



## **Guidelines for LEV Foundation's Excellent Schools Now (ESN) Sub-Grant Applications to *Build Grassroots Support for ESN's A+ Washington Education Reform Platform***

Excellent Schools Now (ESN) is a coalition of education, business and community-based organizations in Washington State working statewide to achieve meaningful education reform that increases student achievement, closes the achievement gap and prepares students to be college and career-ready.

In response to the need to better represent underserved and underrepresented students and communities, the current ESN Steering Committee – comprised of the League of Education Voters, Partnership for Learning, Schools Out Washington, Stand for Children Washington, and Tabor 100 – is **announcing this Request for Proposal (RFP) process to award three, 13-month grants (October 2013 to October 2014) of \$15,000 each.**

This document describes the purpose of this grant-making program, eligibility criteria, and the procedures to follow in submitting your proposal. LEV Foundation, as fiscal sponsor for the Excellent Schools Now Coalition, will administer the grant. Please review these guidelines carefully and submit your proposal in the requested format. We encourage all interested ESN member organizations, who are not Steering Committee member organizations, as well as organizations who are not current members but agree to become ESN members, to apply.

For more information on Excellent Schools Now, please visit: <http://excellentschoolsnow.org/>

### **The Grant Program**

#### Purpose:

These grants are intended to enable recipient organizations to build understanding and support for the *A+ Washington* agenda and ESN's 2014 policy priorities – or specific aspects of the agenda or priorities\* – among underserved and underrepresented individuals, groups, communities, constituencies, and organizations.

#### Grant recipients will:

- Identify one staff member to join either the ESN communications or policy teams, meeting regularly by phone and participating in team work efforts.
- Conduct strategic outreach about the *A+ Washington* education reform agenda and ESN's 2014 policy priorities – or specific aspects of the agenda or priorities\* – within underserved and underrepresented individuals, groups, communities, constituencies, and organizations.
- Seek input from underserved and underrepresented individuals, groups, communities, constituencies, and organizations on the update of the *A+ Washington* education reform agenda – or specific aspects of the agenda or priorities\* – and provide this information to the ESN Steering Committee.
- Share information about public educational events related to the *A+ Washington* agenda – or specific aspects of the agenda\*
- Provide a brief annual report on grant objectives' completion and budget expenditures.

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\* such as providing academic supports to K-12 students so that the academic achievement gap doesn't widen when Common Core State Standards, 24-credit high school diploma, and Next Generation Science Standards are implemented. See <http://www.excellentschoolsnow.org/a-washington.html>

## The Grant Application Process

Application Announcement: 8/19/13

Application Deadline: 9/13/13

Award Notification: 9/27/13

Grant Period: October 1, 2013 – October 31, 2014

### Request for Proposals

LEV Foundation, as fiscal sponsor for the Excellent Schools Now Coalition, invites proposals, under a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, and awards grants to strengthen the capacity of eligible organizations in Washington State working to achieve meaningful education reform that increases student achievement, closes the achievement gap and prepares students to be college and career-ready.

### Eligible Requests

We support nonprofit community-based organizations or agencies. We do not make grants to individuals or for capital building projects, lobbying or religious purposes.

Applicant organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Evidence of established community relationships and a track record of mobilizing those relationships, in particular within communities representing underserved and underrepresented student populations; and
- Proven track record of relationships fostered with underserved and underrepresented individuals, groups, communities, constituencies, and organizations.

**Grants requests are limited to a maximum of \$15,000 over a 13-month period.**

### Application Procedures

Please submit an application containing all of the items specified below, including all requested attachments, to [grants@educationvoters.org](mailto:grants@educationvoters.org) and cc: Kim Martinez: [kim@partnership4learning.org](mailto:kim@partnership4learning.org)

Or send by mail to:

LEV Foundation Attn: Chris Korsmo 2734 Westlake Avenue N. Seattle, WA 98109	cc: Partnership for Learning Attn: Kim Martinez 520 Pike Street, Suite 1212 Seattle, WA 98101
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**For more information contact**, Kim Martinez or Jana Carlisle at Partnership for Learning:  
[kim@partnership4learning.org](mailto:kim@partnership4learning.org) or [janac@partnership4learning.org](mailto:janac@partnership4learning.org)  
(206) 625-9655.

## Application Contents

Eligible applications must include:

1. **Cover letter**, on organization's stationery, signed by organization's director, that provides a synopsis of your proposed outreach strategies.
2. **Narrative (no more than three to four pages) that includes:**
  - **Organizational Background**
    - A summary of your organization's mission
    - A description of your relationships and influence with underserved or underrepresented individuals, groups, communities, constituencies and organizations
  - **Project Description**
    - How you will accomplish your project goals (as outlined at the bottom of page one).
    - Key staff members (with attached resumes)  
A 13- month calendar of activities and events indicating what your organization will do to:
      - Strategically engage communities representing underserved, underrepresented student populations
      - Build relationships, awareness, and political will – relating to A+ Washington agenda and the ESN 2014 policy agenda\* – within communities representing underserved, underrepresented student populations
3. **Proposal budget** (project expenses and total budget for a **13-month period from October 1, 2013 to October 31, 2014**)
4. **Appendices** (Attachments)
  - Verification of tax-exempt status (IRS determination letter)
  - Key staff resumes
  - If possible, a support letter(s) or endorsement(s) from existing Excellent Schools Now Coalition members

## **The Grant Review Process**

### Application Review

We will contact you if we have questions or require additional information and will acknowledge your application within one week of its receipt. Each application will be reviewed by the ESN steering committee between September 8 and 19<sup>th</sup>. The ESN Steering Committee will score each application based on a total of 100 points, using the following breakdown:

Organizational background – 20 points

Project Description – 60 points

Proposal budget – 20 points

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\* such as providing academic supports to K-12 students so that the academic achievement gap doesn't widen when Common Core State Standards, 24-credit high school diploma, and Next Generation Science Standards are implemented. See <http://www.excellentschoolsnow.org/a-washington.html>

**For more information contact**, Kim Martinez or Jana Carlisle at Partnership for Learning:  
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