



For Community Partners ❖ June 25, 2010

Funding Opportunities

2011 Collaboration Prize will award \$250,000 to nonprofits that best work together

The Lodestar Foundation has launched the 2011 Collaboration Prize, a national award designed to identify and showcase models of collaboration among nonprofit organizations. Nonprofits across the country can apply for the Prize until July 16. The prize, which will be announced in April 2011, will recognize eight collaborations that best exemplify the impact that can result from working together. Each of the eight finalists will receive \$12,500 and the grand prize winner will receive an additional \$150,000.

The application process for the 2011 Prize is open June 1 – July 16. To be eligible, the collaboration must involve two or more nonprofit organizations. Each collaboration will be judged on the extent to which it:

- Demonstrates improved effectiveness in achieving social good;
- More effectively uses human and financial resources;
- Represents an innovative response to a specific challenge or opportunity; and
- Exhibits characteristics that demonstrate the collaboration is a model for the field, sector, or community.

For a full list of eligibility requirements, the online submission form, general information and answers to frequently asked questions, visit [The Collaboration Prize - Home](#)

Collaborations submitted to The Collaboration Prize form the basis of the Nonprofit Collaboration Database, an interactive resource comprised of real-life examples of exceptional collaboration.

The online Database currently contains detailed information on 250 collaborations, obtained during the 2009 Collaboration Prize, and will expand to include models resulting from the 2011 prize. New examples of collaboration are added regularly – ensuring that the database remains a robust and powerful tool for the nonprofit community.

The Lodestar Foundation is a grant making organization devoted to maximizing the growth and impact of philanthropy by efficiently and effectively leveraging philanthropic resources. The Foundation provides funds nationally and internationally to organizations that support its mission.

Toshiba America Foundation accepting applications

for classroom innovators grants

Toshiba America Foundation is accepting proposals from public and private (nonprofit) schools for its Classroom Innovators Grants. The grants will support innovative projects designed by math and science teachers to make their own classrooms more exciting and engaging for students in grades 7-12 across the United States. The deadline for applications is August 1, 2010. To obtain additional information and an application [click here](#).

New Research

Data-Driven Strategies to Boost Graduation Rates

A new national report from Education Week and the Editorial Projects in Education (EPE) Research Center finds that the nation's graduation rate has dropped for the second consecutive year, following a decade of mostly solid improvements. The report shows that nationally, 11,000 fewer students will earn diplomas for the current reporting period.

Three out of every 10 students in America's public schools fail to finish high school with a diploma, the report finds.

The report, ***Diplomas Count 2010: Graduation by the Numbers – Putting Data to Work for Student Success***, investigates how data and analysis are being used to boost graduation rates and improve student learning across the country. The report chronicles:

- The intersection of the data-systems movement and high school reform;
- District profiles that examine what data-driven reform means across diverse environments, from the nation's largest cities to its small rural communities;
- Practical, data-driven approaches to dropout prevention and recovery; and
- Insight and advice from education leaders working on the ground to turn around the nation's high schools.

The report is part of an ongoing project that tracks graduation policies for all 50 states and the District of Columbia and presents an updated analysis of graduation patterns for the nation, states, and the country's 50 largest school systems.

To read the complete report [click here](#).

AfterZones: Creating a citywide system to support and sustain high-quality after-school programs

This report from Public/Private Ventures analyzes the implementation of the AfterZones initiative - a citywide system-building effort in Providence, RI, that aims to provide high-quality, accessible out-of-school time services to middle school youth. The AfterZone model is built on a network of "neighborhood campuses" (each campus includes multiple sites in a geographically clustered area), providing participants with the opportunity to travel to programs located outside of the main program facility, the middle school.

Incorporating both qualitative and quantitative research findings, the report examines the implementation of the initiative's unique features and documents its

operations. It also explores the challenges and successes of Providence's system-building efforts as well as the strategies used to sustain them. To read the full report, [click here](#).

Improving Education and Employment for Disadvantaged Young Men

This publication developed by Carolyn J. Heinrich and Harry Holzer looks at low high school graduation rates and sharply declining employment rates that continue to plague disadvantaged youth, especially young men. Evidence reviewed was based on programs and policies such as youth development for adolescents and young teens; programs seeking to improve educational attainment and employment for in-school youth; and programs that try to "reconnect" those who are out of school and frequently out of work, including public employment programs. We identify a number of programmatic strategies that are promising or even proven, based on rigorous evaluations, for disadvantaged youth with different circumstances. To view the publication [click here](#).

Training Opportunity

Grant Writing 102: Goals, Objectives and Outcomes

All funders ask themselves, "If I support this project, will it make a difference?" Learn how to spell out what you hope to accomplish, how you will achieve it and how you will measure your impact. Get fresh strategies on making your grant submissions organized, realistic and compelling. Some grant-writing experience preferred.

Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2010
Time: 9:00 am to Noon
Location: Non-Profit Center
2819 W. Highland Blvd.
Presenter: Lesley Salas, Director of Grants & Special Initiatives
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee
Fee: \$75 (\$50 for Nonprofit Center members and CDBG agencies)
To Register: Call 344-3933

Program Evaluation

Measuring Your Success: Nine Strategies for Successful Program Evaluation

You and your project deserve an accurate and well-designed evaluation. This article, which was published in the June 20, 2010 edition of *eCivis Grants Network*, describes nine strategies to help you design and run your evaluation efficiently and effectively: (1) be proactive; (2) think like your funder; (3) select proper metrics; (4) define success; (5) measure quantitatively and qualitatively; (6) select the appropriate method; (7) specify a start-up time to design your evaluation; (8) save time for your evaluation design; and (9) use outside expertise, if needed. To read the complete article, [click here](#).

About LVP...

The Life Ventures Partnership is a collaborative public/private initiative to promote the future vitality of Milwaukee's regional economy by preparing young people to become:

- Life-long learners
- Productive workers
- Self-sufficient citizens.

Contact Us...

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