REQUEST FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Milgrom Educational Innovation Challenge Grant

April 8, 2019

Background

During his life, the late Hymen Milgrom donated substantially towards improving urban education, most significantly through the Urban Teacher Education Program at the University of Chicago, a program that has since progressed to a large scale with federal funding. The Hymen Milgrom Supporting Organization (HMSO), created with a $17-million gift to the University of Chicago from the estate of Hymen T. Milgrom (AB, Accounting, ’35), was established to seek ways that public education can help urban children become more highly skilled and more successful as adults.

In service of this mission, the HMSO launched two programs: (1) the Successful Pathways from School to Work research initiative, which supports rigorous inquiry on how educators can become more effective in fostering the skills, dispositions, and experiences essential for success in the modern labor market, as well as society as a whole; and (2) the Milgrom Community Service and Innovation Fellowship for University of Chicago students, focused on helping improve the lives of disadvantaged children and youth in Chicago through education-related community service.

Building on the success of these initiatives, the HMSO is launching a new Milgrom Educational Innovation Challenge for University of Chicago students, focused on designing solutions to problems facing Chicago neighborhoods and communities.

Beginning in the fall of 2019, the HMSO will give grants to University of Chicago organizations to enable them to establish an Educational Innovation Challenge for University of Chicago students and provide the programming necessary for its success. The HMSO is now soliciting proposals from interested campus entities.

This request for proposals describes the need for the Educational Innovation Challenge program the HMSO will fund in 2019-2020; the kinds of programming the grant will support; who may apply; the likely duration and level of support for funded grants; the deadlines for submitting grant proposals; and the process by which proposals will be reviewed.
Educational Innovation Challenge Goals

The HMSO envisions an Educational Innovation Challenge program that will involve teams of University of Chicago students working collaboratively with students from Chicago public high schools to generate entrepreneurial solutions to educational needs in local communities, while building students’ academic, workplace and leadership skills, with support from the grantee organization.

The HMSO seeks to support a wide range of relevant, innovative, student-led projects, including those focused on young children (beginning in pre-Kindergarten and extending through the elementary years) and projects aimed at middle and high school students. Examples of projects could include: new tools or applications to enhance communication between parents and teachers around specific issues, such as increasing student attendance; programs to address the problem of summer learning loss; dual generation programs that simultaneously address the learning needs of parents and children; mentoring and apprenticeship programs that build students' preparedness for success in the workplace, provide information and experiences that can guide career choices, and enhance students' connections to potential employers; tools, applications or programs that build key non-cognitive skills essential for success in the workplace, including emotional maturity, empathy, and interpersonal skills; leadership programs that involve young people in civic engagement activities to improve their own communities; efforts to provide middle schools students and their families with more accurate, timely information to navigate the landscape of high school options in the Chicago Public Schools; programs teaching entrepreneurial skills to Chicago youth and connecting them with successful entrepreneurs; summer or after-school programs that develop student's STEM skills through hands on learning experiences; or programs that tutor high school students to pass the GED and/or the examinations for various trades.

The grantee organization will receive funding to design and implement an Educational Innovation Challenge program that provides selected teams of University and Chicago public high school students with some combination of the following: (1) programming to develop students’ understanding of local educational needs, challenges and opportunities; (2) support—including compensation for students’ time— to develop a viable business plan for an enterprise that addresses an authentic educational need and/or tangibly improves the skills of disadvantaged children or youth in Chicago; (3) infrastructure to help build their solutions, which could include innovative tools, products, interventions, or programs; and (4) the chance to compete for prize money and additional guidance and support to further develop and implement their ideas.
**Who May Apply**

The HMSO will consider grant proposals from any University of Chicago office, department, division, school or organization to create programs that involve undergraduate, graduate and/or MBA students.

University of Chicago entities may make collaborative agreements with entities outside the University that they think will advance the goals of their programs. Such entities could include community-based organizations, schools, social service agencies, private companies, or non-profits.

All projects must include a Principal Investigator (PI) who is a staff or faculty member at the University of Chicago with a genuine intellectual investment in the project, significant input on the project’s budget, and appropriate financial support to the University of Chicago commensurate with his or her role.

**Duration and Level of Support**

The HMSO will consider applications for two-year grants, for a grant period beginning in the fall of 2019. For the first year of the grant, the maximum level of support is $50K. The provision of a second year of funding is conditional upon review of a progress report due after nine months. If grantee goals are met, then a second year of funding will be granted for a maximum of $100K. The maximum level of support is $150K for two years.

**Guidelines for Letters of Interest**

The HMSO now seeks Letters of Interest (LOI) describing applicants’ ideas for the proposed new Milgrom Educational Innovation Challenge program. Applicants whose submissions are most promising will be invited to submit a full grant proposal with a detailed budget and specific plans for implementing the proposed program. LOI should not exceed 4 single-spaced pages and should include the following information, in the following order:

1. **Background**
   - Describe the prior work, current programs, and/or major achievements that make the applicant organization(s) qualified to develop the proposed program. If this is a collaborative proposal, briefly name and describe the partners.
   - Describe relevant relationships with other organizations—both on and off-campus—that will help advance your goals for the proposed Educational Innovation Challenge program.
2. Purpose of Funding Request

- Briefly summarize the proposed program and the goals it will seek to achieve for both student participants and the communities they hope to serve.
- Justify the “value added” of the proposed new program as compared to existing opportunities already available to University of Chicago students. Explain clearly how the program you propose differs from and improves upon these current offerings.
- Briefly explain the components of the program (e.g. coursework or workshops, mentoring, follow-up) and how they will address your proposed program’s goals.
- Describe how students will be screened and selected for admission to the program and to compete for funding for their projects.
- Explain clearly how the project will build high school students’ academic, workplace, and/or entrepreneurial skills.

3. Personnel

- Briefly describe the personnel whose work the grant will support, the roles each will play in the program, and, if known, the individuals anticipated to fill these roles.

4. Evaluation

- Describe the results you expect to achieve by the end of the funding period and your criteria for success.
- Explain how you will measure the effectiveness of the program.

5. Time Schedule

- Describe the timing and duration of key activities, including both planning/development and program implementation.

6. Approximate total budget per year

- Describe how the program will leverage existing campus resources and what new resources will be required to implement your plans.
- If the total budget exceeds $150K for two years, state the amount you are requesting from the HMSO and explain anticipated sources of co-funding.

Application Process and Deadlines

Please include with your LOI a CV for all key project personnel. LOI and CVs must be received by May 8, 2019. Applicants whose ideas hold the greatest promise for advancing the HMSO’s goals for the new program will be invited to submit a full proposal describing their plans in further detail, due by July 1, 2019. Grant awards will be announced on August 1 and funds will be available immediately.