

D.R.E.A.M. PARTNERSHIP

**DREAMS REALIZED THROUGH
EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATION MODEL**

DREAM. LIVE. LEARN. EARN.



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INCLUSION RFP

www.dreampartnership.org

Dear Colleague:

The D.R.E.A.M Partnership (DREAM) is pleased to announce that scholarship program inclusion proposals are currently being accepted for non-DREAM funded inclusive post-secondary education programs in Pennsylvania.

DREAM provides scholarships to students with intellectual disabilities who attend inclusive post-secondary education programs at Institutions of Higher Education in Pennsylvania, that facilitate the mission of DREAM. Our mission is to develop scholarship and post-secondary educational opportunities which lead to independent living and employment for students with intellectual disabilities in Pennsylvania.

Please note that completed proposals must be received by February 1st. An electronic version should be emailed to nshirley@dreampartnership.org and the original mailed to:

DREAM Partnership
Nancy Shirley, Executive Administrator
3815 Market Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Please direct any questions regarding proposal preparation to Nancy Shirley at nshirley@dreampartnership.org.

We look forward to your response,

Nancy Shirley
Executive Administrator
D.R.E.A.M. Partnership

D.R.E.A.M. Partnership Overview

Since 2012, DREAM Partnership (DREAM) has funded the development and expansion of employment focused, inclusive post-secondary education (PSE) programs across Pennsylvania on behalf of students with intellectual disabilities (ID). In addition, DREAM has provided 276 scholarships totaling over \$1.1 million to students attending those programs.

It is DREAM's intention to expand the DREAM program network, to include existing (non-DREAM funded) post-secondary education programs throughout Pennsylvania, for the purpose of granting scholarships to students attending those programs.

The Request for Proposal Details

DREAM has developed this RFP to support students in high-quality, inclusive model, PSE programs for students with intellectual disabilities at two or four year colleges or universities in Pennsylvania. The ***desired outcomes*** of the PSE program include academic enrichment, enhanced socialization, increased independent living skills, and most importantly the attainment of competitive employment.

Eligible Applicants

The proposal is open to an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) that:

- Has been invited to apply
- Is currently enrolling students in a PSE Program for students with ID, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education as "significantly sub average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affects a child's educational performance"
- Is Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP) approved or is in the process of applying
- Provides a focus on integrated work experiences, career skills, academic enrichment, socialization, independent living skills, financial literacy, and self-advocacy skills that lead to community-integrated, customized and/or competitive employment.
- Develops and supervises job internships for participating students
- Meets the [Think College standards, quality indicators, and benchmarks for Inclusive Higher Education](#)

Each applicant should identify a Program Director who will be the primary contact for the IHE during the proposal review process.

Funding Process

Once approved, the IHE PSE program's enrolled students will be eligible for scholarships, based on funding that is available. Scholarship applications are distributed to Program Directors yearly in the Spring for distribution to enrolled or newly enrolling students. Scholarship deadlines are established yearly (usually mid to late May). Scholarship awards are announced in July. Scholarship funds are then distributed to the IHE, and may be disbursed in the Fall and Spring semesters, after enrollment is confirmed.

Postsecondary Education Survey

DREAM will distribute a survey annually, collecting information regarding the program's statistics (i.e. number of students enrolled, graduates, internships etc.). **All programs will be required to respond to the survey annually.**

Evaluation Process

DREAM established an Advisory Committee of experts from a diverse representation of key stakeholders who have extensive knowledge of transition, PSE, and students with intellectual disabilities. The Advisory Committee endorses the [Think College Standards, Quality Indicators, and Benchmarks for Inclusive Higher Education](#) for use when developing a model inclusive PSE program. When evaluating each of the proposals, close attention will be paid to your institution's ability to address the following key areas:

- Application/admission process and program size.
- Sustained and meaningful partnerships with any relevant agency serving students with disabilities, such as vocational rehabilitation, county intellectual disability programs, and/or local educational agency
- Ability to provide or facilitate finding inclusive community-integrated and/or college/university owned or operated housing options for students with disabilities that are also available to their peers without disabilities.
- Involvement of businesses that have demonstrated a willingness to hire people with disabilities with which the qualified eligible college or university has established partnerships and working relationships.
- Anticipated program outcomes as a result of the completion of the program.

The DREAM Advisory committee reserves the right to request additional information from the IHE and their active partners, including a site visit.

Proposal Contents:

Proposals **must** include the following, in this order:

1. Letter of Intent — this letter should include background on the lead applicant; the mission of the school; the institution's commitment to operating and sustaining this program.
2. History of the program, including how many students are enrolled per year.
3. Verification of CTP approval or a statement that the application is in process.
4. Annual tuition of the program, including any mentor or program fees.
5. Detailed proposal following the Proposal Outline on page 5. The length of this proposal should not exceed four (4) typed, single-sided, single-spaced, one-inch margins and minimum of 12-point font.

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DREAM Partnership
Nancy Shirley, Executive Administrator
3815 Market Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Proposal Review Notification Process

Applicants will be notified of a decision by **March 15th**.

Proposal Outline

Briefly describe how your existing program is meeting the THINK COLLEGE STANDARDS, QUALITY INDICATORS, AND BENCHMARKS FOR INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION (indicated below).

STANDARD 1: ACADEMIC ACCESS

Facilitate quality academic access for students with intellectual disabilities

STANDARD 2: CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Facilitate career development leading to competitive employment for students with intellectual disabilities.

- Specify how it provides a focus on integrated work experiences, career skills, academic enrichment, socialization, independent living skills, financial literacy, and self-advocacy skills that lead to community-integrated, customized and/or competitive employment.
- Specify how job internships are developed and supervised for participating students

STANDARD 3: CAMPUS MEMBERSHIP:

Facilitate campus membership for students with intellectual disabilities.

STANDARD 4: SELF-DETERMINATION

Facilitate the development of self-determination in students with intellectual disabilities.

STANDARD 5: ALIGNMENT WITH COLLEGE SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES

Facilitate alignment with college systems and practices for students with intellectual disabilities.

STANDARD 6: COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

Facilitate collaboration and coordination.

STANDARD 7: SUSTAINABILITY

Facilitate sustainability, include the sustainability plan for the program.

STANDARD 8: ONGOING EVALUATION

Facilitate quality postsecondary education services for students with intellectual disabilities.