Applying for the Institutional Challenge Grant
The Dean’s Role in Institutional Change

William T. Grant Foundation
May 11, 2022

@wtgrantfdn
Today’s Webinar

• The Institutional Challenge Grant Goals and Background
• Discussion on the Dean’s Role in Institutional Change
• Tips on a Successful Application
Focus Areas

REDUCING INEQUALITY

- Launched in 2014
- Responses not causes/consequences
- Understand how programs, policies, and practices reduce inequality among young people in the United States

USE OF RESEARCH EVIDENCE

- Launched in 2008; new phase on improving URE launched in 2015
- Strategies not barriers to research use
- Understand how to create the conditions that improve the production and use of research in ways that benefit youth
Institutional Challenge Grant

**Partnership**
Grow an Existing Institutional Partnership

**Research**
Pursue a joint research agenda to reduce youth inequality

**Institutional Change**
Create institutional change to value research practice partnerships & their work

**Capacity**
Enhance both partners’ capacity to collaborate in producing and using research
**Institutional Challenge Grant**

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Research Practice Partnerships

Research-practice partnerships are long-term, mutually beneficial collaborations that promote the production and use of rigorous and relevant research evidence.
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Reducing Inequality

• Partnership must conduct research to:
  – Build, test, or increase understanding of programs, policies, or practices to reduce inequality in the outcomes of young people ages 5-25 in the United States
  – Research questions must be relevant to the partner organization while also informing theory and extending prior research

• Proposed research must:
  – Identify a specific inequality in youth outcomes and show outcomes are currently unequal
  – Make convincing case for the dimension of inequality the study will address
  – Articulate how findings will help build, test or increase understanding of a program, policy or practice to reduce the inequality you identified
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Institutional Change

- Policies and practices within institutions inadvertently create barriers to the success of partnerships
  - limit participation between and within institutions
  - obstruct career advancement
  - undermine longevity
Institutional Change

- Examine and redesign policies and practices to:
  - encourage sustained institutional partnerships with public agencies or nonprofit organizations
  - incentivize experienced researchers to pursue rigorous and relevant research agendas
  - improve the partnership skills of researchers
Institutional Change

- University centers
- Integrating into strategic plans
- Small or seed grants for community-engaged research
- Hiring
- Research infrastructure support changes
- Revisions to merit, tenure & promotion criteria
- Raising the profile of community-engaged research
- Teaching releases
- Collaborations across university system campuses to expand institutional change
Institutional Challenge Grant

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**Capacity**
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Enhance Capacity

- Build skills on partnership and university side
- Strengthening data collection to support solving problems of practice
- Leadership positions
- Co-design research agendas
- Build joint skills to write policy-relevant briefs
Mid Career Fellows

- The project plan should clearly allow the research fellows to significantly extend their skills as effective partners to policymaker and practitioners.

- The project should include a feasible plan for leveraging the fellows to increase the capacity of the public agency or private nonprofit organization to use research in decision making to improve youth outcomes.
Mid Career Fellows

- Funding for two years of a full-time equivalent fellowship.
  - In addition, universities are required to fund one additional year of a full-time equivalent fellowship.

- Fellowships may be allocated in different ways, for example,
  - Appointing one individual fellow for three years
  - OR three different fellows each for one year
  - OR six half-time fellows for one year each, etc.

- The minimum appointment level for a fellow is half-time for half of one year.
This Institutional Challenge Grant provides funding for two years of a full-time equivalent fellowship. In addition, universities are required to fund one additional year of a full-time equivalent fellowship. The tables here provide examples of different ways to allocate mid-career fellows during the grant period.

### Example A

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funded by William T. Grant</th>
<th>Funded by Your Institution</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
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### Example B

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### Example C

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<tr>
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### Key

- **100% FTE**
- **50% FTE**
- Colors represent different individuals
The Dean’s Role in Institutional Change

Adam Gamoran
President, William T. Grant Foundation

Gautam Yadama
Dean of the Boston College of Social Work
PI, 2020 Institutional Challenge Grant

Katherine Schultz
Dean, University of Colorado Boulder School of Education
Co-PI, 2019 Institutional Challenge Grant
The Award & Application
Institutional Challenge Grant

• $650K for 3 years
  ✓ with a possible 2-year renewal
    o Up to a 9-month planning period
    o The partnership’s research to reduce inequality
    o Mid-career fellows (8-20 years since Ph.D. or in role)
    o Capacity-building activities
    o Indirect cost allowance of up to 15% of total direct costs
• In-kind support for one full time equivalent fellow for one year
Aspirations

• At the end of five years,

  ✓ Established set of strategies that facilitate sustained research partnerships with public agencies or nonprofits

  ✓ The public agency or nonprofit has increased its capacity to use research evidence

  ✓ Researchers have improved their partnership skills

  ✓ The research generated has been used in decision making and is likely to lead to improved outcomes for youth
Review Process

- Applications due September 14th, 2022 (3 pm ET)
  - Full proposal and all agreements

- Senior Staff Reviews
  - Four-page structured abstract

- Selection Committee Reviews
  - Two in-depth committee reviews
  - Selection of 3-5 finalists

- Finalists
  - Written response
  - In-person interviews
Selection Committee

**Elaine Allensworth**  
Lewis-Sebring Director of the Consortium on School Research, University of Chicago

**Marc Atkins**  
Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology and Director of the Institute for Juvenile Research, University of Illinois at Chicago

**Rumeli Banik**  
Senior Program Officer for Child Well-being, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

**Allison Blake**  
Chief Executive Officer, Child and Family Agency of Southeast Connecticut

**Leah Bricker**  
Director of Programs, Spencer Foundation

**Adam Gamoran**  
President, William T. Grant Foundation

**Carolyn Heinrich**  
Professor of Public Policy and Education and Professor of Economics, Vanderbilt University

**Ritu Khanna**  
Chief of Research, Planning, and Assessment, San Francisco Unified School District

**Sumie Okazaki**  
*Selection Committee Chair*  
Professor of Counseling Psychology, New York University

**Pedro Reyes**  
Ashbel Smith Professor of Education Policy, University of Texas at Austin

**Stephanie J. Rowley**  
Provost and Dean of the College, Teachers College, Columbia University

**Mark Soler**  
Executive Director, Center for Children’s Law and Policy
2022-2023 Competition

• Program unchanged!

  • We encourage proposals from teams with African-American, Latinx, Native American, and Asian American members in leadership roles

  • We welcome partnerships across a range of domains, including child welfare, mental health, housing, justice, and education

• Resubmissions welcome!
On our Website

Institutional Challenge Grant

2022 Application Guidelines
Updated April 2022

Online Application Opens:
May 18, 2022

Application Deadline:
September 14, 2022, 3 PM ET

Finalist Interviews:
February 3, 2023

SELECTED RESOURCES

Webinar: Applying for the Institutional Challenge Grant—Proposing Strategies to Foster Institutional Change

Partnering for Community Change: How the Institutional Challenge Grant Has Shaped Our Work

Research-practice partnerships website

The Foundation's research-practice partnerships website includes guiding tips, work samples, and resources from successful partnerships on topics including using research, communicating research and engaging stakeholders, and developing agendas and agreements.

rpp.wtgrantfdn.org
Funded Partnerships (2018-2022)

- Cornell University
- Cornell Cooperative Extension - Tompkins County

- University of Colorado - Boulder
- Denver Public Schools

- University of Toronto
- Puerto Rico Department of Education

- Boston College
- United Way of Merrimack Valley & Massachusetts Bay

- Northwestern University
- Evanston Township School District 202 & Evanston/Skokie District 65

- University of California - Berkeley
- San Francisco Unified School District

- University of California - Santa Cruz
- United Way of Santa Cruz

- Northeastern University
- City of Boston

- Johns Hopkins University
- Fort Belknap Tribal Community

- University of Michigan
- Focus: HOPE

- Florida State University
- Leon County Schools

- Georgia State University
- Achieve Atlanta
Questions?