Rhode Island’s Post Secondary Student Access and Persistence Program

Contacts for Non-Profit Organizations

Institutions for Higher Education that are applying to the Post-Secondary Student Access & Persistence RFP are required to partner with a Rhode Island non-profit organization. Listed below are the federal regulations for non-profits eligible for any sub-grant awards through the College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACGP), the funding source for Rhode Island’s program. (Please note that attendance at the Technical Assistance Workshops is not required for partner organizations.)

Mandatory CACGP Federal Requirements for Non-Profit Organizations:

“States may award sub-grants to one or more non-profit organizations, including an eligible not-for-profit holder (as defined in section 435 (p) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by section 303 of this Act), or those who have agreements with the Secretary under section 435 (J), or a partnership of such organizations, to carry out activities or services...,” if the nonprofit organization or partnership—
1. Was in existence on or before September 27, 2007; and
2. As of such day, have experience in implementing activities and services related to increasing access to higher education.

Submitted proposals must include documentation of compliance with the above regulations.

Rhode Island Non-Profit Organizations’ Contacts

Blackstone Valley Community Action Program  
Bianca Policastro (bpolicastro@bvcap.org)  
(401-723-4520)

Member of nation-wide network of Community Action Programs. Serves over 12,000 families living in Pawtucket, Central Falls, Cumberland, Lincoln, and Woonsocket. Serves low-income families. Offers a vast array of services: basic needs (emergency housing assistance, food cupboard, fuel assistance, holiday toys, family advocacy program, RI donation exchange); education and employment (adult basic education, ESL, GED--adult; youth success; pre-GED, youth job readiness program); energy & conservation services (appliance management, Low-Income Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), weatherization and boiler assessment); housing development; housing services (foreclosure counseling, homelessness prevention and rapid-rehousing program (HPRP), fair housing advocacy, home ownership education, housing counseling, lead poisoning case management, lead hazard awareness programs, Pawtucket starter home program); senior services (retired senior volunteer program (RSVP)); tax assistance; youth self-sufficiency (adolescent self-sufficiency program, youth responsibility program).
Campus Compact  
Kristen Read (kread@risd.edu)  
(401-427-6924)

Rhode Island Campus Compact (RICC) is a coalition of college and university presidents committed to the civic mission of higher education. Rhode Island Campus Compact actively promotes community service, service-learning, civic engagement and community-campus partnerships as vital components of higher education to inspire an active, responsible and committed citizenry while helping to solve society's most pressing needs. RICC provides resources, professional development and grant funding to assist faculty, students, presidents and administrators in building transformational partnerships with community-based organizations through teaching, service and research. Some programs and initiative are: Learn and Serve America K-16 Service-Learning Program; Scholarships for Service AmeriCorps Program; Rhode Island Statewide Student Service Summit; Engaged Scholars Statewide Presidential Faculty Fellowship; Community Service Director Network; RICC AmeriCorps*VISTA Program; Partnerships for success.

The College Crusade  
Maria Carvalho (mcarvalho@thecollegerusade.org)  
(401-854-5500)

The College Crusade of Rhode Island's mission is to increase educational and career success for youth in Rhode Island’s low-income communities. We help Crusaders get ready to succeed in college by providing caring advisors and sustained academic and social support from grades 6-12, combined with scholarship incentives. We advocate for expanded opportunities for pre-K-16 success while helping Crusaders to develop as responsible, productive members of the community.

College Visions  
Simon Moore (Simon@collegevisions.org)  
(401-490-3996)

College Visions empowers low income and first-generation college-bound students to realize the promise of higher education by providing individualized advising and resources through college admissions, selection, and enrollment. College Visions (CV) promotes equal access to educational opportunities in historically under-served communities. CV assists students by identifying the need of their clientele and providing a college access and college success program. Youth join College Visions in the spring of 11th grade and remain in the College Access Program until they enter college 12-16 months later. As members of a college-bound community, students actively engage in College Vision's benchmark-driven curriculum. Students participate in an intensive group workshop series the summer before senior year and then frequent one-on-one meetings with their CV advisor throughout the year. CV also assists families with the cost of college through financial aid advising. For students, CV: helps students understand the landscape of higher education; identify characteristics of colleges of interest; visit campuses on daylong excursions; consider graduation and financial aid rates; register for the SAT and ACT; develop a personalized college list; compose an admissions essay; choose a school after acceptance; access on-campus supports and networks. The CV success program assists students with: transitioning to college academics; maintaining strong financial aid throughout college; find jobs and internships; stay in touch with CV; and transfer if needed.

Dorcas Place  
Adena Festinger (afestinger@dorcasplace.org)  
(401-273-8866 ex. 102)

“Since 1981, Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center has been giving low-income Rhode Islanders the educational opportunities they need to realize their full potential and climb the ladder to success—through literacy, workplace training, college preparatory programs, and employment.”
The Genesis Center is a community-based organization on Providence’s West End that aims to help U.S. citizens, immigrants and refugees from 5 continents to increase their economic self-sufficiency, strengthen their families, and help their children succeed in school. Each year, we serve more than 600 low-income families in our ESOL and Job Training programs and approximately 75 children in our childcare center.

“The mission of Goodwill Industries of Rhode Island is to provide training, education and other services which result in employment and expanded opportunities for people with disabilities and other barriers to employment in order to enhance their capacity for independent living, increased quality of life and work.”

RI KIDS COUNT is a statewide children’s policy organization dedicated to improving the health, education, economic well-being and safety of Rhode Island’s children. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT collects and disseminates data on the well being of Rhode Island’s children and advocates for and facilitates the development of responsive policies and programs. An independent organization, backed by the best research and data available, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT brings together people from across the community, including religious leaders and child advocates, doctors and educators, parents and volunteers, state agency directors and nonprofit leaders to address the problems facing the state’s children and families.

Progreso Latino’s mission is to provide quality, comprehensive services that promote education, economic development, leadership and social progress for Latinos and other immigrants. Our vision as an organization is to create a new vision of community that utilizes the assets in our people and develops the skills needed to fulfill individual potential and support strong families. Social Services; Community Advocacy; ESL; GED Courses in Spanish; Bilingual Pre-K Day School; Wellness Center (Health Education & Screenings); Bilingual Citizenship Courses; Computer Literacy; Youth Leadership Development; Parent Involvement Program; Senior Citizens Group; Food Pantry Services; HIV/AIDS Outreach and Education; Health Angels - Group of Women Health Advocates; Teen Smoking & Alcohol Prevention Program; Immigration & Legal Services; Job Bank (connects job seekers with employment opportunities.

Project LEARN, Adult and Family Literacy Program is a non-profit agency established in 1983 to provide literacy services and support for adults with limited reading, writing, conversational English and math skills. Basic Reading, Pre-GED, GED and ESL classes taught by highly skilled teachers are held in our center in Woonsocket and in community based organizations, libraries and schools in Central Falls and Cumberland. Often our students have a language based learning disability or we suspect they have more than “just a problem reading”. Through a series of
informal assessments and inventories developed to identify specific reading difficulties, such as decoding or encoding, students are placed appropriately in classes where the Wilson Reading System Just Words and Intensive Wilson programs are used. We provide case management from intake to exit to ensure students achieve their education and employment goals.

**Providence Community Action**

Bill Bentley (wxb@procapri.org)
(401-273-2000)

“Providence Community Action operates, promotes, and supports the development of progressive human service programs aimed at improving the lives of low-to-moderate income individuals and families in the city of Providence. Working with these very individuals to plan, implement, and evaluate the programs, Providence Community Action continuously strives to permanently eradicate poverty while simultaneously guiding people to self-sufficiency.”

**Providence Plan**

Pat McGuigan (pmcguigan@provplan.org)
(401-455-8880, ext. 205)

“*ProvPlan’s thinking* is all about providing residents and public agencies with data and information that can support smart decision making. Our *doing* is focused on launching innovative service programs that address unmet community needs.” One program of The Providence Plan is Ready to Learn Providence. R2LP is a broad-based community coalition with a vision that all children will have a high quality early education and health start. R2LP improves the educational and health outcomes of young children in Rhode Island through professional development, community engagement, research and direct service. We partner with families, educators and policy makers to promote best practices in early childhood education and healthy development. R2LP is the home to T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood RI, a program that provides scholarships to institutions of higher education and mentoring to the incumbent early childhood workforce.

**RI Adult Education Professional Development Center**

Jill Holloway (JHolloway@riaepdc.org)
(401-941-8353, ext. 108)

“The RI Adult Education Professional Development Center (the PDCenter) has existed since 2006 to support and collaborate with all of the educational programs in the state who serve adult ESOL learners, GED preparers, and workforce training adults. As part of creating and improving a comprehensive system of adult education, the PDCenter staff convenes statewide workgroups on Transitions to College, improving the statewide web portals and supporting student persistence in education. It is funded by JDF and WIA funds, as well as by the United Way of RI and the Rhode Island Foundation. www.riaepdc.org “

**Rhode Island Family Literacy Initiative (RIFLI)**

Karisa Tashjian (ktashjian@provlib.org)
(401-455-8185)

The mission of RIFLI is to equip adult immigrants in our communities with the literacy skills necessary for upward mobility, engaged citizenship, strong families and lifelong learning. RIFLI brings together the best practices, staff and resources to lead high performing literacy programs in Rhode Island’s library systems that are most in need of these services. We offer free English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship preparation, family literacy, distance learning and job skills training classes in the Cranston, East Providence, Pawtucket, Providence Community and Providence Public Libraries.
RI Foundation
Denise Jenkins (djenkins@rifoundation.org)
(401-274-4564)

“Actively inspire philanthropy and increase permanent resources for the state of Rhode Island. Create maximum positive impact through our grant making, outreach and other investments in the community. Provide leadership and a forum for dialogue on critical community issues. Collaborate with individual, business, and government and community partners to catalyze positive change and develop solutions to longstanding challenges.”

RI Regional Adult Learning (RIRAL)  Pat Bellart (pbellart@riral.org)
(401-762-3841)

Rhode Island Regional Adult Learning (RIRAL) is a private nonprofit adult education agency, founded in 1979, to assist adults in the process of reaching their academic, occupational, or personal goals through education, counseling, and training. For 11 years, RIRAL’s Transition to College program has successfully transitioned over 350 non-traditional adult students into college by providing a comprehensive college preparation model that includes: student success and career workshops, reading, writing, and math classes, academic advising and counseling, and mentoring through the first year of college. While attending the program, students enroll as a cohort into Basic College Reading (ENGL 0850) at the Community College of Rhode Island.

West Bay Adult Education Academy  Melanie LaMountain (mlamountain@westbaycap.org)
(401-468-4064)

“Carefully designed for eligible non-traditional students, Westbay Adult Education Academy provides free classes in a positive learning environment to encourage and assist students in pursuing their educational goals. Whether it’s earning a GED, receiving additional preparation before applying for college, or acquiring more skills to obtain or retain employment, Westbay engages students by identifying how each individual learns and retains information. The instructors then develop the most appropriate techniques to help students focus on the necessary steps and skill sets needed to achieve their goals.”

Year Up  Bobby Gondola (rgondola@yearup.org)
(401-421-7819)

YEAR UP’s mission is to close the Opportunity Divide by providing urban young adults with the skills, experience, and support that will empower them to reach their potential through professional careers and higher education. Through this one-year intensive program, young adults 18-24 spend half of the year in college-level coursework and half of the year at a leading Rhode Island company for a corporate internship. Year Up Providence leads the country nationally with the highest retention rates and 92% of February 2011 graduates are employed full time or enrolled in college full time; 76% of the August 2011 class already display these positive outcomes. As of 2010, students are dually enrolled with CCRI, earning 23 credits and Year Up will grow in 2013, doubling its footprint in Rhode Island.
Other College Access & Persistence Entities

**College Unbound (RWU)**
Robert Robertson (rrobertson@rwu.edu)
(401-254-3268)

College Unbound is an initiative of Big Picture Learning, a non-profit organization that has generated and sustained personalized learning environments for over 15 years. Big Picture Learning is partnered with Roger Williams University in Rhode Island to offer "College Unbound @ RWU," a non-residential program for adult learners culminating in a Roger Williams University bachelor’s degree. The College Unbound program offers students individualized learning plans, one-on-one coaching and support, and the opportunity to focus their learning around the context of a professional learning experience or internship. Big Picture Learning launched College Unbound in 2009 to raise the quality and applicability of students’ education; to improve postsecondary student accessibility, graduation, and long-term success rates; and to build students as leaders in their professional and personal lives.

**RI Higher Education Assistance Authority**
Gail Mance-Rios (gmrios@riheaa.org)
(401-736-1111)

RIHEAA provides students with financial assistance to meet the cost of higher education at schools throughout the nation. Through our WaytogoRI.org portal and other services, RIHEAA guides students and families onto a path to a college degree and a brighter future. From scholarship and grant programs and student loans to college savings plans, the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority (RIHEAA) will assist students and families at any stage of the college planning process.

**RI Student Loan Authority**
Bill Bianchi (wbianchi@risla.com)
(401-468-1755)

The Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA) provides a system of financial aid and counseling to help make post-secondary education more accessible and affordable for Rhode Island state residents and students attending schools based in Rhode Island. RISLA offers an array of services through its College Planning Center and Financial Education for Students program, including: One-on-one college planning counseling, informational seminars at high schools and local organizations, online tools to promote college planning and financial aid awareness, free financial literacy education programs. Additionally, RISLA established the Latino College Access Coalition so that Latino students and parents can find expert advice on college planning, financial aid & financial literacy. The Coalition is a resource model that provides a community based environment of “confianza,” which in Spanish means “trust, comfort, and level of familiarity and knowledge that bespeaks confidence.”