



National
College
Access
Network

Building Connections. Advancing Equity. Promoting Success.

Member Advocacy Grants Request for Proposals

The National College Access Network is pleased to launch this opportunity for our members to engage in advocacy work in higher education policy. The impact of decisions at both the federal level and state levels impact students' ability to access, pay for, and succeed in college. Our students' voices, and the practitioners who work with them, are powerful avenues to influence policymakers' decisions at both the federal and state levels.

The goal of this grant competition is to expand the portion of NCAN members participating in advocacy work. Ideal candidates for this grant are new to the advocacy space and ready to add advocacy work to their broader portfolio of outreach to support their students. Interested members should be familiar with NCAN's policy goals, available at www.collegeaccess.org/policy.

Successful applicants will have organizational leadership who recognizes the role of improving federal and state policy to achieve the goal of closing equity gaps in higher education. They will be excited to participate in national conversations and to join a growing group of like-minded peer organizations dedicated to advocacy. Additionally, organizations must be committed to involving students in their outreach.

This grant will provide successful applicants with \$11,000 over 10 months to begin their advocacy work. Funds may be used for salary and benefit support, travel requirements for the grant, travel to visit NCAN members with greater advocacy experience, as well as other activities such as consulting, events, publications, and communications. Funds may not be used for lobbying activities.

Grant Calendar:

- Applications Due: Tuesday, November 5th at 8:00 p.m. EDT
- Applicant Notification: Tuesday, November 22nd
- Grant Start Date: December 1, 2019
- Student Advocacy Fellow Designation Deadline: January 24, 2020
- Advocacy Training in Washington, DC: Feb/Mar 2020
- NCAN National Conference in New Orleans: Sept 14-16, 2020
- Grant End Date: September 30, 2020

Eligible applicants:

Organizations that apply for the NCAN 2020 Member Advocacy Grant must meet the following requirements in order to have their applications reviewed. The organization must:

- Be an NCAN member in good standing as of October 15, 2019;
- Provide direct service to low-income students, students of color, or students who are first in their family to go to college OR be a network of such direct service providers;
- Be a non-profit organization or program of a non-profit entity; and
- Have the staff capacity to participate in all grantee commitments below.
- Be, as an organization, fully committed to supporting advocacy capacity growth and activities



By signing and submitting this grant application, organizations commit to the following activities and responsibilities should they be selected as grant recipients:

- Designate a specific staff member who will serve as the project lead, fulfilling all responsibilities designated to the project lead and managing or delegating other responsibilities and communications.
- Participate through the project lead in two in-person events throughout the grant time period:
 - Annual Advocacy training in Washington, DC, which will be a two day event including issues education training, story-telling workshops, presentations from experts in the field, and issues education events/meetings with policymakers or staff. Feb/Mar 2020
 - NCAN National Conference in New Orleans, Sept 14-16, 2020. The annual conference will include a policy track, an invite-only training session held concurrently with the conference (not a pre-conference), and an invite-only meal.
- Designate a student advocacy fellow to participate in the program by Jan 24, 2020.
 - Fellow must: participate in the Washington, DC, event preparatory webinar and attend the Washington, DC, event.
 - Eligible students must be currently enrolled in a postsecondary education program; be age 18 or older; and identify as first in their family to go to college, a student of color, OR receive a Pell Grant.
- Provide in-district issues education to federal or state elected officials or staff during the course of grant
- Project lead to participate in the NCAN Rapid Response Policy Team, receiving and responding to, as appropriate, 1-2 emails per month.
- Participate in approximately six policy/advocacy themed webinars through either the project lead or a delegated staff member.
- Provide one piece of advocacy collateral via writing a blog post, op-ed or making a video. (This may be a “student story” from the Student Advocacy Fellow.)
- Cover travel costs to NCAN’s Annual Advocacy Training in Washington, DC, for the project lead and student advocacy fellow. (Funds may be from grant or from other sources)
- Cover travel costs to the NCAN National Conference, Sept 14-16 of 2020, in New Orleans, LA, for the project lead. (Funds may be from grant or from other sources. Project lead will receive a conference scholarship for the registration fee.)
- Use grant funds to provide a \$250 stipend to the Student Advocacy Fellow for his/her/their time.

By providing these grants to our members, NCAN commits to the following activities and responsibilities:

- Provide a lead grantee contact to provide technical support related to policy and advocacy
- Deliver high-quality and relevant issues education and training to members via in person and online media
- Provide timely information on federal activities and key state activities to grantees.
- Establish a learning community atmosphere and networking opportunities among grantees
- Include grantees in NCAN messaging or communications, to possibly include newsletter, blog, social media, or materials for elected officials with the goal of raising your organization’s national profile.



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Additional Information:

NCAN will host a second round of this grant competition for 2021, beginning in fall 2020.

Additional Student Advocacy Fellow stipends will be available for students from organizations outside of this grantee cohort to attend NCAN's Annual Advocacy Training in Washington, DC, in Feb/Mar 2020.

Invite-only policy events at the NCAN National Conference will include current grantees, former grantees, and other NCAN members actively involved in NCAN's policy work.

APPLICATION

Questions for All Applicants

All applicants must complete the following questions. While there is no minimum or maximum length for the fields below, one important skill in advocacy work is the ability to succinctly tell your story. Members are encouraged to demonstrate these abilities in this grant application.

Organization Name:

Organization Address:

Individual submitting proposal: (Name, Title, Phone, Email)

Designated project lead (Name, Title, Email, Phone)

U.S. House Congressional Districts where the students you serve are constituents:

State(s) where you serve students:

Organization's Mission:

What are your organization's primary strategies and interventions to achieve your mission?

Why is now the right time for your organization to become involved in or increase your advocacy work?

How does the organizational leadership plan to or currently support advocacy?

Is your organization comfortable including your postsecondary students in its advocacy work?

In addition to the required grant activities, how will your organization use these grant funds?

Budget for All Applicants

All applicants must submit a budget following the template below. Budget documents can be uploaded here directly on the Google Form or emailed to Raymond AlQaisi at raymond@collegeaccess.org

For the item description, please provide succinct phrases for the use. A fuller narrative for the budget question follows below.



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Total requests should not exceed \$11,000. Organizations can choose to cover required travel out of other organizational resources to free up grant dollars for other purposes, but grantees must attend all required events.

Budget Narrative: Briefly describe how the dollars allocated in the attached budget grid will be spent.

Budget Template (December 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020)

Category	Item Description:	Grant Funds:	Total Cost:
Salary and Benefits:			
Travel-Project Lead to DC:			
Travel-Student to DC:			
Travel-Project Lead to NOLA:			
Consulting:			
Materials/Publications/Comms:			
Professional Development:			
Advocacy Fellow	Stipend	\$250	\$250
Events:			
	Total Grant Request:		
	Total Project Budget:		