

# The BelleJAR Foundation

San Francisco Bay Area

## Grant Opportunity for Youth Education Organizations

December 2017

### Background

Through its experience in education grantmaking, the BelleJAR Foundation has learned a great deal from youth-serving organizations about the joys of helping youth succeed, about the resiliency of youth and how, with the right support and resources, they can overcome seemingly insurmountable circumstances. At the same time, the Foundation has also learned about the challenges of summer learning loss, transiency, and a lack of consistent support for students.

There are many organizations that provide high-quality academic support and college/career preparation programs for low-income and/or first-generation college-bound students. However, many of these programs are specialized to support only students at certain grade levels, only after school, or only during the summer. While they may be outstanding programs individually, without alignment among them, there are often gaps in service and the student experience can be fragmented. **The BelleJAR Foundation believes that students could benefit more fully if they experienced integrated, coherent, consistent year-round support, aligned across in-school and out-of-school offerings.**

### Grant Opportunity

This grant program seeks to support organizations interested in designing, testing, and refining an approach to the challenge of achieving **seamless alignment of high-quality academic support** for students across the school day and calendar year. Programming is expected to create alignment among the following service providers:

- After-school providers
- Summer program providers
- In-school providers
- Academic tutoring services
- Social supports (optional)
- College preparation programs (optional)
- Internship programs (optional)
- Career/workforce readiness programs (optional).

Applicant Organization(s): Schools, college preparation organizations, school districts, and other nonprofit entities could lead and/or participate in the proposed project. The Foundation is open to creative, innovative solutions and does not want to dictate the operational structure of this project for the applicants. In all cases, from the students' perspective, the experience should run smoothly; students should feel engaged, supported, and able to access needed resources easily.

# The BelleJAR Foundation

## San Francisco Bay Area

Target Population & Geography: The project must focus on middle and/or high school students at risk of not completing high school and not being prepared to succeed post-high school in college and/or career. The students must be located in Northern California in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, or Contra Costa counties or in the Capital District in upstate New York.

Funding: Through this program, the Foundation expects to provide a project grant totaling \$300,000 to \$500,000 over a project period of three to five years, with a maximum grant of \$125,000 per year. Annual grants will be contingent on grantees making satisfactory annual progress. The Foundation would consider making a one-year planning grant in the range of \$15,000 to enable a promising applicant to more fully develop a proposal. In such cases, full project funding is not guaranteed.

In 2018, the Foundation expects to award grants to one to two projects, to be selected through a competitive process.

Evaluation: Applicants will have the opportunity to describe what success looks like. They will define the scope of the problem and expected outcomes and how they will capture and share what they learn.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible, lead organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Have demonstrated success in providing effective programming to underserved students
- Have strong working relationships with partner organizations and/or a clear plan for how to develop and sustain such relationships
- Have an annual budget of at least \$1 million and be in good financial standing
- The grantee must be a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing, and/or a tax-exempt governmental unit (such as a public school district).

### **Application Process**

#### Stage One: Concept Letter

Submit a one-page overview of your project idea explaining:

- Brief overview of concept to provide seamless alignment of high-quality support
- How coordination and communication would be managed
- Which organization(s) would provide programming
- What student population is anticipated to be served
- A basic outline of the project plan.

On a separate page, please include an anticipated multiyear budget summary showing how funds would be used.

All concept letters will be reviewed and a subset of applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

# The BelleJAR Foundation

San Francisco Bay Area

## Stage Two: Full Proposal (By invitation only)

Submit a proposal (maximum of eight pages) describing the following:

- Background:
  - Mission, programs and activities of applicant organization(s)
  - Description of the specific student population expected to be served by the proposed program
- Funding request:
  - Detailed description of the proposed project
  - The intended operational structure
  - The partner organization(s) involved and why they are the right partners
  - Capacity of the organization(s) to implement the project
- Assessment:
  - Anticipated outcomes
  - Metrics that will be collected to assess outcomes and impact
  - How efficacy will be assessed
  - How learning will be shared
- Budget:
  - The intended use of funds (clarify anything from the project budget that needs additional explanation).

Required attachments include the following:

- IRS determination letter of 501(c)(3) status
- Current organizational budget
- Proposed project budget
- Most recently completed financial audit
- Board of Directors list
- List of other sources of funding
- Letter of support from partner organizations and partner school districts (if applicable)

Organizations submitting full proposals will be expected to participate in a meeting/site visit with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors staff and BelleJAR Foundation Board and Advisory Board members.

## Timing:

- Concept letters due: **January 31, 2018**
- Invitations for full proposals: by **February 20, 2018**
- Full proposals due: **April 1, 2018**
- Grant decisions: **June 2018.**

To submit proposals and for questions, please contact Joanne Schneider ([JSchneider@rockpa.org](mailto:JSchneider@rockpa.org), 415-343-0831) and Liza Primeau ([lprimeau@rockpa.org](mailto:lprimeau@rockpa.org), 212-812-4321).

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## About the BelleJAR Foundation

The BelleJAR Foundation is a family foundation that focuses on U.S. K-12 education, seeking unique and innovative approaches to improve educational outcomes for underserved students. Currently, the Foundation seeks funding opportunities in the San Francisco Bay Area; Albany County, NY; and rural communities in Appalachia and Eastern North Carolina. The BelleJAR Foundation welcomes opportunities to collaborate and co-invest with other funders.

The BelleJAR Foundation is particularly interested in supporting organization that:

1. Implement **creative, innovative and entrepreneurial** solutions to challenging educational issues
2. **Address gaps** in services or systems in often overlooked, but potentially impactful areas
3. Create **replicable/scalable** approaches or solutions (at one site or across many)
4. Act as **catalysts** for permanent change
5. Are able to **collect/share data** that can influence other funders/policymakers