



**Fiscal Year 2022**  
**Phillip Jackson**  
**Freedom Schools Grant**  
**Request for Proposals**

Technical Assistance Webinar

March 17, 2022

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# Agenda

1. Grant Overview
2. Eligibility & Application Information
3. Program Background & Description
4. Funding Information
5. Reporting Requirements
6. Content & Form of Application Submission
7. Review Criteria

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## 1. Grant Overview

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## Grant Overview

- The fundamental goal of the Freedom Schools of the 1960s was to provide quality education for all students, to motivate active civic engagement, and to empower disenfranchised communities.
- Freedom Schools continue to demonstrate the proven benefits of critical civic engagement and intergenerational effects by providing historically disadvantaged students, including African American students and other students of color, with quality instruction that fosters student confidence, critical thinking, and social and emotional development.

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## 2. Eligibility & Application Information

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## Eligible Applicants

- Public schools
- Public universities
- Public community colleges
- Not-for-profit entities
- Community-based organizations

Priority will be given to joint applications between a community-based organization or a not-for-profit and another eligible entity.

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## State of Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA)

- Prequalification requirements must be completed before applying for a fiscal year 2022 grant.
- Includes completion of:
  - Authentication.
  - Grantee registration.
  - Grantee prequalification.
  - Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment/Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ) through GATA Web Portal.  
(The items are completed through the Illinois GATA Web Portal at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/grantee/pages/default.aspx>.)
  - Programmatic Risk Assessment through the ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) system when it becomes available to funded applicants.

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# State of Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

- Successful applicants must also complete an Organizational Risk Assessment through ISBE's IWAS system. See <https://sec.isbe.net/iwas/asp/login.asp?js=true>.
- Grant awards will not be executed until the FY 2022 ICQ, Organizational Risk Assessment, and Programmatic Risk Assessment are completed.

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## DUNS and SAM

- Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS)  
<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
  - A valid DUNS number must be provided in an application.
- System for Award Management (SAM)  
[www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov)
  - Applicants must be registered in SAM. Registration is required prior to applying.
  - Applicants must continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times.



## RCDT Code

- Applicants will need to use their Region, County, District, Type (RCDT) code when applying.
- Applicants may utilize the ISBE website to verify their RCDT code at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/RCDTS-Lookup.aspx>.
- Applicants that do not have a RCDT code may email Adenike Sosina ([asosina@ISBE.net](mailto:asosina@ISBE.net)) for information on how to establish a RCDT code.



# Grant Award and Grant Period

- There is \$17 million in federal funding available.
- The award amount per eligible applicant will be \$350,000. 45 awards will be made available.
- The Grant Period
  - Begins no sooner than May 2, 2022.
  - Ends on August 31, 2023.



## Submissions

**Proposals can be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. April 29, 2022.**

- Electronic Submission: Scan into one PDF with all supporting documents and required signatures to the ISBE Attachment Manager at <https://sec1.isbe.net/attachmgr/default.aspx>. Select Sosina, Adenike as the recipient.
- Mail Submissions: Mail the original and an electronic copy of the proposal on a USB flash drive to Adenike Sosina at the address below.

*Illinois State Board of Education - Wellness Department*

*100 North First Street, E-222*

*Springfield, IL 62777*

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# Award Notice

- Successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award via email approximately 90 days after the application deadline.

*This is not an authorization to begin performance or expenditures!*

- After the merit-based appeal timeframe has ended, awardees will receive additional information from the program area that includes the next steps for finalizing the grant.
- Monies spent prior to programmatic approval are done so at the applicant's own risk.

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## 3. Program Background & Description

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## Program Purpose

- The purpose of the Phillip Jackson Freedom Schools Grant is to establish a Freedom School network to supplement the learning taking place in public schools by creating programs with a mission to improve the odds for children in poverty.

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## Program Description

- Freedom School programs will operate at least a six-week summer program and/or a program during the school year that provides out-of-school learning opportunities that may include before-school, after-school, or weekend programming.
- The teachers in Freedom Schools must be from the local community, with an emphasis on historically disadvantaged youth, including African American students and other students of color, so that (i) these individuals have access to summer jobs and teaching experiences that serve as a long-term pipeline to educational careers and the hiring of minority educators in public schools, (ii) these individuals are elevated as content experts and community leaders, and (iii) Freedom School students have access to both mentorship and equitable educational resources.

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# Program Specifications

- Freedom Schools provide activities and support using a research-based and multicultural curriculum for disenfranchised communities most affected by the opportunity gap and learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and by expanding the teaching of African American history, developing leadership skills, and providing an understanding of the tenets of the civil rights movement.

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## Program Objectives

- Programs must provide intentionally and imaginatively employ strategies that focus on all the following:
  - Civic engagement
  - Literacy
  - Racial justice and equity
  - Transparency and building trusting relationships
  - Self-determination and governance
  - Building on community strengths and community wisdom
  - Utilizing current data, best practices, and evidence
  - Shared leadership and collaboration
  - A reflective learning culture
  - A whole child approach to education

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## Program Objectives

- Programs should provide the following:
  - Engaging, culturally relevant, and challenging curricula
  - High-quality teaching
  - Wrap-around supports and opportunities
  - Positive discipline practices, such as restorative justice
  - Leadership opportunities

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## Program Objectives

- Programs must strive for authentic parent and community engagement during the development of Freedom Schools and their curriculum. Authentic parent and community engagement include all the following:
  - A shared responsibility that values equal partnerships between families and professionals.
  - Ensuring that students and families who are directly impacted by Freedom School policies and practices are the decision-makers in the creation, design, implementation, and assessment of those policies and practices.
  - Genuine respect for the culture and diversity of families.
  - Relationships that center around the goal of supporting family well-being and learning.

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# Performance Measures

- A 10% increase in proficiency and growth in literacy and other program objectives for program participants by the end of the program on pre- and post-assessments.
- A 10% increase in parent and community engagement for 20% of student participants by the end of the program.

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# Performance Targets

- A 2.5% increase in proficiency and growth in literacy and other program objectives for program participants by the end of the program on pre- and post-assessments.
- Parent and community engagement rates will be 2.5% higher for student participants.

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# Performance Standards

- A 5% increase in proficiency and growth in literacy and other program objectives for program participants by the end of the program on pre- and post-assessments.
- Parent and community engagement rates will be 5% higher for student participants.

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# Deliverables and Milestones

**Deliverable 1:** Attendance at ISBE-sponsored workshops and trainings.

**Deliverable 2:** Completion of annual Grant Periodic Performance Report via IWAS.

**Deliverable 3:** Administration of pre- and post-assessments to program participants.

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## 4. Funding Information

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# Funding Information

- All grant funds disbursed to administer the Freedom Schools program and all related services must be handled in accordance with the authorizing legislation (105 ILCS 5/2-3.186); the State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements, and Procedures handbook; and 23 Illinois Administrative Code 100 (Requirements for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Reporting, and Auditing).

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## Funding Information

- Successful applicants may reapply via continuing application for up to two additional year(s).
- Funding in the subsequent years will be contingent upon compliance with federal and state law, state grant-making rules, passage of sufficient appropriations for the program, and satisfactory performance in the preceding grant period.
- A cost sharing or matching component is acceptable but not required for these funds.

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## 5. Reporting Requirements

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## Reporting Requirements

- **Periodic financial reporting** should be completed at a minimum of quarterly via the IWAS system.
- **Programmatic reporting** should be completed at a minimum of annually via the IWAS system.

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# Reporting Requirements Table

## Financial Reporting Period

Begin Date	End Date	Due Date
January 1	March 31	April 20
April 1	June 30	July 20
July 1	September 30	October 20
October 1	December 31	January 20

*\*Financial reports should be submitted, at a minimum, quarterly via IWAS system.*

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## 6. Content & Form of Application Submission

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## Content & Form of Application Submission

- Applicants must use the [ISBE-provided attachment forms](#) to apply.
- Applications must be submitted in the format outlined on pages 7-8 of RFP to be considered complete.
- A complete application will include all required components and signatures where mentioned.
- Use the checkboxes on pages 7-8 of the RFP to assemble your completed application.
- Applications must not exceed the maximum pages for each form.

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# Program Narrative Requirements

- Applicants should address all of the following areas:
  - Need
  - Program Design
  - Instruction
  - Community Connection

*\*See rubric on pages 10-11 of the [RFP](#) for details to include.*

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## Program Narrative Requirements

- Need
  - Summarize the needs by describing the process used with the community to determine the need for the project, the availability of resources for the project, and the data used to determine the need (e.g., student achievement data, demographic data, student behavioral data, and parent data).
  - Describe how the proposed program and services will address the needs of the community, the students, and the families in a culturally, competently, and developmentally appropriate manner to improve the academic performance of the students.
  - Describe the partnership between the applicant and the community. Describe the relevance and the commitment of each collaborative partner in the proposed program to the implementation and success of the project. The description should support the historical performance of each partner and its capacity to implement the services as described.
  - Describe how the Freedom Schools will enhance current services provided in the community and not duplicate services currently provided.

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## Program Narrative Requirements

- Program Design
  - Provide a program schedule of operation, including a sample schedule for one week. If programs are offered at more than one site, include information for each site and the range of programming at each site. Include a rationale for the proposed hours of operation.
  - Based on the hours of operation, provide details of how the program objectives will be met.
  - Describe in detail how the activities are expected to improve student academic achievement as well as overall student success.
  - Describe in detail how the proposed activities are research-based and provide a multicultural curriculum for disenfranchised communities by expanding the teaching of African American history, developing leadership skills, and providing an understanding of the tenets of the civil rights movement.
  - Provide details on how students will have access to equitable educational resources.

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# Program Narrative Requirements

- Instruction
  - Detail how teachers in Freedom Schools will be recruited and retained.
  - Explain how teachers in your Freedom Schools program will have access to summer jobs and teaching experiences that serve as a long-term pipeline to educational careers.
  - Describe how teachers will be trained to provide curriculum that is engaging, culturally relevant, and challenging.
  - Provide details on how restorative justice practices will be instituted.

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# Program Narrative Requirements

- Community Connections
  - Provide a detailed plan of civic engagement activities that will occur during the program.
  - The applicant must explain how their proposal will engage parents and families with their student and community.
  - Detail how students will have access to mentoring.
  - Provide a detailed plan that centers around the goal of supporting family well-being and children's development learning.

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## 7. Review Criteria

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## Application Review and Selection Process

- ISBE is required to design and execute a merit-based review and selection process for applications.
  - Please refer to the ISBE merit-based review policy at [https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Merit Based Review Policy.pdf](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Merit_Based_Review_Policy.pdf) for more information.
- The selection of grantees will be based upon the overall quality of the application.

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## Application Review and Selection Process

- Need
  - The identification of stakeholders, facts, and evidence that demonstrate the proposal supports the grant program purpose.
- Quality
  - The totality of features and characteristics of a service, project, or product that indicates its ability to satisfy the requirements of the grant program.
- Evaluation
  - The ability to judge or determine the significance, worth, or quality of a service, project, or product.
- Capacity
  - The ability of an entity to execute the grant project according to the project requirements.

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## Application Review and Selection Process

- Priority Points
  - Twenty priority points will be given to joint applications between a community-based organization or a not-for-profit and another eligible entity.
  - This can be designated at the bottom of the Program Summary (Attachment 2) of the RFP attachment forms.

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# Evaluation Criteria

Selection criteria and point values are as follows:

Not Provided	Very Limited	Somewhat Limited	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong
0	1	2	3	4	5
Proposal requirements are absent.	Proposal provides very few details to meet the project outcomes.	Proposal is unclear and lacks enough evidence to meet project outcomes.	Proposal provides moderate detail and conveys potential to meet project outcomes.	Proposal provides good detail and strong evidence to meet project outcomes.	Proposal exceeds expectations and provides a solid plan to meet project outcomes.

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## Sections

1. Need (20 points)
  2. Quality (20 points)
  3. Capacity (50 points)
  4. Evaluation (10 points)
- 

**Total points possible: 100**

When reviewing the rubric, the attachment number in the parentheses following the criteria lists the portion of the proposal that will be used to determine if the criteria has been met. **Address each section when writing narrative.**

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# Reviewer Comments

- Following the notification of grant awards, an applicant may request copies of their reviewer comments and scores by emailing Adenike Sosina at [asosina@isbe.net](mailto:asosina@isbe.net).

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# Thank You

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If you have questions, please contact

Adenike Sosina at

[asosina@isbe.net](mailto:asosina@isbe.net)

Questions will be compiled in a FAQ document and posted on [ISBE's Out of School Time webpage](#) under the Phillip Jackson Freedom Schools tab.

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