



## BridgeUp at Menninger Request for Proposals – February 1, 2017

The Menninger Clinic is proud to announce Round II for the 2017-2018 Magic Grants. BridgeUp at Menninger will award grants, totaling up to \$1 million, to school-based Social and Emotional Learning partnerships in the Houston area.

### **About BridgeUp at Menninger**

BridgeUp at Menninger is an initiative of The Menninger Clinic with the mission to promote innovative collaborations among multi-sector community organizations to produce measurable improvement in the mental health status of communities, with a particular focus on vulnerable adolescents. Menninger is a leading psychiatric hospital dedicated to treating individuals, teaching mental health professionals and advancing mental healthcare through research.

Dramatic physical, mental and social-emotional developmental changes occur in adolescence. When influenced by economic, health and family hardships, these changes can result in poorer school performance and impaired well-being. BridgeUp aims to create bold, sustainable systemic improvements that bolster health, well-being, academic achievement and social and emotional learning<sup>1</sup> (SEL) in vulnerable<sup>2</sup> adolescents<sup>3</sup> living in poverty in Greater Houston. Our ultimate goals are for vulnerable adolescents to graduate high school and to become healthy, productive adults.

BridgeUp at Menninger is one of only three initiatives inspired and funded by the David and Helen Gurley Brown Trust of New York. The other programs are at the New York Public Library and the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The generous grants given through the Brown Trust are called *Magic Grants*.

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<sup>1</sup> Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. (See [casel.org](http://casel.org).)

<sup>2</sup> We define “vulnerable” as economically disadvantaged, and can also include racial and ethnic minorities, LGBT individuals, the uninsured, the homeless, victims of abuse, those with HIV and those with other chronic health conditions, including severe mental illness.

<sup>3</sup> Following the World Health Organization, we define “adolescents” as young people between the ages of 10 and 19.

## What We Fund

In this second round of funding, we will refine and evaluate the **BridgeUp Model** with **renewal Magic Grants** and extend our reach with **new Magic Grants**. Grants will accelerate implementation and integration of **social and emotional learning in educational settings**. We have a particular interest in supporting under-performing schools and school districts in the Greater Houston area.

We seek proposals that include a balance of innovative and evidence-informed approaches that result in measurable improvement in **students' emotional and cognitive competence**. Proposals will use existing data or develop evidence through the grant. Bold, transformative – and disruptive – proposals are encouraged.<sup>4</sup>

We will fund **Model Grants** (up to \$200,000) that inform the BridgeUp Model by implementing all three model components (described in more detail below), which include 1) the implementation of SEL through school-based initiatives; 2) a tiered framework that includes a mental health referral system; and 3) a collaborative approach that leads to a larger community impact.

Additionally, we will fund **Innovation Grants** (up to \$25,000) that focus on an innovative implementation of SEL in partnership with a school. The intent of these smaller grants is to “seed” an innovative SEL idea or approach and to bring innovators into our BridgeUp grantee cohort and Impact Network.

## BridgeUp Model Components

### 1. Implementation and Evaluation of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

We aim to advance the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) framework for school and student success. School-based SEL programs (1) enhance students' social and emotional competencies and classroom behavior; (2) improve attachment and attitudes toward school; (3) decrease rates of violence and aggression, disciplinary referrals, and substance abuse; and (4) improve academic performance.<sup>5</sup>

WestEd, a national educational research organization, will work together with BridgeUp to create and administer a **BridgeUp evaluation** on social and emotional learning for students in BridgeUp programs. The evaluation instrument is a customized *BridgeUp at Menninger SEL Survey* that is based on the [California Healthy Kids Survey](#). A baseline survey and qualitative analysis sessions will be conducted in Spring 2017. Pre- and post- surveys will be conducted in subsequent grant years. We encourage our Round I grantees to apply for Renewal Grants, with the goal of

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<sup>4</sup> The term, disruptive innovation, was defined by Clayton Christensen in 1995 regarding business models. Our intention is to adapt this definition to a non-profit, educational and health context that encourages a bold idea or approach that can result in systemic and sustainable change.

<sup>5</sup> See for example, Durlak et al., 2011; Sklad et al., 2012; Zins & Elias, 2006.

achieving sustained impact for students and tracking the impact of long-term outcomes. The BridgeUp SEL Survey is funded by BridgeUp and completion is **required** for all BridgeUp students.

Figure 1. Schoolwide SEL Model



Source: [www.casel.org/what-is-sel](http://www.casel.org/what-is-sel)

Using the CASEL SEL model, Magic Grants support programming for students and teachers/staff, including:

- Classroom-based or after-school programming using evidence-informed curriculum and instruction
- Training and support for teachers, staff and leadership
- Educational initiatives that reinforce SEL instruction, supported by community partnerships
- Integrated SEL initiatives with a tiered mental health referral framework that includes, for example, multi-tiered systems of support, behavior management and disciplinary practices, positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) and trauma-informed practices.

## 2. Mental Health Referral System

The BridgeUp funding supports a holistic approach to health, with emphasis on prevention and early intervention for all students. Additionally, behavioral and mental health needs must be addressed for students at risk or already experiencing social, emotional and behavioral difficulties. Secondary and tertiary supports should include screening, in-school or after-school interventions and external referrals. Aligning Response to Intervention (RtI)<sup>6</sup> multi-tiered systems of support with school mental health programs is encouraged.

## 3. Community Impact

Collaboration is key to sustainability and to scaling social and emotional learning practices. The ideal proposal will adopt a formal **collaborative framework**, such as a *Collective Impact* approach, and will include multiple partners from diverse sectors. A proposal must include at least one school or school district as a partner.

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<sup>6</sup> Response to Intervention (RTI) is an approach that schools use to help all students, including struggling learners. See the Texas Education Agency website [www.tea.texas.gov](http://www.tea.texas.gov)

Public/private partnerships are encouraged, including after-school, community nonprofits, mental health, healthcare institutions and public health organizations.

We will build an **Impact Network**, comprised of grantees and partner organizations, to align and amplify the work being done by individual partnerships. In partnership with the University of Houston’s All Kids Alliance, the Impact Network will serve as a learning community, will guide continuous quality improvement and will address sustainability. We will require grantees and partner organizations to participate in the Impact Network and contribute to the Network as “thought partners.”

#### 4. **Brown Fellowship**

Funding is available, as a supplement to Model Grants, to support a Brown Fellow, which will be a new position focused on SEL research and evaluation. Fellows will conduct research on the implementation of SEL and support evaluation of the Magic Grants. Fellows will be affiliated with the grant organization and will reserve 20% effort to participate with the BridgeUp SEL Survey. Two fellowships are available and further guidelines are available by request.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

1. Lead organizations must include an active collaborative partner or partners, preferably inclusive of multiple sectors. A school or school district is a required partner and may serve as the lead organization. Partnering organizations could include the following sectors, for example: education, out-of-school time programs, mental health, public health, healthcare, faith-based, community development or civic leadership. Corporate partners can be supplemental partners with approval.
2. Lead organizations must be nonprofit or governmental organizations.
3. Lead and partnering organizations must be based in the United States or its territories and the program location must be in the Greater Houston area.
4. Lead and partnering organizations must have demonstrated successful efforts in improving outcomes for vulnerable adolescents, preferably in a school or an after-school setting.
5. Lead and partnering organizations must be available to participate in formal grantee convenings quarterly at The Menninger Clinic.
6. Lead and partnering organizations must be willing to participate in evaluation and learning activities and convenings.

### **Key Dates**

February 1, 2017	BridgeUp RFP Round II announced
February 10, 2017	Grant Orientation Teleconference
February 22, 2017	Letters of Intent are required and due via GIFTS Online
March 3, 2017	Notification of invitation to submit full proposals
April 7, 2017	Invited Proposals due via GIFTS Online
May 2017	Award notification
June 30, 2017	Public Grant Announcement/Convening of Grantees and Advisory Committee
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018	Grant Period

## **Grant Review**

Applications will be reviewed and scored by an anonymous Grant Review Team comprised of Menninger Clinic leadership and BridgeUp advisory committee members. Applications that clearly address the BridgeUp Model components will be considered most competitive.

## **Contacts**

**We encourage you to contact us prior to submitting a letter of intent.** We can guide your proposal preparation and connect you with others engaged in similar work. Please contact us at [BridgeUp@menninger.edu](mailto:BridgeUp@menninger.edu).

## **Apply Now**

[https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID\\_5442?SA=SNA&FID=35010](https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_5442?SA=SNA&FID=35010)