Q&A: Youth College Readiness
Request for Grant Applications

Participant Eligibility

Q: My organization serves 10th-12th graders. While the priority is 7th-8th graders, must programs serve that age range as well?

A: While the RFGA does state that 7th and 8th-grade servicing programs will be prioritized, organizations serving a broader range of high school students are still eligible to apply. Note: if your organization is serving an older high school population, OWD suggests that you clearly map out your recruitment of those students (i.e., where are they coming from & why).

Applicant Eligibility

Q: My organization runs a one-day hands-on career fair attended by approximately 1500 8th graders, preceded by 4 one-hour lessons. It is attended by roughly 750 Boston students and 750 students located in Gateway cities. Knowing that only 1/2 (or less) of our participants are 7th and 8th graders from Boston, is it appropriate for us to apply?

A: Interested applicants who provide a comprehensive program of college preparation for 7th and 8th-grade students, including mentorship, tutoring, and career exploration activities, are eligible to apply. OWD understands that some programs may serve students who are not Boston residents; this is acceptable as long as the application emphasizes how the Boston-based residents will be served.

Example: A staff member's time is charged in the budget. This staff member serves a caseload of 30 students, of which only 15 are Boston residents. This staff member's staff time should not be budgeted 100% toward this grant, but rather at 50% or below, considering the ratio of Boston students being served.

Q: How can an applicant delineate if they meet the criteria for having "existing partnerships with institutes of higher education with plans to transition younger learners into structured programs in high school and beyond."

A: An existing partnership with institutes of higher education could range from having a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) between entities to having strong contact relationships, i.e., does your direct-service team have a consistent contact and relationship with a college advisor? Do they routinely schedule postsecondary experiential visits? OWD asks that applicants provide their proof of existing partnerships within reason.

Q: How strong is the preference for middle school participants (versus high school)? We are considering applying for support for our Early College program. This program primarily serves students in grades 9-12, but we are interested in working also with middle school students to inform them of the opportunity and to prepare them for it, including through a multi-week summer bridge experience.

A: There is not a concrete ratio or "strength" meter to point to with this question. Ultimately, OWD will be aiming to ensure that strong proposals who are providing 7th and 8th grade interventions are prioritized but we have intentionally opened up the application to those serving high school students as well.
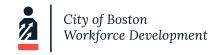
Miscellaneous

Q: Where are the questions and answers for this grant being posted? Is there a website link?

A: The Q&A compilation doc is posted at boston.gov/owd-grantmaking

Q: We have applied for City/District funding in the past (e.g., the Fifth Quarter Portfolio) and grant committees awarding this funding have been interested in spreading funds across many applicants rather than funding proposals in full (at or close to the amount requested). Do you expect that the committee will be interested in fully funding fewer proposals or spreading the funds around to as many organizations as it can?

A: Anticipated Award Amounts per Grant per Organization are $50,000 - $150,000. Award recommendations will be made based on the strength of proposals and availability of funding.

*City of Boston
Workforce Development*

Budget/Financial

Q: Are student participation stipends an allowable cost?

A: No.

Q: Can you provide a range of the number of students you hope grantees will serve, or share a rough per-participant cost?

A: There is not an "ideal" range of number of students served. OWD is most interested in high quality programming and support services. There is not an ideal per participant cost to reference.