



AT&T Aspire 2014-2016 High School Success Initiative Request for Proposal (RFP) Overview

The AT&T Aspire High School Success Initiative (HSSI) RFP will provide up to \$10 million to eligible organizations implementing verifiable, evidenced-based interventions to improve the retention, promotion and graduation rates of students at risk of dropping out of high school. The Aspire HSSI RFP will fund organizations seeking to expand proven programs in new locations, serve additional students in existing locations or add components to strengthen their program(s). All programs should serve students currently in grades 9-12 or who have dropped out of grades 9-12.

The two categories of programs include:

- **Single Community:** A single program in one community, which can qualify for funding of up to \$300,000 in total for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 school years.
- **Multiple Communities:** A single program in multiple communities (may be in the same or different states), which can qualify for funding of up to \$1 million in total for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 school years.

Eligible Applicants

Organizations eligible to receive funds through the Aspire HSSI RFP must be 501(c)(3) charities or government instrumentalities and can include:

- School districts, campuses and school district foundations (private foundations are not eligible);
- Foundations for charter or private schools;
- Public charities that work on-site with public and private education institutions; and,
- Public charities that work with public and private education institutions on a project basis.

E-rate eligible organizations generally may not use AT&T funds for the following expenses: technology, personnel and/or general fund. You can learn more about E-Rate eligibility at <http://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/beforeyoubegin/definitions.aspx>.

Verifiable, Evidenced-Based Interventions

AT&T has developed the Aspire HSSI RFP program founded upon the strategies articulated in the *Dropout Prevention: A Practice Guide* (see Dynarski et al., 2008 or [What Works Clearinghouse \(WWC\) Dropout Prevention Practice Guide](#)). Competitive proposals will have a clear, explicit, and demonstrated connection to both the general “Recommended Practices” described within the guide, and to the specific program components and strategies underpinning each of these practices.

Program Outcomes

The program should improve students’ success in high school and readiness for college and careers, including:

- Increasing high school graduation rates;
- Increasing on-time promotion to the next grade or on-track to graduate rates;
- Increasing credit accumulation and completion of core courses;
- Improving attendance rates; and,



- Reducing behavioral and disciplinary problems.

Data to Show Impact of Program

Organizations interested in proposing for Aspire HSSI funding must be willing and able to secure and submit student-level data for multiple years (e.g. grade-level, attendance, state reading and math assessment scores, etc.) for students participating in the proposed program and comparable students not participating in the program. Funded programs will be provided a data collection manual and template from a designated external evaluator identifying the necessary data required, school years requested, and coding and formatting procedures, including instructions for de-identifying and masking the student-level data to protect the confidentiality and privacy of individual student records. At no point does AT&T receive or view individual student records, and all analyses of the Aspire HSSI program will be conducted in aggregate.

Proposal Review Process & Timeline

- **December 16, 2013** – Interested applicants can begin reviewing information on the Aspire HSSI RFP website at www.AspireRFP.com.
- **January 2, 2014** – Initial online pre-qualification survey opens for applicants at www.AspireRFP.com (click on “pre-qualification survey” link). Please make sure that you fill out the survey completely and provide contact information; the online survey program will only provide updates to the individual and email address submitted in this survey.
- **January 17, 2014** – The link to the pre-qualification survey will close. Only applicants who have successfully submitted the survey will be considered for submission of a full proposal.
- **January 27, 2014** – All applicants who submitted a pre-qualification survey will be notified of next steps. Those applicants proceeding to the next stage will be invited to submit a full proposal and will receive additional information to complete their applications.
- **February 28, 2014** – The Aspire HSSI RFP application closes at 5 p.m. CST. Applicants who do not complete and submit their online Aspire HSSI RFP application by this date and time will not be considered for funding.
- **Mid-June 2014** – AT&T will notify applicants of funding decisions. Chosen applicants coordinate with AT&T for any remaining documentation required to receive funding. Additionally, funding announcements will be coordinated and discussed at this time.

Proposal Technical Assistance

Questions? Contact www.AspireRFP.com or Questions@AspireRFP.com.