



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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To: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools
From: Latifah Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer
Date: January 10, 2020
Re: Portrait of a Graduate Grant

On December 11, 2019, Lowell Public Schools was announced by the Barr Foundation as one of 14 recipients for the competitive Portrait of a Graduate grant. LPS has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$250,000 to execute a community-driven process to articulate a vision of what all Lowell High School students will be able to know and do in order to be successful in college, career and community. The grant period runs from January 2020 - June 2020. Following the completion of this grant, there will be additional opportunities to apply for implementation grants related to the Portrait of a Graduate.

The Office of Educational Equity and Community Empowerment in partnership and collaboration with Project Learn and our three high schools – Lowell High School, The Career Academy, and the LeBlanc Therapeutic Day School - aims to develop the articulation of a robust definition of student success which includes academic skills and core competencies that will prepare our students for success in a 21st century workforce.

In addition to the Office's recommendation for the acceptance of these grant funds, the Office is also submitting several requests for stipends/consultants to support the family and community engagement activities and grant management activities tied to the goals and outcomes of this grant.

One (1) request is being submitted for a stipend to support a co-core facilitator from the Working Cities Lowell Coalition, which is a cross-sector coalition led by 13 core institutions and seed-funded by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to work with residents and business owners of Lowell to develop and implement inclusive community-engagement strategies and create equitable access to economic opportunities. Coalition of a Better Acre is the backbone and fiscal agency for the partnership.

One (1) request is being submitted for a consultant to support **Participatory Action Research/Youth Participatory Action Research (PAR/YPAR)** to help develop authentic participatory action research processes, protocols, and training opportunities and culturally sensitive research and evaluation instruments.

One (1) request is being submitted for up to two consultants to provide ongoing coaching and facilitation of authentic community engagement support related to the implementation of the Portrait of a Graduate grant. The Community Engagement Consultants will provide coaching and training around facilitating community circles and conversations, community organizing, and equitable practices in support of achieving the outcomes and goals of the grant.

And one (1) revised job description is being submitted for a current bilingual family liaison position to be converted to a lead position to serve as the coordinator of the district's team of bilingual family liaisons, external family engagement consultants and partners, and the manager of grants related to bilingual family programs, training and outreach. Several grant opportunities have emerged and been awarded in the past few months requiring additional support in the project and program management of these activities as the Family Engagement initiative of the Office of Educational Equity and Community Empowerment continues to develop.