation Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts.

B. Overview

The Greater New Bedford region faces numerous workforce challenges, including high unemployment, an average income significantly lower than the state average, a substantial percentage of residents who do not speak English as their primary language, and low education levels.

In order to achieve viable workforce development and work readiness in this region, a range of programming and supports are needed for New Bedford's population. Non-English speakers need to become proficient enough in English to achieve their educational goals and perform well in the workplace. Adults without high school diplomas need ready access to pre-GED and GED classes. GED recipients need help bridging the gap between learning on the high school level and participating successfully in post-secondary education environments. Immigrants need access to citizenship classes and information about worker's rights. Service providers need support to increase their effectiveness and capacity. Employers need incentives and information that enables them to fully participate in worker education programming. And community organizing efforts need support to secure increased local, state and federal funding commitments.

In addition to continuing the Polaroid Fund's traditional commitment to workforce development and adult literacy, this Request for Proposals (RFP) continues our focus on early literacy and family literacy. The relationship between early literacy development, school readiness, school success, and workforce development represents an opportunity to engage in family literacy activities that support both parents and their young children. In order to improve educational outcomes for our youth, children birth to three years old need improved early literacy experiences. To support parents and caregivers in providing these developmental opportunities for young children, we welcome family literacy proposals that integrate ESOL and or ABE classes with early literacy programs.

C. Description of Project

The purpose of this RFP is to support adults in their quest to become more independent and realize their full potential as successful members of society. Toward this end, the Polaroid Fund will support activities that help the New Bedford community's most vulnerable residents build the skills necessary to attain their educational and employment goals.



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For the purposes of this RFP, the Community Foundation will consider proposals from organizations seeking to:

- Mitigate barriers to learning such as cultural and language differences, transportation and childcare issues, and fragmentation of available services.
- Advocate for public policy changes that increase provider capacity, create employer incentives to offer workplace literacy programs, and increases state and local funding.
- Advocate for greater private and employer investment in worker education.
- Support programs integrating early literacy programming for children birth to three years old with ABE/ESOL and parenting courses.
- Protect the cultural context and bonds of a community by preserving and supporting neighborhood based programs providing access to literacy and ABE/ESOL classes.
- Address gaps in programming and provider services. Encourage programming for all stages of adult learning, from adult basic education to preparation for successful enrollment in post-secondary education and training.
- Support capacity building of programs that meet one or more of the objectives listed above.

D. Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated according to six major criteria for a total of 100 possible points.

- Project Plan (15%): Is feasible and makes case for need, is innovative and does not duplicate exiting services
- Impact (20%): Delineates the number and population targeted and clearly highlights areas of systemic change
- Collaboration (15%): Reflects and defines the nature and extent of collaboration between groups/agencies
- Budget (15%): Is accurate, readable, clear, and aligned to the project; is appropriate for the number served and request; and does not subsidize existing costs
- Evaluation (15%): Clearly delineates the plan for evaluation and the assessment of outcomes
- Sustainability (20%): Demonstrates that realizable and long-lasting strategies are incorporated in the plan, and considers policy implications of the focus of the grant

E. Funding

Programs will be funded for a period of 9 months, to support activities and expenses from April 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Organizations can request up to \$15,000. This includes all Early Literacy Program applications.

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II. Submittal of Proposals and Selection Process

A. Submittal of Proposals

Please submit one electronic copy to Holly Stickles, Grant & Scholarship Associate, at hstickles@cfsema.org. Please obtain the electronic version on our website <http://www.cfsema.org/grants/current-requests-for-proposals>

All proposals must be received no later February 28, 2018.

B. Required Information

Please download our application form from our website: www.cfsema.org. Please read the instructions carefully.

C. Format and compliance

Applicants must be non-profit organizations. In your application, be as concise as you can in your answers. A complete proposal consists of all information and documents requested in the application form. Applications **MUST** be submitted in the form of a single PDF file.

Please use the following naming protocol for your electronic proposal: YOUR ORGANIZATION'S NAME_Polaroid Fund Proposal 2018.doc

We reserve the right to reject any incomplete proposals.

D. Questions

For questions about this RFP, please call Holly Stickles or John Vasconcellos at 508-996-8253

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2018 CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Deadline: February 28, 2018

By email to hstickles@cfsema.org or in hard copy to the office of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts