

Creating Middle School Allies in Diversity Program

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Granting Organization: The Colorado Education Initiative

Grant amount: $5,000

Number of awards: 5

Eligibility: Colorado public/charter middle schools and Colorado school districts

Grant Period: October 15, 2014 – July 15, 2015

Application deadline: September 24, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

**Summary:**

The intent of this funding is to advance the creation of Allies in Diversity programs, also called Allies Clubs, a promising middle school strategy to improve school climate and culture. An Allies program is a student club or class, taught/led by an adult teacher-leader during the school day with specific outcomes that are both *individual-level change* in attitudes and beliefs as well as *school wide change* that occurs when a strong cadre of students take action to promote kindness, respect and pro-social ideals as well as take action against mean, cruel and bullying behavior across the school community. An Allies Club functions as equal parts multiculturalism class, leadership academy, skill building lab and safe space for all students, including those who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and gender non-conforming. From an instructional lens, the content aims to build student knowledge about social justice, equity, diversity and multiculturalism; create pro-social attitudes and beliefs toward all members of the school community; build critical student “upstander” skills that are practiced and put into action and create a space for students most at risk of experiencing bullying to form positive bonds with other club members who pledge to be not only their allies but allies for all students regardless of difference.

**Important to Note:**

* A guide to creating Allies in Diversity programs is available. Please read through this document for a deeper understanding of the Allies strategy and to inform your proposal submission
* In addition to a grant award of $5,000, recipients of Allies grants will have access to a team of experts in diversity, equity and youth leadership from across Colorado and will receive monthly check-ins, site visits and additional implementation assistance from The Colorado Education Initiative.

**GRANT AND APPLICATION DETAILS**

* Funding of $5,000/year is available to 5 school districts or individual schools to create Allies in Diversity programs, a student club, led by an adult during the school day with specific outcomes relating to diversity, bullying prevention, multicultural understanding, positive social norming, kindness and respect for others.
* The grant cycle begins October 15, 2014 and ends July 15, 2015
* School district applicants can target funding to one or more schools in the district.
* Applications must be received on or before September 24 by 5:00 p .m. and can be submitted **by e-mail only** to [fferrell@coloradoedinitiative.org](mailto:fferrell@coloradoedinitiative.org)
* Grant award announcements will be made Friday, October 3, 2014
* For those applications that are awarded funding, Midterm Progress Reports will be due January 30; Final Reports and Financial statements will be due July 15, 2015.

**EXPECTATIONS OF GRANTEES**

Below is a grant application cover sheet and a narrative template with questions you must answer. Both must be completed before submission by email. Successful applicants should address the following expectations of grantees as a part of your answer to the narrative questions. Grantees are expected to:

* Welcome and participate in technical assistance
* Begin holding Allies meetings no later than January 30
* Secure an appropriate space within the school for Allies to meet
* Create time during the school day for Allies to meet
* Have at least one adult teacher-leader to lead Allies meetings and activities
* Have support from building or district administrators for the creation of your Allies in Diversity Club
* Participate in evaluation activities such as student and adult focus groups, interviews, sharing school climate survey data or student perception data or other measures to demonstrate impact of the program

The Colorado Education Initiative welcomes your questions:

Finessa Ferrell

Phone: 720.502.4709

Email: [fferrell@coloradoedinitiative.org](mailto:fferrell@coloradoedinitiative.org)

**GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Date

Name of Contact for School District/BOCES/Charter School:

Title:

Name of School District/BOCES/Charter School:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

Signature\*:

Name of Authorizing Individual (Principal, Superintendent, BOCES Director or Charter School Director:

Signature\*:

Telephone:

Email:

District(s) served by this application:

School(s) served by this application:

Count(ies) served by this application:

\*If you do not have an electronic signature to import or cannot scan and email, please print this signed cover page and fax to Finessa Ferrell, 866.611.7509 *in addition to* submitting an unsigned but otherwise completed application by email.

**GRANT SUBMISSION**

Please make sure all sections of this grant application are complete before submitting.

All sections of this proposal, including the signed cover page, must be received by September 24, 2013, by 5 p.m

**PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

1. **Why do you want to start an Allies in Diversity Program?**

Please provide brief background information about your district or school and explain what need(s) this proposal addresses.

1. **What data do you collect now, if any, that informs you about the climate and culture of the school(s) where an Allies in Diversity program will be started?**
2. **What are your school or school district's greatest successes and challenges in student social emotional development?**
3. **Creating an Allies program has many components—space, time, buy-in from staff and administrators, kid-friendly marketing of the Club, criteria or application for student members, recruitment of members, academic content, fun activities, upstander skill building and creating a safe and empowering place for all student members. Please describe your best thinking about how you will approach these in the 3-month planning and development period, October – December.**
4. **This grant comes with significant technical assistance and evaluation support in addition to a monetary award. Please describe how content, program implementation and evaluation experts can be of the greatest assistance to you should you be awarded funding.**
5. **Please refer to the expectations of grantees listed on page two of this document. Are there any expectations you believe you cannot meet? If yes, please explain your answer.**