



Request for Proposals

Silicon Valley Common Core Initiative

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Silicon Valley Common Core Initiative

Introduction

The California State legislature has mandated that by the end of the 2014-15 school year all California public school students will be assessed under the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in mathematics and English language arts. The CCSS provides our community with an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that all children receive the best education possible.

The standards were conceived to identify and develop the skills students need to compete and thrive in a global economy. They are designed to build students' higher-order thinking, spark curiosity and exploration, make relevant real-world connections, link learning from one subject matter to another, use technology intentionally and increase literacy skills and knowledge. Successfully operationalizing the CCSS will require teachers, school administrators and other experts in districts in our region to work collaboratively. To learn more about CCSS visit <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

To respond to this opportunity, Silicon Valley Community Foundation launched the Silicon Valley Common Core Initiative (SVCCI). This three-year effort aims to support a collaborative approach to implementation of the CCSS among the 54 school districts in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. By working together, our school districts will be able to achieve economies of scale, access the best resources available and learn from one another about what it takes to successfully implement the CCSS to benefit all students in our region. To learn more about the SVCCI visit <http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/content/common-core>.

The community foundation is requesting proposals from school districts and county offices of education for support to collaboratively plan and implement the CCSS and to share their plans and lessons learned with other districts.

Background

The CCSS will fundamentally change how every child from kindergarten through high school experiences school. Implementation of the standards will challenge every level of the educational system – from the classroom teacher to the superintendent at the district office to parents assisting their children with homework.

These standards present an extraordinary opportunity for districts in the state and across the country to move towards higher levels of learning and achievement for all students to be college, career and citizenship ready. Because this effort is new to everyone, it presents an unprecedented opportunity for professional learning and collaboration among educators.

Initiative Goals

By themselves the CCSS will not significantly affect student learning. They need to be part of a comprehensive approach to raising expectations and increasing rigor throughout the K-12 system so that all students gain the 21st century skills to thrive in college and careers. This approach will also require collaboration among grade-level and content-area teachers as well as financial investments in professional development, aligned instructional materials, formative assessments and technology enhancements.

The goal of the SVCCI is to incentivize and encourage school districts in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to work together to successfully plan for and implement the CCSS. At the end of three years and with this support, the community foundation expects grantees will have tools in place to equip educators to reliably engage in consistent practices that reflect the intent of the CCSS and broadly accepted plans to ensure on-going capacity-building within the districts.

Proposal Eligibility Criteria

School districts (elementary, high school and unified) and county offices of education are eligible to apply for funding under this RFP. Proposals must clearly designate a lead educational entity and all collaborating districts involved. The intent of this RFP is to spur creativity and allow educational entities to design their specific collaborative approach. Priority will be given to proposals with implementation plans that address all of the California Department of Education's guiding strategies for CCSS implementation¹ and a clear rationale for which one(s) community foundation grant funding will be utilized.

1. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/documents/ccssyssimpplanforcaapr13.pdf>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Silicon Valley Common Core Initiative

Investment Priorities

We will fund proposals that describe a clear and collaborative approach among school districts to plan for and implement the CCSS, by investing in activities that:

- 1). Facilitate high quality professional learning opportunities for educators to ensure that every student has access to teachers who are prepared to teach to the levels of rigor and depth required by the CCSS.
- 2). Provide CCSS-aligned instructional resources designed to meet the diverse needs of all students.
- 3). Develop and transition to CCSS-aligned assessment systems to inform instruction, establish priorities for professional learning and provide tools for accountability.
- 4). Collaborate with parents, guardians and the early childhood and extended learning communities to integrate the CCSS into programs and activities beyond the K-12 school setting.

Application Process

Key Dates

June 7, 2013: Release of RFP

**June 24, 2013:
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Information Session 1

**June 26, 2013:
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Information Session 2

**August 12, 2013:
By 5:00 p.m. PST** Proposal Submission Deadline

Grant Awards: Early Fall 2013

Information Sessions

Interested parties will be able to ask questions and learn more about this RFP through information sessions hosted by the community foundation at its Mountain View office at 2440 West El Camino Real, Suite 300. Mountain View, CA 94040.

Please RSVP on our website for June 24 or 26.

Submission of Proposals

Proposals are due by email to the community foundation by 5pm PST on August 12, 2013 to the following email address: grantproposals@siliconvalleycf.org.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation of the proposals will be made by staff of the community foundation and may also include invited external reviewers. The following criteria will guide the community foundation's choices about which district collaboratives to recommend for funding:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the superintendent, one school board member and one labor organization representative of the lead educational entity and each participating school district, demonstrating commitment to collaboration;
- A comprehensive understanding of and approach to implementing the CCSS;
- Strong rationale for proposed activities;
- Perceived impact of the proposed activities;
- Clear understanding of the operational supports required for successful implementation, such as the release time necessary for teacher, teacher leaders and site-leaders to engage in professional development opportunities; and,
- Alignment of existing funding or new funding school districts are planning to use for CCSS implementation.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Silicon Valley Common Core Initiative

Grant Selection Process

Finalists may receive clarifying questions from community foundation staff during due diligence and may also be asked to participate in an interview as part of the selection process. Awards will be announced in early fall 2013.

Awards

The community foundation will grant three-year awards to school district collaboratives.

Commitments

The community foundation has a successful track record of convening grantees in learning cohorts to share knowledge and deepen impact. Grantees participating in the SVCCI will be expected to participate in learning cohort meetings, which we anticipate will take place on a quarterly basis. The purpose of these meetings will be to support the change process, share successes, challenges and resources (e.g. instructional materials) associated with CCSS implementation.

Use of Information

It is the community foundation's intent to share grant recipients' CCSS implementation plans with other districts and interested parties to accelerate CCSS efforts region-wide.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals should include the following sections: statement of goal, objectives and outcomes, narrative, budget and supporting documents. They should be no longer than 10 pages using single spacing in a size 12 font. Applicants may copy the questions below and answer in a new, paginated Word document:

1). Statement of goal, objectives and outcomes (no more than 1 page)

This is a brief statement of the intended goal you hope to achieve with the grant and the specific, measurable and time-limited activities that you propose to undertake to reach your desired goal. Expected outcomes are the changes that can reasonably occur during the grant period as a result of the proposed activities.

2). Proposal Narrative (no more than 8 pages)

Please address the following questions in your narrative, with supporting data as necessary.

- Please describe briefly the lead educational entity and participating school districts in your collaborative, including student demographic data.
- Please describe which guiding strategies identified by the California Department of Education for CCSS implementation your proposed plan will address and why.
- What do you hope to gain by working collaboratively with this set of partners? What is your history of collaboration with each other? Please describe how your collaborative will work (e.g., governance and decision-making roles and responsibilities).
- What work is currently underway in your school districts to support CCSS implementation and who is involved?
- How will this grant accelerate your school districts' current CCSS efforts and plans?
- What are the most significant challenges you anticipate in the implementation of CCSS in your school districts? How will your school districts work to mitigate these challenges individually and collaboratively?
- What are your commitments to providing operational supports, such as release time for leaders and principals to engage in the professional development sessions?
- What is your plan to ensure that, through your CCSS implementation, students who are socio-economically disadvantaged or of color have the appropriate resources to be successful?
- If there is a high school district in your collaborative, please describe the high school district's policies regarding 9th grade mathematics placement.
- Do your school districts' have a communication plan for parents that provides information on the CCSS and the start of the Smarter Balanced assessments? If so, please describe.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Silicon Valley Common Core Initiative

- How do your school districts plan to engage key stakeholders in the overall CCSS implementation plan such as labor partners, the school board, teachers, parents, nonprofit organizations and students?
- What is your current technology capacity to support the new online assessments?

3). **Budget** (no more than one page)

The budget should be an appropriate projection of the expenses determined necessary to carry out the activities you describe in the proposal narrative. In addition to grant funding from the community foundation what other financial resources do you have available to support your CCSS implementation? How would you leverage the grant award?

4). **Supporting Documents**

- Signature page
- Project leadership team
- Financial information as requested in Attachment A
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that includes the lead educational entity and all school districts in the collaborative that are participating in the project. The MOU should be signed by the superintendent and one school board member of the lead educational entity and each participating school district.

Reporting Requirements

The community foundation values strong working relationships with its grantee partners. Grant recipients should expect regular contact with the community foundation Program Officer regarding progress of CCSS implementation through grantee cohort meetings, site visits, and email/phone communications.

Participating school districts shall enter into a formal Grant Agreement with the community foundation that will specify reporting requirements and the terms of the grant award. The community foundation may opt to evaluate the impact of this initiative and may also require evaluation data to be submitted by its grantees.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Silicon Valley Common Core Initiative

Signature Page

Application Contact Information and Signatures (please fill in for each applicant school district and specify lead contact). Please start by the lead school district.

School District Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Grant Contact Name: _____

Contact Title: _____

Contact Telephone: _____

Contact E-Mail Address: _____

Required Application Signatures:

To the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information and data in this Application are true and correct. _____

I certify that I have read the Application, am fully committed to it, and will support its implementation. _____

Our school district will be a collaborative partner in CCSS implementation and will fully participate in the grant commitments. _____

Superintendent

Printed Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Lead Curriculum and Instructional Professional

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Silicon Valley Common Core Initiative

Project Leadership Team

Please specify one individual per participating school district who will play the lead role and be responsible for project management in their own school district, starting with the primary contact for the collaborative. Please feel free to attach additional signature pages, as needed.

Name: _____

School District: _____

Title: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Name: _____

School District: _____

Title: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Name: _____

School District: _____

Title: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Name: _____

School District: _____

Title: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Name: _____

School District: _____

Title: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Silicon Valley Common Core Initiative

Attachment A

Financial Information

District	Total Income*	Number of Students	Income per pupil	% students	
				SED	ELL

*Total income includes income from all sources including parcel taxes, local foundations and grants.

MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions, please contact us at grants@siliconvalleycf.org or call 650.450.5540

To get all the latest grantmaking information, follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our community e-newsletter at www.siliconvalleycf.org/eneWSletters

About Silicon Valley Community Foundation

Vision:

Silicon Valley Community Foundation advances innovative philanthropic solutions to challenging problems, engaging donors to make our region and world a better place for all.

Mission:

Silicon Valley Community Foundation is a comprehensive center of philanthropy. Through visionary leadership, strategic grantmaking and world-class experiences, we partner with donors to strengthen the common good locally and throughout the world.

We value:

Collaboration	Integrity
Diversity	Public Accountability
Inclusiveness	Respect
Innovation	Responsiveness

At a Glance

Silicon Valley Community Foundation makes all forms of philanthropy more powerful. We serve as a catalyst and leader for innovative solutions to our region's most challenging problems. The community foundation has more than \$2.9 billion in assets under management and more than 1,650 philanthropic funds. As Silicon Valley's center of philanthropy, we provide individuals, families and corporations with simple and effective ways to give locally and around the world. Find out more at www.siliconvalleycf.org.



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To read more about Silicon Valley Community Foundation
visit www.siliconvalleycf.org

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