

Budget Detail Request - Fiscal Year 2016-17

Your request will not be officially submitted unless all questions and applicable sub parts are answered.

1. Title of Project: The Professional Opportunities Program for Studnts, Inc. (POPS)
2. Date of Submission: 12/11/2015
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Alan Williams

4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No
If answer to 4a is ?NO? skip 4b and 4c and proceed to 4d
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? No
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request (Note that Column E will be the total of Recurring funds requested and Column F will be the total Nonrecurring funds requested, the sum of which is the Total of the Funds you are requesting in Column G):

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2015-16 (If appropriated in FY 2015-16 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2016-17 (If no new Recurring or Nonrecurring funding is requested, enter zeros.)			
	Column: A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column A + Column B)	Recurring Base Budget (Will equal non-vetoed amounts provided in Column A)	INCREASED or NEW Recurring Requested	TOTAL Nonrecurring Requested (Nonrecurring is one time funding & must be re-requested every year)	Total Funds Requested Over Base Funding (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column E + Column F)
Input Amounts:					89,390	44,919	134,309

- e. New Nonrecurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:
 Operating Expenses Fixed Capital Construction Other one-time costs
- f. New Recurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:
 Operating Expenses Fixed Capital Construction Other one-time costs

5. Requester:

- a. Name: Regina Bryant
- b. Organization: Professional Opportunities for Students, Inc.
- c. Email: regina.bryant2@yahoo.com
- d. Phone #: (850)556-8185

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

- a. Name: Professional Opportunities Program for Students, Inc.
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended) Leon
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding) Leon

7. Write a project description that will serve as a stand-alone summary of the project for legislative review. The description should summarize the entire project's intended purpose, the purpose of the funds requested (if request is a sub-part of the entire project), and most importantly the detail on how the funds requested will be spent - for example how much will be spent on positions and associated salaries, specifics on capital costs, and detail of operational expenses. The summary must list what local, regional or statewide interests or areas are served. It should also document the need for the funds, the community support and expected results when applicable. Be sure to include the type and amount of services as well as the number of the specific target population that will be served (such as number of home health visits to X, # of elderly, # of school aged children to receive mentoring, # of violent crime victims to receive once a week counseling etc.)

Program Summary

The Professional Opportunities Program for Students, Inc. (POPS) is dedicated to meeting the needs of disadvantaged students in an effort to close the achievement gap and provide our clients with resources that will accommodate them in several areas of their life. The POPS "Three-Star Approach" focuses on character building, college readiness, and career and professional development. Students of low-economic status are commonly associated with escalating dropout rates, the likelihood of incarceration, and lack of social resources to cope with poverty-influenced life situations. A good portion of the students we serve live in deteriorating neighborhoods characterized by extreme poverty, poor living conditions, violence and high unemployment, gang involvement, drug related areas and high dropout rate. Our methodology is designed to give students specific knowledge, skill sets, attitudes and values. Our activities focus on assisting students in improving their grade point averages, securing work internships, touring colleges and graduating on-time from high school.

The POPS Program is a year-round program designed to provide supplemental academic and financial assistance to students in high school. The Tallahassee POPS program will operate in the two high schools (Amos P. Godby and James S. Rickards) both located in Leon County. We will serve 40-50 students, with the majority of the students attending James S. Rickards High School. Since funds are limited funds, we are forced to turn many applicants away. The staff consists of a full-time Certified Program Director/Educator, responsible for overseeing all program delivery. The POPS office is housed at James S. Rickards High School, making the program director accessible to the majority of the students in the program on a daily basis.

POPS strives to have the students in the program for at least two consecutive academic school years. The program promotes character building, college and

career planning, and civic responsibility, which in turn promotes academic achievement and positively empowers them with the ability to approach challenges and to succeed despite barriers. To ensure successful program outcomes, POPS uses a series of evidence-based program activities to assist students in fulfilling their greatest potential. These include:

1. Monthly professional workshops that focus on topics such as academic achievement, college and career preparation, financial planning, scholarship opportunities, character building, public speaking and community and civic responsibility.
2. Weekly group meetings/rap sessions facilitated by the program manager where students meet to discuss aspects of the asset and character building curriculum. In addition, the staff reviews the ongoing academic goals of the students and mentoring and tutoring are provided, if needed.
3. Career exploration and summer employment opportunities are provided for six weeks each summer.
4. Service learning projects and community service opportunities are provided.
5. College tour and cultural field trips are provided.

The program director works closely with school guidance counselors to identify students who would benefit from these services. Students complete applications, write essays expressing their needs and are interviewed at the beginning of each school year to determine whether they would be a good match for the POPS program.

Community Support and Collaboration

POPS has established multiple community partnerships and a sound collaboration system to help meet the needs of our students. Some of these agencies are:

- ? Leon County Schools (in-kind office space on both campuses).
- ? Gear Up Program (a partnership with another college readiness program/college tour experiences).
- ? Florida A&M University STEM Program (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics program).
- ? Florida Department of Education, FAMU, FSU, TCC, Keiser, Solution Skills, etc. (We work with teachers, mentors, volunteers, workshop presenters, etc.).
- ? Leon County Public Library (provide meeting rooms); state, county, & city agencies (paid student employment opportunities).
- ? Public, private and non-profit organizations (part-time employment opportunities).
- ? Florida State University Care Program which provides priority enrollment for POPS students who are first generation college students.
- ? Businesses throughout the city that assist in providing secure paid part-time summer employment for our students.

POPS is requesting funding for two central aspects of the program: \$113,090

1. Professional Internship Program \$44,919

The funding of the summer internship program will allow for 30 students to work 31 hours for six weeks at local businesses in the Tallahassee area. These internships will provide much needed hands-on work experience as well as a positive summer time activity for our students. Unfortunately access to

employment for at-risk high school youth, particularly during the summer, continues to be one of the most challenging and pressing issues for our lower income communities. The lack of early work experience can have a long-term effect on the future employability of our students, and the absence of structured activity can create a heightened opportunity for involvement in criminal activity. These internships provide a structured and safe place for our students to spend their summer break and are a key strategy to ensuring on-time high school graduation and promoting the connection to life-long careers and post-secondary education. At each internship site, the student works with a job mentor who oversees their work duties and ensures a meaningful professional experience. Each week, our program manager visits the job site and reviews the student's weekly activities, to ensure that our students are engaged in productive and meaningful professional activities.

2. Compensation and Benefits for the Program Manager - \$68,171

This cost represents the compensation and benefits for the program manager. The program manager is solely responsible for delivering and overseeing all technical aspects of the program, as well as the day-to-day mentoring of students. The program manager will:

a. Conduct monthly professional workshops. These workshops are held after school making it convenient for students and parents to participate. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. In addition to the monthly workshops, the program manager conducts weekly mentoring meetings or "rap sessions" to discuss academics, character building traits, civic responsibilities, tutoring and any other pressing issues. The workshops address the following topics:

- ? Academics
- ? College and career preparation
- ? ACT/SAT/ test taking strategies
- ? STEM related activities
- ? Career readiness
- ? Financial education and planning
- ? Character and leadership development
- ? Public speaking
- ? Community and civic responsibility
- ? Health and safety awareness
- ? Goal setting

b. Oversee the Summer Internship Program.

c. Facilitate scholarship opportunities. All seniors are encouraged to apply for college scholarships and financial aid. Assistance is provided as needed to fill out the applications.

- d. Facilitate opportunities to participate in community service events, providing all students with the opportunity to give back to the Tallahassee community by volunteering at least 10 hours throughout the year. This also gives our students the ability to accumulate volunteer hours toward their high school diploma and scholarships.
- e. Facilitate college tours and cultural experiences, allowing students to tour at least one college and participate in at least one cultural experience.
- f. Provide networking opportunities for the students, giving them the chance to meet with community leaders, elected official and other positive role models.

Expected Results

The POPS program takes a holistic approach to ensuring that high school students have the skills and assets necessary to make the important decision that will shape their future.

Through our workshop program, our students build their developmental assets and professional proficiencies. They become more confident and capable of maintaining meaningful relationships. We see these behaviors contributing directly to an increase in educational attainment, on-time grade promotion and successful high school graduation. For low-income, minority populations, the benefits of high school graduation are many. It not only serves as a gateway to post-secondary education but is also a deterrent against lifelong poverty, incarceration, substance abuse and economic immobility. As a result of the workshops:

- ? At least 80% of the students will maintain improved character/ self-esteem traits during and upon exiting the POPS program
- ? At least 80% of the students will demonstrate a stronger sense of civic responsibility and commitment to the community

Through our internship program, we provide career exploration opportunities for our youth that majority of their peers from other low income communities will not receive. We know that by working with other professionals in the community, our students see the necessity of graduating high school and the importance of pursuing a post-secondary education. This experience also provides the long-term benefits of preparing our students to perform successfully in later professional settings as well as academic experiences. As a result of the internship program:

- ? At least 90% of the students will have a stronger commitment to the world of work?

For the majority of our students, they will be the first ones in their family to attend college.

Navigating this life choice can often be overwhelming and difficult, and we know that assistance in choosing and applying to college helps prepare our students. In addition, it builds their confidence toward achieving a post-secondary education. The long-term benefits of low-income students obtaining a college degree for both the individual and society are many: they are better self-directed, have a higher self-esteem, and more likely to raise children who in turn will graduate high school and attend college. Also, they are more likely to live a healthier life style, vote and volunteer in their community. Their earning potential is twice that of someone with only a high school diploma, and they tend to be happier in their career. As a result of the college readiness program:

- ? At least 90% of the students will have a stronger commitment to school and post-secondary opportunities
- ? At least 80% of the graduating seniors will become leaders throughout their communities, jobs, and/or schools

9. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2016-17 from all sources of funding, categories provided: Federal \$, State \$, Local \$, or Other \$
2016-2017 Budget

Professional Opportunities Program For Students, Inc. Tallahassee Budget

Projected Revenue Amount

Government Grants (state and local)	\$159,545
Private Foundation	\$2,500
Special Events / Individual Donation	\$2,500
Total Projected Revenue	\$164,545

Program Costs

Direct Client Assistance (these services include college prep and testing, college tours, field trips, and summer internships)	\$87,424
Board and Advisory Development	\$1,200
Equipment Rental	\$1,000
Occupancy -Office Space Donated	\$0
Professional Fees	\$3,400
Supplies and Postage	\$900
Travel and Mileage	\$1,500
Telecommunications	\$950
Program Staff Salary - District Manager	
Total Compensation and Benefits	\$68,171

Total Direct Program Costs \$164,545

8. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2016-17 from all sources of funding:

- Federal: 0
- State: 0 (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column G)
- Local: 0
- Other: 0

9. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

No