



2017 HIGHER EDUCATION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The James Graham Brown Foundation invites Kentucky higher-education institutions to a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The goal of the RFP is to raise higher-education degree/credential attainment and create significant, sustainable improvement in higher-education outcomes. Successful applicants will be awarded grants up to \$1,000,000.

Additional information on the James Graham Brown Foundation's higher education grant-making program, eligibility criteria and the procedures to follow in submitting your proposal are described below. Please review these guidelines carefully.

Higher Education Competitive Grants Program

The economic well-being of individuals and communities is closely linked to educational attainment. The Foundation seeks to advance the well-being of the citizens of Kentucky by increasing the competitiveness of educational institutions, elevating educational opportunities and improving educational outcomes that will prepare students to succeed in a global society. Grants are intended to strengthen and enrich education for public and independent postsecondary institutions in Kentucky. Proposals for enhancing proven existing programs, developing new programs or laying the foundation for more extensive endeavors in the future will be considered. Collaborative proposals focused on similar or complementary programs, projects or innovative approaches are eligible to apply.

The Foundation will fund projects that focus on one of the following three areas:

- **21st Century Jobs** – Initiatives helping higher-education institutions make long-term improvements in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and strengthen relationships with the business community to help build a pipeline for higher-wage and higher-knowledge jobs. Strategic outcomes should include an increase in academic degrees and/or job credentials awarded in science, technology, engineering and mathematics as well as improved student retention.
- **Niche Projects or Programs** – Projects, programs or initiatives that will help ensure ongoing competitiveness of the institution and will raise awareness both regionally and nationally of higher education in the state of Kentucky. Institutions providing unique programs and establishing a competitive advantage or distinctive role in the national higher-education community will be given preference in the Foundation’s review of the proposals.
- **Capacity Building** – Specific efforts associated with improving organizational effectiveness and for the creation of an action focused strategic plan or implementation of priority projects identified in existing strategic plans. This would include possible support for planning grants or strategic planning consultation for these efforts.

Eligibility Criteria

Kentucky colleges and universities that are fully accredited nonprofit baccalaureate and/or graduate degree-granting institutions may apply.

Additional Requirements

Requests must address the following:

- measurable outcomes and/or impact
- significant and demonstrable improvement to the institution
- alignment with or support of the institution’s strategic plan and long-range goals

- positive effect on rankings among its peer institutions and/or will serve as a model to others regionally and/or nationally
- strong fundraising plan
- sustainability beyond the grant period
- increase in college retention and completion rates (if applicable)

Proposal Review Deadline, Process and Notification

- Applications must be received in the Foundation office no later than **March 3, 2017**.
- Institutions will be notified of the Foundation's decision by **April 21, 2017**.
- In most cases grants will be disbursed no later than **June 30, 2017**.

Application Procedures

If the applicant believes a proposal meets the criteria for consideration, **please call the Foundation office at (502) 896-2440 ext. 1 to schedule an appointment to discuss any potential proposal.**

The selection process is competitive; all proposals are evaluated and awards made based on how well the proposal aligns with the Foundation goals and criteria outlined above.

The Foundation will allocate funds to other program areas and initiatives if its objectives are not met through this RFP process.