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| **Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund: SELECTION CRITERIA & EVIDENCE BASE** | | | | |
|  | **Implementation Grants** | | **Development Grants** | |
|  | ***Criteria*** | ***Evidence*** | ***Criteria*** | ***Evidence*** |
| **Collaborating for Impact** | * Established collaborative focused on OY or existing collaborative whose purview includes or has included older youth, with clear potential to develop OY focus * High-level participation of leaders of K-12, postsecondary, workforce, youth-serving organizations/   CBO’s, employers, and the mayor, along with other stakeholders important to OY segments (e.g., juvenile justice; child/protective services)   * Backbone organization is committed to the success of the initiative, able to mobilize key collaborators, and staffed to manage the collaborative and the workplan * Ongoing process for involving youth to ensure shared ownership of implementation | * **Collaborative** includes high-level leaders from each of key sectors and commitments from leaders of at least one of the other key **stakeholder** sectors. Collaborative has been in place for at least 18 months and can demonstrate success on at least one youth issue. Collaborative has clear operational structure (structures for engaging high-level leaders as well as programmatic/operational leaders across organizations) * **Backbone organization** has credibility in the community as neutral convener as evidenced by previous experience and can demonstrate expertise in at least one segment of OY population. Backbone has staffing capacity and experience as a convener, project manager and fiscal agent and has allocated dedicated staffing to carry out these functions. Leadership of organization has made the initiative a top priority. Backbone has gained buy-in and accountability of key partners for success of initiative. * One of the collaborative partners is a **youth leadership/organizing** organization with expertise in youth issues and can bring youth into the implementation, or the collaborative has experience/plans to use a range of strategies (e.g. focus groups, youth representation) for including youth voice in implementation process | * Established organization with capacity to serve as grantee, lead development period and organize multi-sector group focused on OY * Existing collaborative with stakeholder representation that includes leaders from 2-3 key sectors working with segments of these youth (K-12, postsecondary, workforce, youth organizations, Mayor’s office, business leaders, etc.) * Potential backbone organizations with at least some credibility/ expertise in at least one segment of OY population & with capacity to expand to full OY * Commitment to involving youth in planning process to create shared ownership | * **Grantee organization** has credibility in the community on OY issues, as evidenced by their past or current work on any segments of OY, has experience as a project manager and fiscal agent and has the capacity (or can expand to gain capacity) to staff the collaborative and help organize appropriate stakeholder representation during the development period. Leadership of organization has made the initiative a top priority * **Collaborative** represents at least 3 different sectors, has been operation for at least 6 months, and has taken on at least one issue and has identified strategies to attain their goals. Collaborative has clear operational structure (e.g., decision making process, leadership approach) * At least one partner of existing collaborative is from one of **key OY stakeholder sectors** (e.g., K-12, youth organizations, juvenile justice). Collaborative has commitment from at least one other partner (and ideally more) representing at least one of the other key sectors. * Collaborative has made preliminary identification of **viable options** for potential **backbone organization** * One of the collaborative partners is a **youth leadership/organizing organization** with expertise in youth issues and capacity to bring in youth or the collaborative has identified strategies (e.g. focus groups, youth rep) for including youth voice into planning |
| **Building Effective Programs and Pathways** | * Multiple programs or pathways with evidence of success helping OY attain education/career credentials * Initial strategy to build out pathways, including ID of potential early wins | * Community is serving a significant number of OY through programs or pathways that are designed to lead to education/career credentials * Programs are mapping progress towards outcomes on high school credentials and at least one other postsecondary indicator (e.g., postsecondary enrollment, persistence, postsecondary credentials, placement in jobs at 80% of median wage) * Programs can provide evidence of success on at least two outcomes (e.g., high school credentials, postsecondary readiness, postsecondary enrollment & persistence, postsecondary credentials and placement in jobs at 80% of median wage) | * Presence of established programs or pathways with initial evidence of success helping OY to move towards education/career credentials | * At least two programs or pathways serving at least one segment of OY, that put young people on a path to postsecondary credentials (or could with redesign or additional development)   Programs can provide evidence of success on at least two leading indicators of success (e.g., improved attendance, grades, reading levels, credit accumulation, reentry from juvenile justice system, etc.) |
| **Using Data to Guide Decisions and Assess Impact** | * Evidence OY are a significant portion of the youth population * Experience tracking/sharing outcome data * Strong plan for tracking indicators of success for OY, & commitment to measure pathway success at the community level | * Collaborative/backbone organization provides compelling evidence that the OY population is a significant portion of their youth population, using local/regional data and where necessary supplementing with state and/or national data * Collaborative/backbone organization can demonstrate experience tracking/ sharing outcome data and using it to inform strategy and assess progress * Collaborative/backbone organization offers detailed plan for tracking and sharing indicators drawing on previous experience and clear strategies for assessing individual program/pathway success at the community level | * Preliminary data on breadth /scope of OY pop * Demonstrated potential to track/share data on outcomes for OY * Demonstrated potential to track leading indicators | * Collaborative/grantee organization provides preliminary evidence that the OY population represents a significant portion of their youth population by drawing on accessible data at the local/regional, state, and/or national level; * Collaborative/grantee organization has gained commitments from relevant partners (e.g, K-12, community colleges, foster care) to gather and share data on a set of an agreed upon leading and lagging (outcome) indicators * Collaborative/grantee organization has a preliminary plan for how they will gather and share the data |
| **Leveraging Funding to Support and Sustain Innovation** | * Proven capacity to leverage local 1:1 match and leverage public financing | * Collaborative/backbone organization has documented previous success at leveraging local matches including public and private dollars * Collaborative/backbone organization has identified likely funders/funding and developed a specific plan for raising local match | * Commitment to raising local match (with potential identified local philanthropy) and leveraging public financing | * Collaborative/grantee organization has identified 2-3 strategies for raising local match and has demonstrated a clear understanding of the local/regional public/private funder terrain * Collaborative/grantee organization has documented any previous efforts/ success at leveraging local matches and has clarified any community/ regional challenges to doing so |
| **Developing Supportive Policies** | * Track record of identifying/addressing policy conditions that hinder or support development of pathways leading to improved postsecondary & career outcomes for OY and/or older youth | * Collaborative/backbone organization has a track record of success at identifying and addressing policy conditions as part of previous efforts or projects (does not have to be focused on OY) and the collaborative can demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the policy conditions that hinder or support the development and scale up of programs/pathways for OY and potential strategies for addressing them | * Initial understanding of policy conditions that hinder or support development & scaling of pathways leading to improved postsecondary & career outcomes for OY | * Collaborative/grantee organization has experience identifying and attempting to address policy conditions as part of previous efforts or projects (does not have to be focused on OY) and/or the collaborative/grantee organization can demonstrate an understanding of the policy conditions that hinder or support the development and scale up of programs/pathways for OY |