



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Ellbogen Opportunity Scholarship: All Students Successful

\$500,000

Foundation Vision

Empower the people of Wyoming to lead healthy lives in thriving communities.

Foundation Mission

To create or cause change primarily for the benefit of the people of the State of Wyoming through the support of science, education and charity.

Purpose

The John P. Ellbogen Foundation has long supported education initiatives that meet the comprehensive needs of students, and equip them to build a life of personal well-being that leads to responsible, engaged citizens who contribute to Wyoming's economy, raise healthy and strong families, and participate in civic and service community life. After a year of the pandemic, the Foundation is ready to invest in Wyoming Community College partners to help dismantle the economic and social barriers that face adults and returning students who identify postsecondary education as a reconnection pathway to achieve better outcomes in their education and employment. The Foundation will provide funding to Wyoming Community Colleges to: (1) increase the number of new adult and returning adult students in Wyoming who attend a Wyoming Community College, (2) increase the number of adults in Wyoming with a valuable post-secondary credential, and (3) advance the self-sufficiency, well-being and economic and civic contributions of the Wyoming workforce.

May 2021

Introduction

The John P. Ellbogen Foundation is a private, not-for-profit family foundation that was funded from the life earnings of John P. “Jack” Ellbogen through his estate in 2001. The vision and mission of the Foundation are a testament to Jack’s ethos, and guide grant awards to entities within the state that work diligently to make the quality of life better for Wyoming citizens.

The rationale behind this grant opportunity is that the Foundation Board realizes the tremendous economic and social impacts of a valuable post-secondary credential for individuals’ and families’ lives, the health of our communities and the well-being of the State of Wyoming. Successful grantees will design and offer a scholarship that works alongside other financial aid to make a higher education more affordable and accessible for adult students. In alignment with the Foundation’s broad outcomes, students who receive the scholarship should advance their self-sufficiency and economic opportunity. The Foundation is seeking leadership and commitment from Wyoming Community Colleges to identify and support adult and returning students to improve their education and employment outcomes.

The John P. Ellbogen Foundation has identified three broad outcomes for the Ellbogen Opportunity Scholarship: All Students Successful grant: (1) increase the number of new adult and returning adult students in Wyoming who attend a Wyoming Community College, (2) increase the number of adults in Wyoming with a valuable post-secondary credential, and (3) advance the self-sufficiency, well-being and economic and civic contributions of the Wyoming workforce.

This funding is meant to supplement not supplant funds for the College’s current systemic efforts to support adult learners.

Guidance

Overview

The John P. Ellbogen Foundation will pilot this scholarship with interested Wyoming Community Colleges. The Foundation has reserved \$500,000 to award in Ellbogen Opportunity Scholarship: All Students Successful across the state.

The Ellbogen Opportunity Scholarship will target financial aid to Wyoming adults ages 24 and older who endeavor to attend a Wyoming Community College and complete a postsecondary credential. The scholarship should be available to first-time college students as well as returning college students who have previously been enrolled in courses, but who have not yet completed a bachelor’s degree; priority should be given to those students who have not completed any degree. This aid will fill gaps in funding after other available non-loan financial aid is used and will allow a student to cover expenses related to the total cost of attendance, which includes tuition and mandatory student fees as well as course fees, transportation, housing, sustenance, books, and child care.

Funding is permitted for credit certificates, associate and applied baccalaureate degree programs with high-demand employment opportunities as identified by each of the Wyoming Community Colleges. Funding is eligible only for students who enroll in courses starting in the fall of 2021.

Eligibility

The Ellbogen Foundation will provide funding for scholarships to students who have been accepted by and enroll in a Wyoming Community College in the fall of 2021, and who meet the following qualifications:

- Are 24 years of age or older,
- Have demonstrated Wyoming residency for not less than three years immediately preceding the application,
- Preference should be given to students who have not already earned an associate degree or higher, and
- Has completed and filed a free application for federal student aid for the academic year for which the student is applying for a scholarship and has unmet financial need.

To remain eligible for the scholarship, students shall:

- Make satisfactory academic progress toward a degree or certificate as determined by the Community College,
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 evaluated at the end of each academic term.

Award Amount

Scholarship awards are limited to no more than \$1,500 per student per semester up to the Total Cost of Attendance for full-time attendance (\$3,000 per academic year). Full-time attendance is encouraged, but not required. The award amount must be prorated for less than full-time attendance.

Scholarships may be awarded for up to a maximum of two academic years, which may include a single summer semester for students who maintain continuous enrollment and meet satisfactory academic progress.

Ellbogen Opportunity Scholarship funds shall be provided for unmet financial need only after all other public or private non-loan financial aid has been applied. All other forms of grants and scholarships should be applied first.

Institutional Process

The Ellbogen Foundation will receive proposals from and award funds to Wyoming Community Colleges to administer scholarships. Community Colleges will individually receive and manage student applications in accordance with the criteria set forth in this document to determine the student's scholarship eligibility.

The Ellbogen Foundation requires an annual report. Community Colleges who receive funding through the Ellbogen Opportunity Scholarship program will be required to submit this annual report as well as data about a common set of metrics that the Ellbogen Foundation will use to assess the program effectiveness. One person from each institution who receives a grant will be asked to participate in a process to identify shared metrics that build compelling evidence for these types of scholarship programs.

Request for Proposals

The Board of the John P. Ellbogen Foundation supports Wyoming Community Colleges to increase the number of new adult and returning adult students in Wyoming who attend and earn a valuable post-secondary credential. Community Colleges are required to submit proposals to the Foundation that describe how an Ellbogen Opportunity Scholarship will be successful at their institution.

Community Colleges may request up to \$100,000. The Ellbogen Foundation is committed to supporting the cohort of students who begin their academic work in the fall 2021 and persist to certificate or degree completion. Community Colleges must expend dollars between fall 2021-spring 2023. Final funding determinations will be made based upon the number of proposals received.

Proposals will show commitment to the design, implementation and evaluation of a meaningful scholarship program for eligible Wyoming adult learners, including:

- Identification of the certificate and degree programs in which there is high-demand employment for scholarship recipients to enter the workforce upon completion of their valuable post-secondary credential,
- Commitment from the Community College financial aid office, scholarship committees and/or others to execute a process for scholarship eligibility certification and award,
- Description of how this scholarship will be marketed to or shared with potential recipients,
- Explanation of the additional student services and supports that will promote success, retention, and completion,
- Identification of the person who will work with other Community College grantees and the Ellbogen Foundation to identify shared metrics that build compelling evidence for these types of scholarship programs,
- A short budget request that includes a timeline for Ellbogen funds to be disbursed in scholarship awards.

Proposals must meet a level of excellence to be funded as determined by the Ellbogen Foundation. Completed documents must be submitted via email attachment by close of business on Friday, June 11 to:

Mary Garland, President – mleg0@yahoo.com

Becca Steinhoff, Executive Director – ellbogenfoundation.wy@gmail.com

The Ellbogen Foundation will notify Community Colleges of funding awards no later than Friday, June 25.

Disclaimer

The Ellbogen Foundation will only review complete applications that adhere to the guidance in this document. The Foundation retains the right to review complete applications and deny grants where the Ellbogen Foundation, at its sole discretion, deems the project may not meet its stated outcomes.

For more information, to ask questions, or for technical assistance regarding this grant opportunity please contact the individual listed below.

Becca Steinhoff – Ellbogenfoundation.wy@gmail.com – 307-575-2443