

Call for Concept Papers Fund for Excellence and Innovation

Overview

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) announces a grant opportunity through SCHEV's Fund for Excellence and Innovation.

These grants are funded by the General Assembly and are intended to stimulate collaboration among public school divisions, community colleges and public universities to create and expand affordable student pathways and to pursue shared services and other efficiency initiatives at colleges and universities that lead to measurable cost reductions.

Priority Areas of Funding and Expected Activities

For 2018-19, SCHEV seeks to fund proposals in three main areas.

- 1. Development of Transfer Pathways/Academic Program Maps (Expected Funding Range: \$10,000-\$20,000)**

SCHEV seeks collaborative partnerships between community colleges and baccalaureate granting institutions in Virginia to develop program maps that align community college credits to baccalaureate programs. The intent of this effort is to provide clearly defined maps to students to reduce the number of excess credits a student may take, reduce time-to-degree and support the implementation of the transfer legislation passed during the 2018 general assembly session.

Institutions should identify the number of pathways expected to be completed with the funding and how the pathways will be communicated to students and faculty and staff that work with transfer students.

Institutions should prioritize the development of program maps with institutions that have the highest number or highest percentage of transfer students. In addition, the priority for maps should focus on programs that lead to high demand jobs or programs with the highest transfer student enrollment rates.

- 2. Identification of methods or implementation of strategies to improve access and student completion (Expected Funding Range: up to \$75,000)**

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SCHEV seeks proposals from institutions that support planning, implementation or expansion of activities that will increase enrollment or completion rates for underrepresented students. This could be through partnerships with pre-K-12 to better inform students of opportunities to make more informed choices on their postsecondary education that may affect their higher education costs or through activities at an institution that improve completion.

There are many types of activities that could be supported, including analysis of data, meetings to identify strategies to improve access and completion, professional development for faculty and staff, communications to students, active outreach and programming, etc.

Priority will be given to proposals that incorporate any of the following strategies: strengthen partnerships within the institution or with pre-K-12 and partners in the service region; use of evidence-based practices to implement access and completion initiatives; and/or address underrepresented student needs on a large scale.

Identification or implementation of administrative efficiencies (Expected Funding Range: up to \$75,000)

SCHEV seeks institutions interested in collaborating to identify or implement strategies that could support greater efficiencies, including the use of a shared service model.

Priority will be given to institutions that that result in cost savings to students or creates partnerships between institutions to support greater efficiencies.

Application Process

- **Submission of Concept Papers:** As a first phase in the process, SCHEV seeks institutions to provide a concept paper. Additional instructions are provided in the information below.
- **Due date:** December 20, 2018
- **Submit Concept Papers to:** Paula Robinson, Assistant Director of College Access and PK12 Outreach, paularobinson@schev.edu
- **Notification of interest to fund proposals:** January 14, 2019
- **Estimated Start Date:** January 31, 2019

- **Length of Award:** Projects must be completed no later than June 30, 2020

Award Amount

The total annual amount available through the Fund for Excellence and Innovation is \$225,000. Funding amounts are expected to range from \$10,000 to \$75,000 depending on the priority area, complexity and level of partnership/collaboration identified in the proposal. Expected amounts for each area are noted above. Funds will be awarded in the form of a grant, with a Memorandum of Understanding between the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and the lead institution.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible lead applicants are public institutions of higher education in Virginia. A lead institution may submit no more than one proposal per priority area.

Use of Funds

Use of funds can vary based on the priority area. Funds and proposals are expected to focus on one-time funding without the expectation of ongoing support. Funds are not expected to support indirect institutional costs.

Concept Paper Submission Information and Contents

Submission Information

Please submit concept papers by 5:00 p.m. on December 20, 2018, to Paula Robinson, Assistant Director of College Access and PK12 Outreach
paularobinson@schev.edu

Concept Paper Contents

One-page Summary

For each submission, please complete the brief [one-page summary form](#) to allow for quicker review.

Narrative (2 pages maximum, single spaced)

The narrative should include the following:

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- Statement of need that includes why the institution is pursuing the proposals, the purpose and goals of the proposed project and the intended activities.
- How the project will bring measureable costs savings to either students or the institution.
- How the project meets the purpose and description of the priority areas of focus (transfer, access and completion, efficiencies/shared service).
- A timeline with specific deliverables and dates should be included. A final report, including recommendations for scaling the project, is expected at the conclusion of the grant period.

Budget (1 page maximum)

Please estimate the amount of general funds requested for the proposal. Briefly describe how the funding will be spent.

Application Processing, Review and Award

Upon receipt via email of each concept paper, SCHEV staff will respond by return email to confirm receipt.

Submissions will be reviewed by SCHEV staff who may request selected lead applicants to provide clarification of and or modifications to proposals. After review, staff may enter into discussions on select projects and request modifications to the proposal or budget amount if needed.