



## Consortium of Florida Education Foundations 2024-25 Rural Career Pathways

### GRANT GUIDELINES

**Goal: The Consortium will develop new and stronger advocates for creating career pathways and dual enrollment opportunities for students in eight Florida rural communities through training, access to expertise and research, funding for related activities, coaching and peer support.**

#### Objectives:

- Increase FAFSA completion rates by 10% in participating LEF districts
- Increase communication about dual enrollment opportunities to parents and community in participating LEF districts
  - Participating LEFs will host or present at a minimum of three events to promote and discuss dual enrollment opportunities
- Decrease gap in dual enrollment in participating LEF districts by 2%

Eight rural LEFs will receive grants in the amount of \$15,000 each to form “Career Champion” groups and complete the objectives noted below.

Three local education foundations (LEFs) will serve as peer leaders to eight rural local education foundations just stepping into the post-secondary advocacy and support role for students in their district. Peer foundations will commit to understanding the local context for participating rural education foundations and their communities, take a leadership role with rural participants, provide content, share leading practices and offer to serve as a supportive coach through online community and in-person opportunities at Consortium and FCAN events. Each of these three LEFs will receive a \$2,000 unrestricted grant in recognition of their time and leadership with the effort.

**All interested parties should read and return the “Local Education Foundation Proposal and Agreement Form” by November 30, 2024. as a pdf or Word document to Jayne Moraski ([jaynemoraski@cfef.net](mailto:jaynemoraski@cfef.net))**

#### Activities:

- Participating rural LEFs will:
  - Identify and engage local “Career Champions” advocacy workgroup of key leaders (School District, Industry, Higher Education, Economic Development Council, Chamber)
  - Convene workgroup a minimum of four times during the grant period
  - Learn about FCAN’s advocacy platform and contribute a local story/voice to collective effort



- Attend an annual FCAN Summit May 2025
- Meet with their assigned peer foundation at least four times over the grant period
- Demonstrate understanding of local dual enrollment process, gaps and target population and work with stakeholders to close gaps
- Convene with or present to local government and industry leaders a minimum of three times over grant period. Work with district, local colleges and stakeholders to create a plan to enhance dual enrollment in their community.
- Identify credentials of value and find local labor market aligned pathways to share with students. This can include field trips to local businesses for career exploration, creation of internships through career academies or other means.
- Track and report baseline dual enrollment numbers and post-program dual enrollment numbers
- Track and report FAFSA completion rates for your district and for those involved in specific grant programs.

Connect with FCAN on their current work in your area (if applicable) and participate in data communities of practice (or other activities) to better understand the dual enrollment and college and career readiness landscape and provide input from their perspectives. Review FCAN data for your region to identify gaps.

Host a minimum of three (3) convenings or public engagement workshops in your community (students and/or parents) to increase dual enrollment awareness and increase FAFSA completion AND track the number of families who complete the FAFSA on site at each event.

#### **Grant Program Expectations/Allowable expenses**

Budget: Participating foundations may retain up to 10% (\$1,500) for project implementation with all other funds used for direct costs which may include test-prep courses, testing fees, workshops, college-readiness software, FAFSA completion efforts, college application fees and program supplies. Documented staff or outside contractor time spent directly on the project and not covered by other funding sources may also be eligible. Funding may be augmented by funds from other sources and may be for a new program or to expand an existing initiative.

Allowable expenses include:

- a. Field trips to local college dual enrollment offices.
- b. Career Source or Workforce development career fairs
- c. SAT/ACT support camps
- d. Workshops to complete FAFSA, encourage College Board account creation
- e. Counselor/advisor stipends for after-hours events such as FAFSA completion nights



- f. Travel expenses to attend FCAN Conference.
- g. Awardees will be **REQUIRED** to submit a final report to the Consortium that describes project activities with outputs, outcomes of dual enrollment knowledge events hosted, FAFSAs completed, and lessons learned.

All Participant Agreement Forms must be submitted by the local education foundation to the Consortium by the deadline and are subject to the Consortium’s Shared Revenue Guidelines in terms of reporting and recognition of the Gates Foundation as the original source of the funding at the appropriate level.

#### 4. 2024-25 Grant Cycle Timeline

Host kick-off webinar with FLDOE to share current postsecondary landscape and define dual enrollment process “Increasing Access to Dual Enrollment: Why It Matters for Student Success”	October 15, 2024
Host kick-off webinar to discuss opportunity with both rural and peer LEFs	Week of Nov 18th 2024
Agreements with eight rural LEFs to participate in the initiative	30 November 2024
Agreements with three peer LEFs to participate in the initiative	30 November 2024
First Learning Community meeting	15 December 2024
Participating rural LEFs have plan for rolling out grant activities	15 January 2025
Participating rural LEFs demonstrate understanding of local Dual Enrollment process, gaps and target population	31 January 2025
Participating rural LEFs attend 2025 FCAN Summit conference	30 May 2025
Year 1 report due identifying the number of events you have hosted, the number of times your “Career Champions” working group has met and what goals they have established, and your baseline data (23-24) of FAFSA completion rate and dual enrollment rates.	June 15, 2025
Learning Community meets every 6-8 weeks over grant cycle	November 2024 – February 2026
Participating rural LEFs convene with or present to local government and industry leaders a minimum of three times over grant period	28 February 2026
Peers and rural LEFs meet at least four times over grant period	28 February 2026