

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## Milgrom - UChicago Community Based STEM Program Grant

May 17, 2023

### Background

During his life, the late Hymen Milgrom donated substantially towards improving urban education, most significantly through the Urban Teacher Education Program at the University of Chicago, a program that has since progressed to a large scale with federal funding. The Hymen Milgrom Supporting Organization (HMSO), created with a \$17 million gift to the University of Chicago from the estate of Hymen T. Milgrom (AB, Accounting, '35), was established to seek ways that public education can help urban children become more highly skilled and more successful as adults.

In service of this, the HMSO launched several programs.

- The “Successful Pathways from School to Work” research initiative, launched in 2013, supports research that will help educators become more effective in fostering the skills, dispositions, and experiences essential for success in the modern labor market as well as for quality of life more broadly.
- The Milgrom Community Service and Innovation Fellowship for University of Chicago students, launched in 2018 focuses on helping improve the lives of disadvantaged children and youth in Chicago through education-related community service.
- The Milgrom Educational Innovation Challenge, launched in 2019, focuses on designing solutions to problems facing Chicago neighborhoods and communities by funding University of Chicago organizations to provide programming to University of Chicago students to work collaboratively with students from Chicago public middle schools and high schools high schools to generate entrepreneurial solutions to educational needs in local communities while building students’ academic, workplace and leadership skills with support from the grantee organization.
- The Milgrom Computer Coding Fellowship, launched in 2022, focuses on helping improve the lives of disadvantaged youth in Chicago and their opportunities for successful employment by developing their computer coding and programming skill.

Building on our previous work in urban education with youth on the greater Southside of Chicago, the HMSO wishes to expand its efforts to improve the lives of disadvantaged youth in Chicago by supporting projects that focus on STEM educational opportunities and believes it to be appropriate to fund such efforts in the Greater Bronzeville Community.

Currently, we are funding projects broadly encompassing coding and computer science education under the Milgrom Computer Coding Fellowship. We are interested in continuing to provide students with enrichment opportunities in STEM education, in computer science or other STEM

areas. Our overarching goal is to provide students with meaningful STEM learning opportunities that will serve as a vehicle for successful pathways to employment.

As an expansion of our funding in this field, we are soliciting proposals from interested campus entities to develop a collaborative STEM program that involves members of the University of Chicago and a community-based partner from the Southside community.

The operational site of the program should be in the community. The HMSO has identified the Bright Star Community Organization (BSCO) as the community partner. BSCO is an organization that has a record of delivering programs with broad-based community participation from a large geographic area on Chicago's South Side and that has an established relationship with the University of Chicago's Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice.

This request for proposals describes the program goals; required elements of the proposal; the deadlines for submitting grant proposals; and the process by which proposals will be reviewed.

### **Program Goals**

The goals of the project are the following.

- Develop and implement a STEM program for elementary and middle school students that will serve the participants of the Greater Bronzeville Community Action Council, which has more than 70 school-based and community-based institutions on Chicago's South Side engaged in the Bronzeville Collaborative.
- Develop a STEM program that provides these students with tangible and transferable skills necessary for future success in multiple STEM fields.
- Develop a STEM program that will be sustainable and become a permanent or long-term part of the BSCO's educational efforts that serve local schools in the Bronzeville Collaborative.

### **Proposal Requirements**

To fulfill these goals, the HMSO is issuing a Request for Proposals to develop, implement, and evaluate a program that encompasses the goals listed above.

- Program Development, including identification and recruitment of administration and faculty that will operate this STEM program as part of BSCO's educational efforts that serve local schools and residents of the Bronzeville Collaborative.
- Curriculum Development and Implementation of a community-based STEM program that builds STEM skills of participating students that will give them skills necessary for the future workplace. The program should be geared to provide these skills to the average student and not only to outstanding students.

- The STEM umbrella is large, and the program will need to focus on areas that are suitable to a community-based program as well as budgetary and infrastructure development constraints of this program.
- The proposed project should involve meaningful and maximal engagement and participation of the community partner to address local needs. The operational site of the program should be primarily in the community. The HMSO has identified BSCO's TURN Center, which serves the Greater Bronzeville Community, as the designated community partner based on its ability to deliver community participation and its association with the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy and Practice (Crown Family School).
- Evaluation of the STEM program as it is implemented and after it is operational, to be conducted by either the Crown Family School or by another University of Chicago entity with technical expertise in STEM Education and/or program evaluation.
- It is the vision of the HMSO that once the program is developed, implemented, operational and verified by scientific assessment to be successful that the project will continue to operate long-term. During this later stage, the University of Chicago partner(s) will serve as advisors and alter the curriculum according to evaluation of the program in operation, as well as changes in the technical and scientific world, the evolving needs of the workplace, and successful outcomes.

## **Proposal Components**

The successful proposal should involve a University-Community partnership and include various kinds of expertise.

Proposals must address the following:

- Intellectual expertise in STEM domain(s) relevant to the focus.
- Pedagogical expertise in teaching skills in the targeted domain(s) to elementary and middle school students.
- Plans for evaluating the program's success by an independent evaluator, focusing on the metric of its ability to provide students with modern technological workplace job skills. The program should provide these skills to both average and outstanding students.
- Solid working relationship and collaborative agreement with the BSCO and its TURN Center for this project.
- Community expertise/partnership(s) – The program should be developed to include funding for community staffing, infrastructure, and expertise within the framework of a sustainable budget for the Bright Star Community Organization.
- Sustainability. The proposal should outline the applicants' vision of how the program would operate long term and within the budgetary framework.
- Grants that are collaborative between more than one University entity are encouraged. The Crown Family School is a recommended partner because of its working relationship

with the Bright Star Community Organization and its knowledge of Bright Star's strengths and weaknesses.

Initial funding will be for two years with a maximum amount of \$400,000 per year. The HMSO will closely monitor the progress of the project every six months to ascertain that goals and the proposed timeline are being met. If major problems, deficiencies, or events arise that threaten the success of the project, then the HMSO may alter or even cease funding.

Limited funding for pre-submission, in person meetings between participating organizations and groups may be provided, if requested.

This grant will provide funding to design and implement a program, together with the initial operation of the program. The budget should include funds for the necessary development and operation of the community STEM center, learning supplies, as well as compensation for mentors, participating teachers and administration.

A detailed justification will be required of all budgeted items.

### **Who May Submit a Proposal in Response to this Request for Proposal?**

The HMSO will consider grant proposals from any University of Chicago office, department, division, school, or organization. The Principal Investigator who develops, plans and/or evaluates this program must be on the faculty or staff of the University of Chicago.

### **Duration and Level of Support**

This RFP is for a two-year grant, for a grant period beginning in the summer of 2023. The maximum level of support is \$400K per year, for two years.

After this initial two-year grant, if the STEM program is determined to be successful, the HMSO will consider making grants for the operation of the program in subsequent years in order to assure the sustainability of this program.

### **Guidelines for Proposal**

The HMSO seeks proposals describing applicants' ideas for the new Milgrom STEM Program. Applications should not exceed 7 single-spaced pages and should include the following information, in this order:

1. Background
  - a. Describe the prior work, current programs, and/or major achievements that make the applicant and/or organization(s) qualified to develop the proposed program.
  - b. Briefly name and describe the partners and main contact for each organization.
  - c. Describe additional relevant relationships with other organizations, both on and off-campus, that will help advance your goals for the proposed program.

2. Purpose of Funding Request
  - a. Title and 250-word summary of the proposed program, explicit goals, and the skill set within STEM it will provide for participants.
  - b. Explain the components of the program and how they will address the program goals.
3. Personnel
  - a. Briefly describe the proposed project's personnel, the roles each will play in the program, and, if known, the individuals anticipated to fill these roles.
  - b. Please designate the main contact for the proposal and provide contact details.
4. Evaluation
  - a. Describe the results you expect the program to achieve by the end of the two-year funding period and your criteria for success.
  - b. Explain how you will assess the effectiveness of the program. How will you define and measure success?
  - c. Identify who will be responsible for independently evaluating your program and discuss their qualifications.
5. Time Schedule/ Timeline
  - a. Proposed Start and End dates for grant.
  - b. Describe the timing and duration of key activities, including both planning/development and program implementation.
6. Budget
  - a. Provide detailed budget by year and itemized justification for the project.
  - b. If appropriate, describe how the program will leverage existing campus resources.
  - c. No indirect costs or tuition abatement will be supported as part of the grant.

### **Application Process and Deadlines**

Please include a brief CV (5 pages max.) for all key project personnel (The CVs will not be included in page limits).

Proposal and CVs must be received by June 30, 2023. Review of proposals will be in mid-July. Awards will be announced as soon as feasibly possible once the review process is complete. Questions related to the Milgrom STEM program may be sent to Jodi Khan at [jodikhan@uchicago.edu](mailto:jodikhan@uchicago.edu).

Please email Jodi Khan if you have pre-submission funding requests.

Completed proposals should be submitted via <https://uchicago.infoready4.com>.