

INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTERS OF INTEREST

<https://strongstart.org/get-involved/letters-of-interest>



Building momentum for postsecondary success

Grant Opportunity for States, Systems, Regions and Metro Areas

A competitive grant opportunity is currently available for states, postsecondary systems and regional higher education consortia seeking to advance, consolidate and link core institutional reforms that enable low-income students, students of color and returning adults to succeed in gateway math and English courses and enter academic or career pathways by the end of their first year in community college or a broad-access, four-year institution.

Deadline for submitting an LOI: 6 p.m. Mountain DT on September 22, 2017

Background

Strong Start to Finish is a network of postsecondary leaders and funders committed to ensuring that all students succeed in their first year of college and enter a program of study reflecting their post-graduation professional goals. Strong Start to Finish's ultimate purpose is to significantly increase the number of students completing degrees, licenses and certificates with labor market value, and doing so in ways that eliminate racial/ethnic and income gaps in achievement.

[Learn more](#)

Grant Opportunity

Strong Start to Finish grants will be awarded to applicants working aggressively on the "last mile" issues necessary to implement these effective reforms at scale in all their member institutions. Successful applicants will have made significant progress in developmental education and gateway course reform, as well as in strengthening academic and administrative support systems for ensuring all students have a successful first year in college and are on track for the timely completion of an academic or career program.

Eligible geographic areas are California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Washington state and Wisconsin.

Proposed work should be customized to meet the scaling goals and needs of individual states, systems, regional consortia or metropolitan areas and measured by specific, student-level and institution-level metrics.

Sites funded will participate in a learning network to collectively solve implementation challenges, vet and inform the development of implementation tools, and aggregate knowledge to advance the field's understanding of what it takes to significantly scale up effective practices and sustain institutional change.

Education Commission of the States will host two informational webinars for interested parties on the following dates:

- Tuesday, August 29, 1-2 p.m. Mountain DT
- Wednesday, August 30, 10-11 a.m. Mountain DT

Please RSVP to info@strongstart.org.

Learn about the requirements for **submitting a letter of interest** and download materials on our website.