



Request for Partners to Deliver Intensive Academic Tutoring

As the months stretch on, remote learning is proving more and more challenging...especially for young people who are most at-risk due to their life circumstances. Academic learning loss is growing worse and students today will forever be known as the “COVID generation”. Once behind, many young people may never catch back up. The damage from this temporary pandemic may very well last a lifetime.

The National Bureau of Economic Research has found [clear and consistent evidence](#) across dozens of research studies that tutoring by lightly trained volunteers can help students to make important learning gains. The impact of tutoring tends to be strongest in early grades focused upon literacy skills and later grades targeting mathematics and/or college readiness. Further work by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation offers insight into what some of the [most effective tutoring models](#) look like.

The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation (Foundation) is deeply concerned with learning loss. With this Request for Partnership (RFP), the Foundation is seeking one or more partners to design and execute an intensive academic tutoring program using a cost-effective and scalable approach. Partners are encouraged to consider “double bottom line” approaches that provide academic tutoring while also engaging unemployed or underemployed young adults as tutors.

The Foundation intends to provide support for one or more tutoring projects from March to September 2021. Grants requests may not exceed \$75,000. Following this first cycle of work, the Foundation may provide a second round of financial support to scale the most promising design(s).

Notification of Interest

Interested parties are asked to provide simple responses to the following questions *in no more than four, single spaced pages*. This will serve as your notice of interest.

- 1) What is your intended tutoring model?
 - a. How will this tutoring model be organized in coordination with one or more partner public schools? Are the necessary relationships already in place with schools for you to proceed?
 - b. Can the tutoring be delivered remotely, if needed?
 - c. Why do you think this model is likely to stem academic learning loss?
 - d. How will your tutoring approach identify, reach and support those students facing the largest learning losses?
- 2) Roughly how many students will benefit and how much is the effort estimated to cost?
- 3) What evidence of impact will you track? How do you define success?

- 4) If successful, how can this tutoring model be scaled to more students in more schools? How, if at all, does the cost structure change if the model is scaled?
- 5) Why is your organization well positioned to deliver this project?

Eligibility to Apply

The Foundation is inviting applications from nonprofit organizations in good financial standing or institutions of higher education. Exceptions may be made in certain circumstances, and in such cases, applicants are encouraged to detail these circumstances in their application.

Timeline

January 4, 2021	RFP released
January 13, 2021	Notice of interest due by 5:00pm HST to: aharris@castlefoundation.org . Subject line should read "Intensive Academic Tutoring".
	Select applicants will be invited to complete a more intensive design and request process
January 27, 2021	Final proposal is due
February 21, 2021	Final funding decision
March 1, 2021	Grant agreement finalized and project term begins
September 30, 2021	Project ends

Design considerations

As partners prepare their notification of interest please also consider the following practices in your response:

Tutoring may be delivered by near peers, paraprofessionals, school employees, teacher trainees, community volunteers, parents, college students or displaced workers.

Tutors should be paid on an hourly basis and be trained on how to build trust and engage students as well as techniques for covering specific content.

Tutors should not work with more than three students at once. Trained volunteers may be paired with free digital learning platforms like the Khan Academy for maximum benefit to students.

Tutoring works best when delivered as part of the school day and/or as a supplement during the summertime. Logistical set-up and coordination with the school should be frictionless for both tutors and students so that pairings are easily able to set schedules and secure protected time together.

Bidders Conference

The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation will host a bidder call that interested parties may join to learn more or ask clarifying questions. This call will occur on **January 6, 2021** from 10:00 – 10:30. Participants may use the following conference call line: 1 (800) 216-0770, passcode # 257667.