Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Request for Proposals
September 2020

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is pleased to announce a competitive grant opportunity designed to improve persistence and completion rates, and ultimately, contribute to postsecondary employment rates, for low-income, Black and Latinx students currently enrolled in associate degree or certificate programs in Greater Hartford. The Foundation welcomes requests **of up to $50,000** for activities implemented during the 2020/2021 school year. Applicants are requested to complete the online grant application by **October 5**. Grant awards will be announced by **November 6**. The Foundation expects to award 4 to 5 grants.

I.   Background:
Completion rates for students enrolled in two-year public institutions across the country are low; in recent years, the completion rate in Connecticut has been just 34 percent. Many of the hurdles facing students have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has disproportionately impacted the health and economic well-being of low-income families. The Hartford Foundation seeks to make funding available to colleges or other nonprofits to provide post-enrollment support services for low-income Black and Latinx students from the 29-town Greater Hartford region enrolled in certificate or two-year degree programs to overcome hurdles that threaten their ability to complete these programs. The Foundation sees this support as a contribution to improved employment rates for this population, after postsecondary education and training is completed.

II.   Proposal Requirements:
Grants will fund supports or programs that improve persistence for low-income Black and Latinx students enrolled in certificate or two-year degree programs at higher education institutions in Greater Hartford.

- **Target Population:** Supports must specifically reach low-income Black and Latinx students facing the greatest challenges to persist. Applicants must be able to share demographic data on the Greater Hartford students they would expect to reach with this funding and to discuss how beneficiaries from within this population would be selected.

- **Types of Support:** The Hartford Foundation is interested in learning what hurdles these students face and the types of supports that will be most helpful in improving persistence and completion for this population. Post-enrollment persistence and completion supports might include: academic engagement, social engagement, counseling or coaching, mentorship, financial guidance, stipends, job placement supports, micro-grants or other tools to help students cover unexpected financial emergencies, and/or computers or internet access. The Foundation will rely on the expertise and experience of your agency to identify what you see as the most effective post-enrollment supports for the target population.

- **Eligible applicants:** Institutions offering associate degree or certificate programs to the target population, or nonprofits working with those institutions, are eligible to apply. Any nonprofits that work with educational institutions must provide a letter of support from the degree conferring educational institute.

- **Maximizing existing support programs and collaborations:** These grants are designed to build on existing student support programs. Applicants should describe how additional funding will allow educational institutions to maximize the impact of existing programs, including collaborations with partners providing critical support services.

Adaptions to existing support services that might be required to comply with state and federal COVID-19 safety regulations should be reflected in the application and applicants should incorporate flexibility in requests.

Questions can be directed to Megan Burke at mburke@hfpg.org. Any technical questions regarding completing the online application should be directed to Grants Administration at grantsadministration@hfpg.org.

Applicants should complete all required questions of the online application: Each agency is invited to submit one proposal. The deadline for proposals is **Monday, October 5, 2020.**