

ASCEND AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Postsecondary Leadership Circle Activation Fund

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR AND Q&A



POSTSECONDARY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE ACTIVATION FUND OVERVIEW

Recognizing that community colleges are uniquely positioned to increase student parent outcomes, especially for single mothers, and the pandemic's impact on moving student parent efforts forward at these institutions, Ascend at the Aspen Institute, with support from ECMC Foundation, is **launching a new fund to accelerate institutional investment into expanding effective, equitable, and culturally informed student parent supports at three community colleges and/or systems.**

AGENDA

- Special Guests
- Fund Details
- Application Process
- Proposal Selection Criteria
- Next Steps
- Q&A



SPECIAL GUESTS



Maria Harper-Marinick
Senior Fellow
College Excellence Program
The Aspen Institute



Kimberly Lowry
Director
College Excellence Program
The Aspen Institute

FUND DETAILS

ascend
aspen institute





FUND FACTS

- Eligibility
- Three Partners
- Two-Year Effort
- Key Benefits

GRANT ACTIVITIES

- Leverage Task Force
- Identify Two Strategies
- Develop Action Plan
- Embed Student Parent Voice
- Begin Implementation



STRATEGIES CRITERIA

- Systemic
- Measurable
- Sustainable
- Target Root Barriers
- New or Early Implementation

EXAMPLE STRATEGIES

- Data
- Professional Development
- Facilities Plan
- Childcare
- Outreach Campaign
- One-Stop

TIMELINE

The grant period is from August 2023 – July 2025.

YEAR 1 (AUG 2023 – JULY 2024)

- Attend virtual kick-off and monthly project meetings;
- Leverage existing or reestablish/establish task force;
- Identify two strategies;
- Develop action plan;
- Begin implementation;
- Submit interim grant report; and
- Attend in-person midpoint convening;

YEAR 2 (AUG 2024 – JULY 2025)

- Attend monthly virtual project meetings;
- Continue implementation;
- Participate in the development of a publication and accompanying webinar documenting project learnings;
- Submit final grant report; and
- Attend in-person closing convening.

GRANT FUNDING

- Capacity building fund
- Funds must cover planning steps and beginning implementation
- Only a limited amount of funding can be allocated toward implementing student services or resources

ALLOWABLE USE EXAMPLES

- Staff salary and benefits
- Incentives/stipends for student parent participation
- Consultant services if needed
- Staff/faculty professional development
- Costs associated with convening relevant staff, faculty, students, and partners

APPLICATION PROCESS & SELECTION CRITERIA



PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

- Cover Sheet
- Application Narrative
 - Executive Summary (half page)
 - Project Rationale (up to 5 pages)
- Action Planning Process (up to 2 pages)
- Institutional Capacity (up to 2 pages)
- Budget and Budget Narrative (template)
- Letters of Commitment
 - President/Chancellor
 - Student Parent
- Partner List (if applicable)



SELECTION CRITERIA

- Existing systemic institutional efforts;
- Institutional practice and policy innovation;
- Capacity and commitment;
- Actively engage in regular technical assistance;
- Commitment to a community of practice;
- Engage student parent voices and experiences;
- Focus on innovations for single mother students; and
- Dedication to sustaining efforts.

SCORING KEY

5 = Very Strong; 4 = Strong; 3 = Moderately Strong; 2 = Not Strong; 1 = Weak; 0 = Missing

NEXT STEPS

- Use Doodle Poll to Set-up a 15-minute virtual consultation by May 25
- Submit proposals by 11:59 pm ET on Thursday, June 1, 2023
- Contact us with questions at ascendpsp@aspeninstitute.org

QUESTIONS ?

