

# Postsecondary Success for Parents Initiative Aspen Policy Acceleration Partnership Grants Frequently Asked Questions

## Objective of the Policy Acceleration Partnership Grants:

Ascend at the Aspen Institute will select up to three states, counties, or cities to plan and implement policies and programs to promote postsecondary completion for parents by increasing their access to supports and public benefits such as child care, health care, housing, financial support, and asset building. These efforts will be carried out in partnership across local and/or state agencies and organizations and will be informed by data and student input to support parent postsecondary and economic success. The grants will fund innovative efforts that either: support **single mothers**, potentially in addition to student parents more broadly, or focus on **student parents enrolled in community college pathways**.

For more information about promoting student parent success see the [Aspen Postsecondary Success for Parents Initiative](#).

## Do applicants need to be a government office or agency? Can quasi-governmental organizations or non-profit organizations apply for the Policy Acceleration Partnership Grants?

Lead applicants must be a governmental entity, such as offices, departments, or agencies at the state, county, municipal, or city level. Nonprofit agencies and quasi-governmental agencies are not eligible to submit applications to be the lead grantee but can be included as partners in the proposed initiative.

## Can government entities apply as partners? If so, how much grant funding may they apply for?

We encourage partnerships. The maximum grant amount, up to \$150,000 over 18 months, is the same for submissions that include a partnership.

## Can non-governmental organizations, not-for-profit, and/or for-profit companies be included in the proposed budget to receive some of the grant funds?



Non-governmental, not-for-profit, and for-profit agencies can be included as partners for the proposal and in the budget. However, they can receive no more than a combined total of 49 percent of total requested grant funds.

### **Are federal agencies eligible to apply for the grants?**

Grants are limited to agencies/offices at the state level or below.

### **Are individual publicly funded colleges, universities, job training, or early education programs eligible to serve as the lead proposal applicant?**

Applications must be submitted by governmental entities that oversee multiple programs, such as state or county higher education, workforce development, or early education agencies that oversee networks or systems of grantees. An individual program or public college would not be eligible to receive the funds, even if it is a part of a larger, publicly funded system.

### **Can a government entity submit more than one application?**

Specific government offices/agencies may serve as the lead applicant on only one application. Government entities and other organizations can be included in as a partner organization, however, for an unlimited number of applications.

### **Could grants be used to support policies or programs that will not serve current student parents and their families but instead encourage postsecondary education participation among parents who are not enrolled?**

Proposed initiatives should include elements that serve parents who are enrolled in postsecondary education.

### **Could grants fund policy initiatives or programs that exclusively benefit the children of student parents rather than the parents themselves?**

Any child-focused initiatives funded through the grants should also include substantial elements that benefit parents in postsecondary education.

### **Where should I include the budget descriptions/narrative in the application?**

Please review the budget template and include descriptions/narrative in the open space under the budget line items.

### **Is the proposal deadline firm or will exceptions be made?**

The deadline for proposals is firm. Proposals must be submitted by email no later than **11:59 pm ET on Friday, December 11, 2020.**

