

Extraordinary Times Request For Letters Of Interest

Overview

Over the last five years, the Rappaport Family Foundation has invested more than \$1 million in 15 organizations that themselves invested in community college leadership, voice, and power.

But extraordinary times require extraordinary measures.

When challenges need addressing within a finite amount of time, one must pull oneself out of one's current practices and ask not, "Of what am I capable?" but rather, "What needs to happen, and what is then required from me?"

We all must step up to this moment. We must put aside what we do normally, and ask, "What will make a difference?"

For us at the The Rappaport Family Foundation, this means being committed today more than ever to continuing our investments in community college leadership and civic engagement efforts that we know will protect our democracy and diverse communities.

The Rappaport Family Foundation will be investing as much as \$2 million in organizations of various sizes, with differing capacity and scale, to mobilize, train and develop student leaders who can most effectively make an impact on those issues that are most important to them over the next 18 months.

The Rappaport Family Foundation is seeking Letters of Interest describing such efforts. In this first of two cycles, we expect to make a number of \$100k-\$250k investments in organizations with budgets of around \$1M+, and \$50k investments in organizations with smaller budgets. Investments may be supplemented by peer convening, opportunities for publication, and other resources.

Deadline to submit the LOI is Friday, August 4, 2017. After initial review, selected finalists will be invited to submit full proposals by Monday, August 14, 2017. Final investment decisions will be determined by early September 2017.

Summer 2017 Funding Interests

In this first grant cycle, we seek to focus on mobilizing, training and developing student leaders — particularly community college students— who can most effectively make an impact on those issues that are most important to them over the next 18 months.

Our goals are to:

- 1) allow you or your organization to put aside what you do normally, and provide the necessary resources for you and your organization to go beyond your comfort zone and rise to what is required of this moment; and

- 2) build the leadership, power and voice of community college students of our country's cities and states to protect our democracy and our communities' well-being.

We are interested in:

- Supporting promising program that will ignite and maintain civic participation, leadership, and community engagement among young people, especially community college students.
- Supporting the development and adoption of new tools, technologies and organizing methods to support distributed models of engagement and activism on community college campuses or students.
- Taking a risk on unconventional or untried approaches. We want to be surprised.
- Investing in the Upper Midwest, the Heartland, and rapidly changing states like VA, TX, NM, and NC.

This is what we'd like to see from our investment in you:

- Identifiable impacts on or outcomes related to specific issues, policy or civic participation within 18 months
- Articulated and demonstrated impact with limited, focused financial resources
- Capacity to capture and share best practices and lessons learned from the work.
- A legacy: Whatever we support should exist and be useful beyond our financial support.

Criteria for investment

The work must engage young people, particularly community college students, in the business of leadership, accountability, and governance in policy or civic engagement efforts.

Other components that must be part of the proposed project or program are:

1. Skills-training for advocacy and organizing
2. Leadership development opportunities for students
3. Fair financial compensation for community college student leaders' time
4. Efforts to organize, advocate for, influence policy, or civic engagement activities must conclude or culminate by the fall of 2018.

Why Community College Students?

The Rappaport Family Foundation is committed to creating a more equitable society by building community college student leadership and supporting young people's civic engagement. With nearly half of America's undergraduates starting out at community college, these community college students are our future. They are our next generation of teachers, doctors, policy makers and much more. (Learn more about community college students with our [infographic here.](#))

As the nation’s fastest growing higher education system in the country, the potential of community college students is America’s best kept secret. We’ve learned that engaging community college students is critical to advancing issues as varied as immigration reform, economic growth, and education equity.

Eligibility

You must have an IRS 501 (c)3 status and be classified as “not a private foundation” under Section 509(a), or have a similarly qualified fiscal sponsor.

We do not make grants to individuals or to the following:

- individuals or scholarship programs
- capital campaigns
- state agencies
- religious programs
- international or foreign-based programs
- social service programs

Timeline & Review Process

We anticipate the following timeline:

Task	Date
Issue call for LOI	July 12, 2017
Office Hours to discuss interest	rolling: please email catalina@rappaportfamilyfoundation.org
LOIs due to Foundation	August 4, 2017
Short list of organizations invited to submit full proposals to RFF	August 14, 2017
Full proposals due to RFF	August 25, 2017
Due diligence completed/Recommendations made to Foundation board	September 8, 2017
Decisions Announced	Week of September 18
Grantee Convening	November 2017

How to Apply

Please fill out this google sheet [here](#). Please note that you will need to submit a PDF via a link that the Foundation team will need to access. But, before you start: if you have any questions,

please email Catalina Ruiz-Healy at catalina@rappaportfamilyfoundation.org to ensure that your LOI falls within the guidelines. We'd hate for you to waste your time.