Funding Guidelines

The J. Warren and Lois McClure Foundation will focus its funding on efforts that improve equitable access to the postsecondary and career education that leads to Vermont’s most promising jobs. The Foundation's annual competitive grant program supports growth-stage efforts and programs seeking funding to pilot a model or a big idea, demonstrate effectiveness, expand delivery, or improve systems coordination in alignment with the Foundation’s mission.

Please read the full guidelines on the McClure Foundation website: www.mcclurevt.org/giving-philosophy

Funding priority will be given to projects that focus on one or more of the following:

- Improve public, community, and/or family awareness of career pathways and the importance of continued education after high school.

- Expand postsecondary access and increase postsecondary success so that Vermont students of all ages and backgrounds can benefit from postsecondary education and training. For example, this may include:
  - Improving postsecondary affordability (i.e. via improved FAFSA completion or increased participation rate in dual enrollment and/or early college)
  - Expanding postsecondary and career aspirations (i.e. via equitable access to high-quality work-based learning, early labor market experiences, and career and technical education programs)
  - Ensuring that Vermonters have the supports they need to complete a credential program (i.e. college degree, training certificate, registered apprenticeship, industry-recognized certification, operational license, etc.)

- Strengthen the pathways between education and employment. For example, this may include:
  - Strengthening the systems that support postsecondary attainment and workforce development (esp. regionally)
  - Improving the career advising and navigational supports available to low-income and first-generation secondary school students to and through high school graduation
Aligning college and career training programs with Vermont’s workforce needs, particularly as the efforts relate to "today's students" or "caring professions"

If you have questions about the McClure Foundation's grant process or your program's eligibility, please contact Carolyn Weir, at cweir@vermontcf.org or 802-388-3355 ext. 239.

Funding priority will be given to organizations/entities that:

- are public institutions or that strengthen our state’s public institutions, including schools, colleges, and libraries;
- have a history of data-driven, collaborative programming, and;
- can articulate their role(s) in a broader career pathway and/or ecosystem.

All LOIs must be submitted through the Vermont Community Foundation's Online Grants Manager (www.vermontcf.org/OGM) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2020. LOIs will not be accepted by mail or email.

Please note that character counts include spaces and punctuation. To create a pdf version of the LOI, click on the LOI packet button on the top of the form.

About Your Proposed Project

Project Title*
Character Limit: 100

Amount Requested for 2020-2021 School Year*
Please enter the dollar amount you are requesting. Grants for growth-stage programs typically range from $15,000 - $60,000 with a median grant size of $25,000.
Character Limit: 20

Geographic Area*
Select either Statewide or each of the counties that apply:
Choices
Statewide
Addison County
Bennington County
Caledonia County
Chittenden County
Essex County
Franklin County
Grand Isle County
Lamoille County
Alignment with Funding Priorities*
Please select each Foundation priority that aligns with your project.

Choices
Expand postsecondary access for youth and/or adults
Increase postsecondary success for youth and/or adults
Strengthen the pathways between education and employment
Improve public, community, and/or family awareness of career pathways

Proposal Summary*
Keeping in mind the guidelines of this grant program, please provide a concise project summary (maximum 6,000 characters including spaces and punctuation) that includes:

- The need your project will address;
- The work you propose to address this need (please be as specific as possible, including how the project was conceived and how it is designed to be learner-centric and equitable);
- The population/community served by this project;
- The data (with sources) used to guide your work;
- The role of collaborative partnership in this project, including with statewide collective impact networks, if relevant;
- A clear description of the project's current stage of development and the project's anticipated stage of development 1-2 years from now;
- The expected outcomes for this project, including numeric measures of success; an
- How you see the project as situated in a broader career pathway and/or ecosystem

Make sure to address all points above to ensure full consideration.

Character Limit: 6500

Total Project Cost*
Please tell us the estimated overall cost for this project in the 2020-2021 school year and, if applicable, in the following school year(s).

Character Limit: 50
What percentage of your organization's total budget will the project budget represent?*  
*Character Limit: 20

Other sources of funding*  
What other sources of funding are you pursuing for this project? What other sources of funding have been secured?  
*Character Limit: 250

Partner Organization(s) (if relevant)  
If relevant, provide a list of names of all partner organizations that are formally participating with you in this project. For major partners, please include the name of the primary staff contact and their title, phone number, and email address.  
*Character Limit: 500

Important Notes

- By submitting your LOI or application to the McClure Foundation and the Vermont Community Foundation, you give us permission to share your LOI or application with other potential funders, both individuals and foundations.

- The J. Warren & Lois McClure Foundation is a supporting organization of the Vermont Community Foundation.

- All LOIs must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 6, 2020.