



College Access and Success Initiative 2.0 Challenge Grant Application Guidelines and Criteria

Overview

Florida Philanthropic Network's (FPN) Challenge Grant will require matches and be used to build capacity for foundations to support their College Access Network (LCAN). The College Access & Success Initiative (CASI 2.0) is a three-year initiative that builds on the success of the first CASI grant, launched in 2015, and the work of the Florida College Access Network (FCAN). FCAN's mission is to lead the collaborative movement to ensure every Floridian achieves an education beyond high school and a rewarding career

Purpose

The purpose of the Challenge Grant is to incentivize LCAN endowments, fund development strategies, expand donor and board knowledge of college access and equity issue, and deepen the breadth of LCAN leadership groups. It will also strengthen philanthropic support for scholarship programs serving underrepresented student populations.

Eligibility

Challenge grants are available to Florida community foundations that are members of Community Foundations of Florida (CFF) and FPN, are in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations®, and are previous CASI Challenge Grant or Exploratory Grant recipients. Be recognized as a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization, according to the Internal Revenue Code.

Before submitting a Challenge Grant request, applicants must have an orientation conversation with FCAN and FPN staff.

Funding

The grant will require a 1:1 match for up to \$50,000. Grant deliverables will require a minimum 20% allocation to an LCAN-supporting endowment fund; a multi-year fund development plan; and commitment of funds to support LCAN infrastructure and activities (e.g., dedicated staffing and work groups).

A Community Foundation can apply for \$25,000 or \$50,000 and will be matched to this amount after a signed affidavit has been submitted to ensure the match has been accounted for.

The match required by Community Foundations must be new dollars raised by the foundation to support their designated LCAN. The new dollars can be sourced from existing funds within the foundation but must be new in support to their LCAN.

Grant Award & Requirements

Organizations approved for funding must:

- Participate in the CASI Learning Community by attending virtual and in-person meetings regarding LCAN leadership and sustainability.
- Complete a baseline survey at the beginning of the grant award period, as well as periodic surveys to help FPN and FCAN make adjustments to the work.
- Complete a financial report at the time of claiming the Challenge Grant funds and at the end of the grant period.
- Complete a mid and end of grant period narrative report.
- Submit a sustainability plan for the LCAN highlighting the community foundation's role throughout the period of the Challenge Grant award, and beyond.
- Sign an affidavit to ensure the required match has been accounted for.
- Acknowledge FPN, The Kresge Foundation, FCAN, and Helios Education Foundation in all print, website, and social media collateral. All images should be approved by FPN before publication
- If applicable, a letter of support from the LCAN backbone organization.

Resources and Learning Communities

Community foundations awarded Challenge Grants will be included and required to participate in the CASI Learning Community and Innovative Scholarship Workgroup (ISWG). Each CASI Learning Community meets no more than quarterly.
