

## **Appendix 1. Narrative Questions Preview**

Stream 1. Program Innovations and Redesign: Facilitating partnerships that expand or enhance services, re-imagine eligibility criteria, and foster institutional reforms.

- 1. Describe the postsecondary education enrollment and completion challenges your project/partnership will address and why they are important. What is your current understanding of the systemic barriers impacting college students with low incomes, students of color, and other marginalized students in your city or state and what metrics have you used to identify them?
- 2. Tell us about your college promise program and why it is uniquely positioned to address postsecondary education attainment needs in your city or state.
- 3. Please outline your project's concept, and its goals, major activities, and current and anticipated partners. How will it catalyze social change within your city or state, and student-centered transformation at partnering community colleges?
- 4. What outcomes do you expect will be realized as a result of the proposed work, and why are they important? Also, please describe how you will collect and track relevant data to assess progress toward these outcomes. How will this project be evaluated and by whom?
- 5. Please describe the steps individuals associated with this project have taken to develop a deeper consciousness of racial inequity. How does your organization pursue racial equity, and how does this pursuit materialize in its programming, policies, operations, and relationships with constituents and community partners?

Stream 2. Research on Financial Sustainability: Investigating public-private financing partnerships and exploring innovative financial models.

- 1. Explain the postsecondary education enrollment and completion challenges your research will address and why they are important. What is your current understanding of the systemic barriers to educational opportunity impacting students with low incomes, students of color, and other marginalized students?
- 2. Briefly describe who will conduct this research and their prior experiences. Please provide the theoretical framework guiding your analysis, as well as the data sources, analytic strategy, and main audience(s) for research findings.
- 3. How will this project contribute to more financially sustainable college promise programs?
- 4. Please list the types of materials you will develop and the types of activities you will facilitate to disseminate your findings.
- 5. Please describe the steps individuals associated with this project have taken to develop a deeper consciousness of racial inequity. How does your organization pursue racial equity and how does this pursuit materialize in its research, policies, operations, and relationships with constituents and community partners?

Stream 3. Strategic, Local and State Implementation Guidance: To support the Biden-Harris Administration's proposed national tuition-free community college program.

- 1. Please share your organization's contributions to decision-makers' knowledge of education programs, particularly tuition-free community college programs, and how these institutional, system, or other decision-makers might improve equity in postsecondary outcomes, improve capacity of community colleges, and advance partnerships between community colleges and local stakeholders.
- 2. Please describe how your organization interacts with state and federal policymakers and your organization's prior efforts to ensure that policies intended to broaden college opportunity actually succeed. How do you cultivate and sustain relationships? What lessons have you learned from your prior engagements in these efforts and what types of activities do you find to be most impactful in delivering the messages and information you intend to get across?
- 3. Please describe your organization's plan to provide guidance to support the implementation of equitable tuition-free community college programs at the national, state, and local level? What groups will you target? How will you engage them? What's your planned timeline? How might you engage other CoPro2.0 grantees and the managing partner to share insights and strategies about what works best? How would you define success for this project?
- 4. Please describe the steps individuals associated with this application have taken to develop a deeper consciousness of racial inequity. How does your organization pursue racial equity and how does this pursuit materialize in its research, policies, operations, and relationships with constituents and community partners?