

**CoPro2.0**  
**Shaping Equitable and Sustainable College Promise Programs**

**Appendix 2. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Phase 1: Concept Papers

Updated: 6/29/2021

**GENERAL**

**I have questions about this funding opportunity. Can I arrange a call or meeting with Kresge staff?**

To ensure a consistent, fair, and equitable competition for all applicants, we are not taking phone calls or meetings during the concept paper phase of the application process. Please read the CoPro2.0 Request for Concept Papers Narrative and these FAQs closely, as they provide substantial guidance on the initiative's priorities and submission process. If you still have questions, please email them to [copro2.0@kresge.org](mailto:copro2.0@kresge.org).

**What outcomes does Kresge expect to achieve through this opportunity?**

We anticipate funding projects that individually, and collectively, advance equity and help dismantle systemic racism; improve postsecondary outcomes for historically marginalized populations; reinforce the capacity of community colleges to provide high-quality postsecondary education and improve the well-being of students and local communities; and partner with other organizations to leverage resources and maximize program contributions to ensure long-term sustainability. We expect to identify, support, and disseminate targeted approaches that College Promise practitioners can use to make pathways into postsecondary education more equitable and that illuminate how College Promise programs can catalyze improvements in student success systems managed by campus practitioners, administrators, and leaders. We expect projects to foreground how promise programs can be more financially sustainable, whether the Biden-Harris Administration's tuition-free community college plan is adopted or not. We anticipate facilitating strong connections between promise programs and state and federal policymakers, with the goal of enabling the exchange of actionable information. We expect to learn from grantees and hear their ideas regarding how to accomplish these ends. We anticipate co-constructing other relevant goals with grantees and learning more about how Kresge can assist in propelling their work and disseminating their projects' findings.

## **Will there be opportunities to learn more about this initiative?**

Kresge will host a webinar about this initiative from 1-2 p.m. EDT, Wednesday, July 14. You can send questions in advance to [copro2.0@kresge.org](mailto:copro2.0@kresge.org) or submit questions during the webinar. You must register for the webinar [here](#). The webinar will be recorded and posted to the initiative's website within a week after it occurs.

If we receive substantive questions relevant to multiple applicants, we update this FAQ. Check <http://www.kresge.org/initiative/copro2-0> for updates.

## **When will CoPro2.0 grants be awarded?**

We anticipate notifying and announcing selected grantees by early November.

## **Who are the end beneficiaries of CoPro2.0?**

For Stream 1 (programming), the end beneficiaries should be college students, particularly those most often underserved by higher education and those less commonly served by College Promise programs.

For Streams 2 & 3, we anticipate disseminating project findings among College Promise program leaders, and state and federal policymakers.

For Stream 3, we anticipate that our dialogues and convenings will serve the learning needs and implementation strategies of federal, state, and local policymakers.

## **Is there a minimum number of participants that must be served?**

While there is no minimum number of intended participants or end beneficiaries, our selection criteria will include consideration of the project's scale. The greater the scale, the more attractive the concept might be to Kresge reviewers because of our desire to understand insights and strategies that could be applied across varied geographic and communal contexts. We are also looking for projects that can have a deep impact, so while we are looking for scale or ability to scale, we will also consider the potential depth of a project's impact.

## **Are ongoing interventions or projects that wish to expand eligible for funding?**

Yes. Projects that build on ongoing efforts to increase student success and degree attainment or elevate the financial standing of College Promise programs are highly preferred over those that would be launched by funding from this initiative.

## **How many grants will be funded through each stream?**

This remains to be determined. We will evaluate concept papers against available funding with the goal of funding projects that represent the highest quality of concepts according to our selection criteria.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **What are the eligibility requirements?**

Please read the Eligible Applicants and Selection Criteria sections of the CoPro2.0 Request for Concept Papers carefully to ensure that your organization, partnerships, and proposed work are eligible and competitive. Please note that each funding stream has different criteria and eligibility requirements.

**Can current Kresge grantees apply?**

Yes. This funding opportunity is open to past and current grantees of Kresge’s Education Program and any of its other programs, provided that they meet the eligibility criteria. All applicants will be subject to the same review process.

**Does applying for this grant preclude applying for other Kresge Education Program grants or for grants through other Kresge programs?**

No. An application for CoPro2.0 funding will not affect other applications or decisions related to other initiatives of the Education Program or initiatives of other Kresge programs.

**May an organization apply to more than one funding stream?**

Yes. Eligible applicants can apply for funds from each funding stream but must submit separate applications to do so. One concept paper submission equals one application for funds from one stream.

**My organization does not meet one or more of the eligibility criteria. Are we excluded?**

Organizations that do not meet Kresge’s criteria for this initiative are encouraged to seek a Fiscal Sponsorship or to partner with an organization that meets the criteria to serve as the applicant of record. The eligibility criteria are for the applicant of record (the organization that will be responsible for receiving the grant funds). We encourage collaboration among organizations, government agencies, K-12 school districts, and higher education institutions. Please be sure to include a letter of support from all project partners per the Request of Concept Papers.

**What is considered a College Promise program?**

For the purposes of this initiative, we consider a College Promise program to be a nonprofit entity that provides college-going resources to students based on where they live (e.g., neighborhood, school district, city, state). A minimum requirement is the provision of a financial award, but we acknowledge that academic, social, and basic needs resources are also crucial to student success and would be considered integral to a thriving College Promise program.

**The grant application requires letters of support. What entities need to supply letters of support?**

For the concept paper phase (phase 1), we require letters of support from all **project partners**. Project partners are defined as the key organizations or individuals who contribute resources to develop, decide upon, and execute project activities, and those who represent key beneficiaries and leading stakeholders. Only complete applications, with letters of support from all project partners, will be reviewed. An absence of letters of support from all project partners will be grounds for disqualification. Additional letters of support may be submitted from participating entities but are not required.

Existing memorandums of understand (MOUs) will be accepted in lieu of letters of support during the concept paper phase. We encourage all letters of support and MOUs to describe how the partner will contribute to the proposed work, the ways in which it will participate in the project, and what it anticipates learning or receiving from the project partnership and the larger initiative. Applicants selected to complete full proposals may be required to submit MOUs to Kresge describing each partner's role.

**Does my program qualify if it provides financial and other resources for students to enroll in non-credit courses and/or non-degree programs?**

We appreciate the role of non-credit courses and non-degree academic programs, but for the purposes of this initiative, Kresge would like College Promise programs to support students' completion of credit-bearing coursework that enables them to earn a postsecondary credential and/or degree.

**Is my program still eligible if it is not based in one of Kresge's focus cities (Detroit, Memphis, New Orleans) or the Education Program's focus states (California, Florida, Michigan, and Texas)?**

Although strong attention will be paid to organizations based in Kresge's focus cities and the Education Team's focus states, your organization is still eligible and encouraged to apply as long as it meets other eligibility requirements.

**Can an organization submit an application if it has a fiscal sponsor?**

A fiscal sponsor may apply on behalf of an eligible organization, but additional funding will not be provided to compensate the fiscal sponsor beyond what is provided from Kresge to satisfy the project's budget.

**Can my organization apply if we do not yet have a College Promise program?**

No. Only organizations with existing College Promise programs are eligible for this opportunity.

**Can an eligible organization participate in more than one application?**

Yes.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

**How do you define an "established" partnership?**

Established partnerships should have a strong track record of collaboration. There is no required length of time that the partners must have worked together. We will prioritize those partnerships that have already successfully and demonstrably delivered better outcomes for students with low incomes and students of color. Successful applications will be able to articulate and provide evidence of those prior successes, as well as identify past partnership challenges and efforts to mitigate or overcome those challenges.

**Who do you recommend should apply as the primary applicant?**

Your partnership should select an eligible nonprofit entity with the capacity to serve as a lead applicant that will lead the grant applicant process and, if selected, will receive and manage grant funds. Please review the selection criteria carefully.

## **ONLINE GRANT PORTAL (FLUXX)**

### **How can I make sure my partnership is applying for the CoPro2.0 grant opportunity?**

We strongly recommend that you take time to ensure that you are applying for the correct funding opportunity. This opportunity is listed in the RFP tab in our Fluxx portal. Access this portal at <http://kresge.fluxx.io> or find a link on the [Current Funding Opportunities page](#) at Kresge.org. Once the lead applicant has a username and password and logs into the online grant portal, please refer to the Fluxx Guide and Preview to ensure that you are accessing the correct application.

### **I'm having trouble submitting my application or attaching 'Other' documents.**

This problem often occurs when all required attachments, as noted by an asterisk (\*), are not uploaded to the grant request. Please upload these in the 'Attachments' section of the grant request by clicking the plus sign (+). Please refer to the Fluxx Guide and Preview for submission guidance.

### **I'm having trouble with my online account. Whom should I contact?**

If you have questions about the funding opportunity or experience challenges while navigating the grant portal (Fluxx), please review Appendix 4: Fluxx Guide and Preview. If after reviewing the guide you still have questions, please contact [grantsmanagement@kresge.org](mailto:grantsmanagement@kresge.org). For technical challenges with the grant portal, a Kresge associate will follow up by phone or email as soon as possible.

## **BUDGET**

### **Does Kresge have a cap on indirect rates?**

We prefer that grant dollars support direct project costs. However, we recognize that nonprofit organizations must cover certain fixed costs and administrative functions that indirectly support projects. As such, we allow grant seekers to include indirect costs in requests to the Foundation. We calculate indirect costs as a percentage of direct project costs. We determine the reasonableness of indirect costs on a case-by-case basis. The budget can include up to 15% of the total grant as indirect costs but then may not claim rent, utilities, or other costs typically bundled into overhead.

### **What expenses are not allowable?**

Capital requests, direct expenses associated with starting a College Promise program, and contributions to endowments and trusts to finance College Promise scholarships.

### **Should applicants include funding for travel to the initiative's convenings?**

For the concept paper budget, applicants do not need to include travel for the initiative’s convenings. Kresge will cover all the costs related to grantees’ attendance at the initiative’s in-person convenings.

### **Is there a match requirement?**

We are not requiring a funding match, although in-kind support and local funding partnerships are attractive and will likely elevate the standing of an application.

## **FUNDING USES**

### **How can grant funds be used?**

Grants can be used to create and execute project activities, including staffing, generating the timeline and design for the project, securing experts, such as consultants and research partners, and engaging or convening external stakeholders.

This will vary by project and stream, but grant funding can be used for the following expenses (not an exhaustive list):

- Staff and/or consultant time devoted to the project
- Sub-grants or contracts to partner organizations for project work
- Contracts for professional or technical assistance (e.g., design and planning)
- Project materials and supplies
- Community events for the project
- Research and evaluation costs
- Data collection and analysis
- Maintaining and securing financial and administrative records
- Costs associated with community outreach and communications efforts, including but not limited to event planning and logistics, meals, transportation, branding, etc.
- Programming and research support, including interns, graduate students, and associates

## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### **What are the reporting requirements after a grant is awarded?**

Kresge’s Education Program is committed to supporting grantees to complete their proposed projects in ways that reflect and advance community priorities. Interim reports will be required following the first year of the project, enabling the second payment to be released. Final reports will be required for all grants at the end of the grant period.

## **THE FULL PROPOSAL (PHASE TWO)**

### **If we are invited to complete a full proposal, does that mean we are guaranteed a grant?**

No. Limited grant funds are available, and we expect the selection process to be highly competitive. We do not expect to award grant funding to all organizations that are invited to complete full proposals.

### **What narrative questions will be asked in the full proposal?**

We will invite selected applicants to complete full proposals on or around September 1, 2021. At that time, we will share the narrative questions for the full application. Typically, narrative questions ask applicants to describe the objectives and scope of their proposed project, how the project is informed by and reflects community goals, how the organization has engaged community members in the past, and the organization's capacity and timeline for executing the proposed project. In many ways, the full proposal will seek a more detailed understanding of the answers provided during the concept paper phase.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Will another College Promise funding opportunity be offered again in the future?**

We have made no decisions about a future College Promise funding opportunity. We intend to evaluate CoPro2.0 to learn from its activities and impact, and to inform a decision about future College Promise funding opportunities.