Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

APPLICATION - EDITABLE VERSION FOR PREPARATION
RFA: Effective Practices that Support the Whole Child

Thank you for your interest in this grant opportunity!

The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative invites applications from US-based teams of schools, support organizations, and/or researchers who want to apply the science of human development to improve existing school-based practices that develop self direction and curiosity, specifically in adolescents ages 11-18 years old. These practices may address foundational and precursory competencies, skills and mindsets, or "building blocks" (as theorized by frameworks like Building Blocks for Learning).

This grant opportunity is intended to support specific projects that will:
- Identify a specific school-based practice;
- Use the science of learning and human development to refine and iterate the practice;
- Collect data to measure how the practice impacts the intended competencies, skills and mindsets; and
- Use data collected to improve the practice's design.

This grant opportunity is not intended for general operating support, program implementation, or systems for scaling.

We expect each team will have a unique project aimed at strengthening different types of practices. Projects most likely to receive funding will focus on a practice or a set of practices that are a core part of the school model and effectively impact the development of concrete skills and mindsets in students ages 11-18. Ideally, teams working on the project have relevant expertise and experience integrating research into practice, designing and implementing practices in schools, identifying metrics, and collecting data to evaluate effectiveness and continuously improve. All projects should have a plan to ground the practice in the science of adolescent learning and development. We don't expect one organization will be able to do all of this well, which is why interdisciplinary teams will be prioritized.

A full version of the application can be downloaded here.

If you have questions:
- Please refer to the FAQs and supporting documents on our website.
- We will be hosting/hosted a webinar on August 13, 2019 at 10:00am PDT. A link to RSVP or view the recording can be found on our website.
- You may also send questions to wholechildrfa@chanzuckerberg.com

To apply you must submit an application through our grants management portal.

Applications are due September 13, 2019 by 9:00 pm PT.

INSTRUCTIONS

The application is organized in 7 sections, which include:
- Application Contact Information
- Leadership Demographics
- Team
- Organization Capacity and Capability
- Specific Practice
- Scoped Project
- Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Each section has a short description of the selection priorities to provide additional guidance. We acknowledge that the strengths of each team will vary, so please respond to all questions to the best of your ability to accurately represent your proposal.

We will prioritize opportunities where Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is a core component of the work and is effectively integrated throughout the design — for team, organizations, practice(s), and project. We have also included some targeted questions in the Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion section, for us to understand your context and design approach.

Section 1 of 7: Applicant Contact Information

- Application Contact First Name
- Application Contact Last Name
- Application Contact Title
- Application Contact Organization
- Application Contact Email
- Application Contact Phone Number

- If awarded, which organization would receive the grant?
- Is that organization US-based and tax-exempt under Section 501(c)3?
  - Yes
    - If so, which type of organization is it
      - 501(c)3 public charity
      - 501(c)3 private operating foundation
      - Government instrumentality
      - Other (please specify) - text
  - No
    - If not, does your organization have a fiscal sponsor?
      - Is so
        - What is the name of the fiscal sponsor?
        - What is the EIN of the fiscal sponsor?

Section 2 of 7: Leadership
Please provide information for team members directly involved in leading this opportunity. Please limit this list to the key decision makers (~2-7 individuals). Disclosing the ethnicity, race and gender of team members is optional.

Please answer the following questions, that will populate a table (see below)

- First Name
- Last Name
- Title
- Email
- Organization Name
- Organization Website (if applicable) - optional
- Type of Organization (drop down)
    - School district
    - Charter management organization
    - Private school
    - Technical assistance provider or support organization
    - College or University
    - Think tank or research-focused organization
    - Policy-focused organization
    - Health or mental health organization
    - Social work organization
    - Other community-based organization
    - Other (enter text)
- Ethnicity (select one) - optional
    - Hispanic or Latino/a
    - Non-Hispanic or Latino/a
    - Decline to Answer
- Race (select as many as apply) - optional
    - African American or Black
    - American Indian and Alaska Native
    - Asian
    - Hispanic or Black
    - Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
    - White
    - Other
    - Decline to Answer
- Gender Identity - optional
    - Female
    - Male
    - Non-binary
    - Decline to Answer

- *Add additional team member*

Section 3 of 7: Team
*We are looking for **collaborative and capable teams** motivated to improve and iterate effective practice based on science. Teams should bring different perspectives effectively representing and integrating the experiences of their target student populations and communities they aim to serve. We are committed to supporting teams led by leaders of color to continue to diversify the representation of leaders who have access to philanthropic support. Ideally, teams should be interdisciplinary, bringing expertise in adolescent development, applied research, and practice. Teams without direct partnership with researchers should have a clear interest and plan to authentically incorporate the science of adolescent development to enrich and improve their practices (through lit reviews, interviews, etc).*

- How did this team come together? What is the primary role and expertise of each team member in this project? Please provide any relevant examples of how team members have successfully collaborated in the past. (400 word limit)

Section 4 of 7: Organizational Capacity and Capability

*We are looking for **organizations with demonstrated capacity** to facilitate the integration of research into practice and support cycles of continuous improvement. Organizations should have both the experience and systems necessary to rigorously integrate scientifically grounded practices into schools, as well as a commitment to use data to evaluate and iterate. Organizations should also demonstrate capability in running programs in schools, creating research-based practices, and engaging in instructional design and ongoing professional learning efforts.*

- Why is this team and their collective organizations well-positioned **to integrate research** and to **implement, evaluate and improve new practices**? (400 word limit)
- Briefly describe the school (or schools) where the practice will be implemented and the conditions of the school(s) that set this project up for success. Please be sure to include how the school leader(s) has/have demonstrated commitment to fully participate in the project. (400 word limit)
- Please answer the following for the participating schools. You can add additional schools up to three schools.
    - School Name
    - School City
    - School State
    - School Leader Name
    - School Leader Title
    - School Governance
        - Public District
        - Public Charter
        - Private/Independent
    - School Locale
        - City/Urban - Inside principal city/metropolitan area, population 100,000+
        - Suburban - Outside principal city/metropolitan area, population 20,000-100,000
        - Town/ Rural - 10+ miles outside of a principal , population less than 20,000

    Add another school

Section 5 of 7: Specific Practice

*We are looking to **refine, improve and measure practices that support the development of self-direction and/or curiosity,** addressing foundational and precursory competencies, skills and mindsets, or "building blocks", specifically for adolescents (ages 11-18 years old). Teams should have explicit understanding of:*
- *the skill(s) and/or mindset(s) the practice focuses on,*
- *how these skills ladder up to curiosity and/or self-direction, and*
- *how the practice is informed by the science of adolescent development.*

The practice or set of practices must be implemented in a school and should be integrated into a core structure of the school (teaching and learning, school culture/climate, advisory/mentoring, and/or teacher professional learning), specifically for students between ages 11-18. Practices and/or organizations should have a track record of positive impact on their prioritized metrics. Practices that address the needs of the most vulnerable populations will be weighted more heavily.

- Select all the skills and/or mindsets the practice(s) focus(es) on developing, specifically in adolescents (ages 11-18 years)? (click as many as apply)
  - Attachment
  - Stress Management
  - Self-Awareness
  - Self-Regulation
  - Social Awareness/Relationship Skills
  - Executive Functions
  - Growth Mindset
  - Self-Efficacy
  - Sense of Belonging
  - Relevance of School
  - Resilience
  - Agency
  - Academic Tenacity
  - Curiosity
  - Self-Direction
  - Sense of Purpose
  - Other (enter text)
- Please describe the practice(s) and how it/they integrate into the core components of school (400 word limit). Questions to consider:
  - What is the practice?
  - How do you explicitly teach this skill and/or mindset?
  - How do students get to practice these skills and/or mindsets?
  - How is the practice designed to be integrated into the core structures of school?
- We are hoping to support school practices grounded in the science of learning and human development. For more on what we mean, please visit An Overview of the Research We Ground In and this list of organizations and experts in fields related to curiosity and self-direction, as well as adolescent development. This list is not exhaustive, nor an endorsement. It is intended to be a starting place. In what ways does this practice build your target skills and/or mindsets, specifically in adolescents, and incorporate what we know about how people learn? (300 word limit)
- Please describe the evidence (metrics, data) you currently use to evaluate the impact of the practice(s). What has the impact been to date? (300 word limit)
- (optional) Below is some additional space (300 word limit) to address the following, if not addressed above:
  - How do the skills and/or mindsets build toward curiosity and/or self-direction?
  - How are/is the practice(s) grounded in the science of learning and human development?
  - Is there anything else you would like us to know?

Section 6 of 7: Scoped Project
We are looking to support a well-scoped project that has a clear plan to:
- *identify a specific school-based practice;*
- *use the science of learning and human development to refine the practice;*
- *collect data to measure how the practice impacts the intended competencies, skills and mindsets; and*
- *use that data to iterate and improve the practice's design.*

The project will connect research to practice, be implemented in at least one school and be rigorously designed. Projects may be at different stages and will include a clear plan for design, implementation, iteration, codification and/or assessment of effectiveness.

- Please provide a summary of your project. What what would you like to accomplish in the next 12-24 months to further develop these practices? Please summarize your approach to key aspects of this project in more detail (500 words), including how you will:
    - Approach understanding and applying the science of learning and human development to refine the practice (e.g. research-practice partnership, literature reviews, interviews with experts, etc.);
    - Approach evaluating the impact of your practice on the intended competencies, skills and mindsets, throughout the improvement cycle; and
    - Approach testing/piloting, measuring and improving your practice.
- What are the key project outcomes? What are your key project outputs/milestones and target completion dates? (400 word limit)
- Please download a budget template, then upload the completed template (in the provided Excel file format) for this project that aligns to the activities and outcomes outlined above. Budgets can range from $300,000-$750,000, which can include no more than 15% in indirect costs. Detailed instructions can be found in the template.
- Please provide a budget narrative for this project that describes how the budget aligns to the activities and outcomes outlined above. Briefly describe how sub-awardees will allocate their awards to staffing, direct costs, and indirect costs. (400 word limit)

Section 7 of 7: Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

*We are looking for teams that **demonstrate a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)**. We will prioritize opportunities where DEI is a core component of the work and is effectively integrated throughout the design - for team, organizations, practice(s), project and scale. Teams should be committed to leveraging the strengths of diverse communities and cultural histories. Practices and programs should affirm the identity of staff and students.*

We will prioritize opportunities where DEI is a core component of the work and is effectively integrated throughout the design, which will be evident in all sections of this application. We have also included some targeted questions in this section, for us to better understand your context and design approach.

- How have you approached understanding and engaging your community in the design of this practice and project? How do you plan to understand and engage the community in the design and implementation of this practice and project? (400 word limit)
- Please share more about the social and cultural context in which your students live. What else needs to be true in order for this work to have its intended effect? (300 word limit)