

Request for Proposals Community Partner Capacity & Capability Consultant



Every Child. One Community. Cradle to Career.

Background/Introduction

The Foundation for Tacoma Students (FFTS) is the organizational backbone of the Graduate Tacoma community-wide movement. In pursuit of our mission to help every child achieve success from cradle to college and career, we have spent the last nine years working to build a community that honors partnership and collaboration to improve outcomes for all students, particularly those from historically underserved and minoritized populations.

Over the years we have gained support, buy-in, and most importantly the trust of our community partners who have advanced the movement and created the successes we celebrate today. We connect the full community — educators, parents, students, early learning and higher education, elected officials, business and labor, community service and youth organizations, nonprofits and philanthropy and communities of faith — to help improve student achievement and success in Tacoma.

The Graduate Tacoma community movement is made up of more than 270 community partners, taking shared responsibility to align the necessary goals, data, and resources that builds a Tacoma where every child succeeds in career, school, and life. The Foundation for Tacoma Students serves as a results-based facilitator and convener and brings hundreds of Graduate Tacoma community partners together monthly to address the barriers that students face in achieving success. These partners make up the four Collaborative Action Networks the Foundation for Tacoma Students manages: Early Learning and Reading, Out of School and Summer Learning, Tacoma Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM), and the Tacoma College Support Network.

The Foundation seeks an experienced consultant working in the areas of community convening, cohort building, professional learning, curriculum development, and evaluation creation.

The Community Partner Capacity and Capability Consultant will work closest with the Project Manager of the grant to manage the timeline of implementation and create a new grant-funded process for community-based organizations to apply for and be selected into a learning cohort that is aligned to the Graduate Tacoma community indicators.

Project Goals and Scope of Services

This project seeks to establish an Accelerator Fellowship. This fellowship will be made up of a cohort and invest expertise and funding in partners that demonstrate or have potential capacity to scale and improve direct service programs that reach students most in need. These investments build on and accelerate the existing work of FFTS in convening community organizations and partners. While many of the organic interventions FFTS convening's have created to address the cradle to career continuum have been effective, the sustainability of the work is tied to the limits of capacity and capabilities of the organizations working directly with students. The Community Partner Capacity and Capability



workstream will address this barrier by investing in partners to build sustainable capacity and practices that influences systems change and transformation.

We will achieve these objectives by:

- Engaging a community cohort strategist/design consultant and measurement & evaluation expert for the community co-creation process.
- Developing a shared measurement and evaluation tool.
- Deploying a 12-month Accelerator Fellowship cohort initiative.
- Evaluating & measuring the effectiveness of the fellowship/cohort program.

The Community Partner Capacity and Capability Accelerator Fellowship initiative is a catalytic investment. It creates a pathway that empowers partners, especially smaller grassroots providers, to remain viable and sustainable by increasing their program and leadership quality, achieving demonstrable (and fundable) program impacts, and enables their participation in a growing community-wide data-system that links direct service providers and student utilization data.

Time and Place of Submission of Proposals

All proposals are due to Joseph Colon, at the Foundation for Tacoma Students, on or before 07/30/2019. Proposals must be submitted via email as an attached PDF, with the subject line “Community Partner Capacity and Capability Consultant,” and can be sent to hr@graduatetacoma.org.

Timeline

This project is term bound and will span the recommended length from the contractor to achieve project results. FFTS would like to onboard this position in early August and anticipates at least a three-month commitment.

Elements of Proposal

Collective Impact work requires extensive coordination with anchor institutions and other partner organizations, which can be a laborious and time consuming process requiring trust-building and numerous in-person meetings. Therefore, the consultant will need to be based in or able to relocate to Tacoma, Washington, or the Puget Sound area.

This in mind, please submit a proposal that includes the following elements:

- Description of the consultant/firm that gives an overview, names and credentials of the consultant and/or staff.
- A one-two page narrative outlining the consultant’s strengths and distinguishing capabilities related to the project goals and scope of services.
- Particular attention to any community convening/stakeholder development or training experience.
- Particular attention to any work with data and evaluation experience.



- Particular attention to any community convening, scan or focus group experience.
- A representative selection of previous work in community convening, data training, curriculum development, and evaluation and measurement for current or past clients.
- Budget proposal should include daily rate, time projected to achieve goals and an outline of scope of work.

Evaluation Criteria

The ideal respondent will:

- Have been operating continuously as a consultant in one or more of the requested areas for a minimum of 24 months and possess all relevant skills as an individual or in-house within their firm.
- Have competitive costs of services.
- Have expertise and a history of working with similar nonprofit or community based organization clients working in education and/or youth development.
- Have a familiarity with the City of Tacoma, Tacoma Public Schools, and the issues facing the diverse students in our community.
- Have familiarity with Collective Impact methodologies and Backbone Organizations.
- Have an understanding of or analysis of issues related to equity, poverty, and structural racism.
- Include a projected budget estimate.

Anticipated Selection Schedule

Respondents will be evaluated on a rubric and on a rolling basis.

