**The School Solutions Seed Fund at EdVestors**

A fund to support promising on-the-ground solutions to common challenges facing urban schools

***Through the School Solutions Seed Fund, EdVestors seeks to identify promising solutions that address current challenges facing classrooms and schools. EdVestors will award grants of $5,000 to $10,000 in January 2020 to fund work in schools in Boston.***

Seed fund grants provide an opportunity for schools to move quickly to test, plan, or pilot an interesting innovative solution in response to an identified need or challenge in their school. The work may be implemented across a few classrooms, a grade-level or department team, an entire school, or multiple schools. We are most interested in challenges that are shared by other Boston schools, and therefore solutions that other schools can learn from.

**APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1st AT 3:00pm**

**Eligibility**

**Who can apply?**

Entrepreneurial and problem-solving educators (principals, headmasters, teachers) as well as system and network leaders (BPS, charter, independent) looking to solve a specific, urban education problem in classrooms or schools in PreK through grade 12 in Boston. We also welcome applications from nonprofit organizations partnering with schools to solve a school’s priority need.

**The most successful proposals:**

* Serve a student population that represents the diversity of students in Boston. *Priority consideration will be given to schools where at least 75% of students are considered High Needs as defined by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.*
* Provide opportunities for adults in a school or across schools to work collaboratively.
* Build leader, teacher, and/or staff capacity to improve their practice and work differently to improve student outcomes.

**Expectations for School Solutions Seed Fund Recipients**

* Attend 2-3 cohort meetings during spring semester to share & learn from colleagues.
* Participate in the EdVestors Urban Education Showcase in April.
* Submit a “lessons learned” final report in June.

**Timeline**

October 8th, 2019 Information Session, 4:30 – 5:30pm

Friday, November 1, 2019 Grant Applications Due by 3:00pm to [verner@edvestors.org](mailto:verner@edvestors.org)

Late December 2019 School Solutions Seed Fund Recipients Announced

January-September 2020 School Solutions Implementation

Early February 2019 First Cohort Meeting

Late March Second Cohort Meeting

Mid-April Urban Education Showcase

June 11th Seed Fund Spring Learning Report Due

Mid-June Potential Third Cohort Meeting

**Grant Amount and Time Period**

Applicants may apply for grants of $5,000 to $10,000 for work that will occur between January 2020 and September 2020.

**Use of Grant Funds**

Seed Fund grants focus on building the capacity of the adults in schools. Use of funds may include, but is not limited to, funding stipends or substitute coverage for educators to meet as teams during or outside the school day, to observe peers’ classrooms, or to receive training and coaching.

The Seed Fund is not intended to support the following types of activities:

* Existing, on-going activities in a school or group of schools.
* Purchase of technology hardware or software as the primary focus of the grant.
* Afterschool programs or summer school.
* Expansion of an existing program that is already operating in multiple schools in Boston.

\*In order to receive funds from EdVestors, recipients must either be a 501(c)(3) or have a fiscal agent with tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status. *(In the past, many schools have used Boston Educational Development Foundation (BEDF) or the Center for Collaborative Education (CCE) as their fiscal agent.)*

**About EdVestors**

EdVestors is a dynamic school improvement organization that combines strategic philanthropy, education expertise, and implementation support to help schools create the conditions for improvement. EdVestors’ mission is to increase the number of schools in Boston delivering dramatically improved educational outcomes for all students. EdVestors advances its mission by identifying and shaping the most effective improvement initiatives, partnering with donors to invest in these efforts, and supporting education project leaders with hands-on expertise. Since starting in 2002, EdVestors has raised and directed over $29 million for urban school improvement efforts through EdVestors' School Solutions Seed Fund, BPS Arts Expansion, the School on the Move Prize, Zeroing in on Math, and Career Pathways.

**Questions Regarding Seed Fund Application?**

**Attend Our Seed Fund Information Session**

We encourage all potential applicates to attend the Seed Fund Information Session on Tuesday, October 8th from 4:30 – 5:30pm at Kuumba Library, 140 Clarendon St, Boston.

**Schedule Virtual Office Hours**

Office hours will be held from 3:00 – 5:00pm every Thursday in the month of October.

Reach out to Alia Verner, Manager of Strategic School Support at <https://calendly.com/averner/seedfund> to schedule a 15-30 minute call to discuss any ideas or questions you may have.

**Reach Out by Email**

Please contact Alia Verner at [verner@edvestors.org](mailto:verner@edvestors.org) with any questions about Seed Fund or the application process.

**Word Document Submission Instructions**

**Please Submit:**

***Document 1* (in the following order, as a single Microsoft Word document; no PDFs)**

* A **cover page** with requested applicant information (see page 4 for cover page format)
* A **3-page application**, answering the questions on page 5 in 11-point font or larger; include the name of the lead applicant and page numbers in the footer of each page of the document
* An **expense plan/project budget** (see page 6 for sample budget format)

***Document 2 – if applicable* (PDF acceptable)**

* For any significant nonprofit partners included in the application, whether they are the lead applicant or a partner to the applying school, please include the non-profit’s current year organizational budget.

**Email Instructions**

**Please email your application to Alia Verner at** [verner@edvestors.org](mailto:verner@edvestors.org). If you have any difficulty emailing your application, please contact us at (617) 585-5740.We will confirm receipt of your application via email within 24 hours of submission.

When sending the email, please write the name of the applicant school or organization in the subject line of the email. For example, **“Subject: Alpha Elementary School Seed Fund Application.”**

Please observe the page limit and do not send extra attachments. We will request additional information if needed.



**Section 1: Seed Fund Application Cover Page**

**Lead Applicant Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lead Applicant Name:**  Name of School or Organization |  |
| **Lead Contact(s) Name:** |  |
| **Title(s):** |  |
| **Organization/School:** |  |
| **Street Address:** |  |
| **City, State, Zip Code:** |  |
| **Phone number:** |  |
| **E-mail:** |  |
| **Fiscal Agent Name (if using BEDF, please include BEDF number)** |  |

**Partner (either School or Organization) Information (repeat for all partners/schools)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Partner Contact Name and Organization/School:** |  |
| **Title:** |  |
| **Street Address:** |  |
| **City, State, Zip Code:** |  |
| **Phone number:** |  |
| **Fax number:** |  |
| **E-mail:** |  |

**Summary of Grant Request**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Name:** |  |
| **Number and type(s) of participants involved** or impacted by this work (students, teachers, parents): |  |
| **Brief Summary of Project (2-5 sentences):** | |

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** Section 2: Seed Fund Application Narrative**

In no more than 3 pages, please answer the following questions:

**Section 1: Context**

1. Please tell us about your school or organization.
2. If partners are involved, which partner(s) and why?
3. What problem or challenge have you identified and why is it a top priority for your school or organization? What are the assets your school or organization bring to this work?
4. Who are the students you intend to serve? What are their needs?

**Section 2: Vision & Plan**

1. What is your plan to tackle this challenge? Why have you selected this approach? And how will grant funds be used to support this work? ***(Your response to this bullet should form the bulk of your application.)***
2. What do you hope to learn from this 6-9 month pilot? What do you expect to be different at the end of the grant period? Explain how the seed fund grant would position you to continue or advance the work in the following school year.
3. What supports and/or external resources beyond funding would be helpful in ensuring the success of your efforts?

**SECTION 3: SEED FUND EXPENSE PLAN/PROJECT BUDGET:**

In the chart below, please provide a brief description of your planned expenses and the estimated amount. Please add or delete rows as needed.

Seed Fund grants will be for up to $10,000.  Your total budget may total more than $10,000 if you would be supplementing the Seed Fund grant with other funds.

Please delete the “EXAMPLE” line before completing.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Timing** | **Amount** |
| EXAMPLE:  10 teachers attend weekly planning meetings =  10 teachers x 15 weeks x $40/hour = $6,000 | EXAMPLE:  January-June 2019 | EXAMPLE:  $6,000 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **TOTAL BUDGET** |  | **$6,000** |

**OTHER RESOURCES:**

Please describe other resources (time, human capital, other funding) that will support this work.