



**POSNER  
FOUNDATION**  
*of Pittsburgh*

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## **Call for Proposals Student Success Initiatives in the Pittsburgh Region**

### **Overview**

The Posner Foundation of Pittsburgh is a family foundation with diverse interests across its [five priority areas](#). While many of the foundation's grants are international or national in nature, this call for proposals is focused on the Pittsburgh region.

The foundation will support projects that enable area high school and college students to succeed in their higher education journeys. Past initiatives supported by the foundation include providing seed funding for, and later endowing, the [Tartan Scholars Program at Carnegie Mellon University](#), as well as supporting student success models at other college and universities and working with local nonprofit organizations focused on helping high-school aged students access higher education.

Building on the lessons and successes of these programs, and intending to draw on new models and ideas, the Posner Foundation seeks to expand its support in Student Success initiatives.

### **Areas of Focus: Student Success**

In 2023, the Posner Foundation established a strategic plan to guide and assess funding in its Education program, with a strong emphasis on Student Success initiatives in the Pittsburgh region. The goal is to support students, regardless of financial or social resources, to access, afford, thrive in, and complete a quality post-secondary education.

The foundation understands the value of programs ranging from in-school programs, after-school programs, and mentorship programs, as well as those that take place with high-school students or those already enrolled in college. For the purposes of this call for proposals, the foundation defines "college" as a degree program, including two-year degrees.

This call for proposals seeks opportunities to support both tried-and-true programs as well as lesser-known or emerging solutions that require more funding to realize their potential. While the Posner Foundation currently supports several organizations working in this area, this call for proposals welcomes both existing grantees and potential new grantees to apply for funding.

While not required, the foundation encourages applicants to imagine how partnerships may strengthen their efforts. Populations of interest are students of color, immigrants and refugees, students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and first-generation college students.

### **Examples of Fundable Projects**

Examples of projects might include (but are not limited to!):



- A partnership between refugee- and immigrant-serving organizations to support students on their journey to access, afford, and succeed in college.
- A program embedded in a college or university to better support students, especially first-generation college-goers.
- Programs that span the timeframe between high school and college through supportive networks or ongoing touchpoints with students.
- Expanding an existing model to new populations, geographies, or schools based on promising outcomes to date.
- Programs that involve families, encouraging them to play an active supportive role in the student success journey.

### Criteria for Evaluation

The most competitive applications under this funding opportunity will:

- Clearly state how the project addresses the foundation's student success goals.
- Articulate a strategy to assess effectiveness of the project – both successes and opportunities for improvement.
- Have experienced leadership and the capacity to initiate and carry out the project.
- Be clear and specific about the population served and the specific strategies proposed.
- Demonstrate the ability to leverage additional resources or partnerships to successfully execute the project.
- While not required, the foundation encourages applicants to imagine how partnerships may strengthen their efforts.
- Populations of particular interest are students of color, immigrants and refugees, students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, and first-generation college students.

### Grant Period

The grant period is expected to be one or two years, with potential for continued funding depending on the results of the initial grant. Award amounts will range from \$25,000 - \$250,000 and the foundation expects to make several grants in this funding cycle.

### Timeline

RFP Released	February 28, 2024
LOI deadline	April 1, 2024
Finalists notified	April 15, 2024
Full proposal deadline	May 15, 2024
Awardees notified	No later than June 30, 2024

### How to Apply

To review the requirements and submit an LOI for consideration, visit <https://posner.givingdata.com/portal/campaign/studentssuccess2024>. If you have questions about this opportunity, [contact Program Associate Naomi Morris](#) to set up a consultation with the foundation.