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COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PLANNING RFA

March 5, 2015 (revised)

DESCRIPTION OF SEED GRANT/AWARD OPPORTUNITY

With the generous support of the Edward W. Hazen Foundation (a private foundation which is committed to supporting organizing and leadership of young people and communities of color in dismantling structural inequity based on race and class), URBAN.Boston is pleased to announce the availability of seed funding to help incubate an education-related collaborative research project spanning July 2015 to November 2015.

Specifically, the seed grant award is to be used for (1) the development of a new collaborative research proposal or (2) the development of a new phase of an existing collaborative research project. The award will be up to \$1,000 and must be used for the planning of a collaborative research project (that may or may not be submitted elsewhere for funding); funds are not intended for the execution of collaborative research. Funding can be used for meeting expenses, consultant fees (e.g., grant writer, facilitator), transportation, stipends for community volunteers, data collection for pilot studies, and/or other non-personnel expenses. The funding may not be used for salaries or fringe benefits.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications must be submitted jointly between at least one (1) community organization and a researcher(s) located in a higher education institution (including community colleges) or research institute. Either the higher education institution/research institute or the community-based organization (CBO) can serve as the lead applicant. If the CBO is the lead applicant, it must be incorporated or have a fiscal agent named in the application. Priority will be given to applications that include the Boston Education Justice Alliance or one of its member groups as a community partner; however, others may also apply and be considered for funding. Preference will also be given to projects that involve collaborative research planning with a CBO located within the City of Boston, although others may still apply as long as the project is education-related.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Applications must be submitted by Friday, May 29, 2015.
- Applications should be addressed and submitted to:
 - Mark R. Warren, Associate Professor, UMASS Boston, urban.boston@umb.edu
- Applications should be submitted electronically and should arrive by 5:00 pm on 5/29/15.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

- Projects will be reviewed by members of the URBAN.Boston planning team and will be evaluated for funding based on (1) the capacity of the organizations to complete the award requirements and (2) the importance and relevance of the collaborative research idea to public education and young people in Boston communities. The executive director of the community organization and an institutional representative of the academic/research partner must both sign all submissions.

AWARD NOTIFICATIONS, AWARD PERIOD, AND FUNDING AVAILABILITY

- All award submissions will be reviewed and awardees notified electronically by Monday, June 29, 2015. Public announcements of awards will occur by Monday, July 6, 2015.
- The award period will run from July 1, 2015 - February 30, 2015. Awardees will be required to complete paperwork prior to July 15, 2015 and can expect to receive the funds by August 1, 2015. Summary accounts of award expenditures may be due at the end of the award period.

SOME EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- A pilot project in collaboration with BEJA that investigates inclusive classrooms implementation in Boston Public Schools.
- A project to collaborate with a member organization of BEJA to plan research on teachers' views of the impact of high stakes testing on their students.
- A pilot project collecting data from Roxbury high school students' about their summer job-seeking strategies in order to explore the potential for developing a citywide project.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

All submissions must include the information listed below, but also must be limited to 3 pages in total (excluding cover page).

- ✓ Name and contact information of individuals in each of the organizations who will programmatically be responsible for ensuring completion of tasks associated with this award;
- ✓ The name and responsible person in the organization(s) to receive the funds (e.g., fiscal agent);
- ✓ Description of collaborative research idea and why this research opportunity is important to consider;
- ✓ Identification of other partner organizations and/or individuals to be involved in proposed collaborative research planning;
- ✓ History of prior experience in conducting collaborative research projects, if any; and
- ✓ A narrative summary of how the organizations plan to use the \$1,000 award, including a general description of how the award funds will support the planning and development of a full grant submission for the collaborative research project.

DELIVERABLES:

All awardees must agree to participate in the following activities and submit the following materials within the timelines listed below:

1. 1-page summary of the proposed collaborative research project developed with the seed planning award, substantiating the need for the research (e.g., pertinence to the Boston community and in addition to information and knowledge relevant to Boston communities), the feasibility of completing the project, and a description of the roles that both the community and research partner will play in the proposed collaboration (Due Friday, November 20, 2015).
2. 1-page draft workplan for your proposed collaborative research project with tasks, activities, responsible parties, projected timelines, and the preliminary ideas for distribution of the collaborative research findings (format will be provided) (Due Friday, November 20, 2015).
3. 1-page detailed budget for the collaborative research project including in-kind and out of pocket expenses (format to be provided) (Due Friday, November 20, 2015).
4. A preliminary review of the published research relevant to the proposed collaborative research project identifying what is and is not known on related and relevant topics (Due Friday, November 20, 2015).

5. A 1-page summary of lessons learned (Due Friday, November 20, 2015) + a public presentation about building a collaborative research project for URBAN.Boston network members during the winter/spring 2016.

OVERVIEW OF URBAN.Boston

Urban Research-Based Action Network (URBAN) is an emerging network of researchers and community members who have come together (1) in order to identify opportunities for collaborative research (and thinking) that addresses critical needs facing urban communities. Additionally, (2) URBAN provides a platform for ‘engaged’ scholarship where individual faculty members from multiple disciplines (and institutions) can connect with one another and members of communities to share ideas and be supported within the academy as they endeavor to pursue a community based ‘activist’ research agenda.

URBAN was initiated over the past two years, first on the national level with a group of activist thinkers from around the country who remain committed to community-based urban research as a tool for social change. Initially inspired by Professor Marilyn Gittell and with the support of her friends as well as SAGE publications, URBAN was born as a concept, but one that required shaping from those already working in the field. MIT Community Innovators Lab (MIT CoLab) agreed to be the centralized coordinator for the national URBAN initiative and over the past two years, MIT CoLab has convened a core-working group to launch URBAN. This planning team has convened meetings with scholars and community members in select communities around the country to understand people’s interests in URBAN. Through this exploration, the planning team decided to pursue a two-pronged strategy: 1. Grow a national URBAN presence and advance community-based research within the academy through building relationships in core academic fields such as Sociology, Political Science, Geography, and Urban Affairs; and 2. Develop nodes in select urban areas across the country including Boston, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and the Bay Area (among potential others) to connect scholars and community groups and advance collaborative research projects. The MIT CoLab is the convener for the national URBAN initiative and the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMB) serves as the convener for the URBAN.Boston node.

In Boston, a first exploratory meeting was held in July 2012 and since then, the URBAN.Boston node has continued its network development through a series of meetings with community organizations around the BOSTON area, including the Massachusetts SMART Growth Alliance, the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, Viet-AID, the Boston-area Youth Organizing Project, and ABCD Mattapan Family Service Center/Mattapan United. Over 200 scholars, community members and graduate students are part of URBAN.Boston and during the upcoming year, URBAN.Boston is committed to continuing the dialogue with community members, practitioners, and academics in order to further incubate ideas for applied and collaborative research.



QUESTIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding the URBAN.Boston Collaborative Research Planning RFA, please contact Mark Warren, Associate Professor, Department of Public Policy and Public Affairs, McCormack Graduate School, University of Massachusetts Boston at urban.boston@umb.edu. All questions must be submitted by Friday, May 8, 2015.

SEED GRANT/AWARD PLANNING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEETING ON APRIL 8, 2015 FROM 1:15 - 2:15 PM

URBAN.Boston will be holding a seed grant/award planning and technical assistance meeting during the UMass Boston Community-Engaged Partnerships Symposium, sponsored by the UMass Boston Office of Community Partnerships on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015 FROM 1:15 - 2:15 PM**, at **University of Massachusetts Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard, CAMPUS CENTER, second floor, Room U02-2545** to provide a forum where potential applicants for the seed grants can work together with their partners to develop their Collaborative Research Planning RFA submission to URBAN.Boston. At the meeting, members of the faculty and staff from UMB and other local higher education institutions will be available to provide information about the award development and administration process. To register for the April 8th meeting, please email urban.boston@umb.edu.