



## NEW ENGLAND BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

45 Temple Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02111-1305 • Phone 617.357.9620 • Fax 617.338.1577 • www.nebhe.org

### **Redesigning Student Aid in New England (Redesigning Aid)**

#### **Request for Proposals (RFP)**

#### ***For NEBHE grant to Individual Nonprofit State Financial Aid Agencies in New England***

##### ***Grant Background***

Students enrolling in college are faced with rising tuition rates at institutions that may be hard-pressed for funding—especially public institutions, which may only see modest rebounds in state funding after years of declines in state appropriations. For many families, stagnant or falling incomes compound the situation.

In-state tuition and mandatory fees at New England public four-year institutions rose by \$2,617, or 36%, between 2007 and 2012, according to [a study conducted by NEBHE](#). At public two-year institutions, the increase averaged \$942, or 27%. Out-of-state tuition and mandatory fees at New England public institutions increased even more.

Meanwhile, taking into consideration inflation-adjusted dollars, median family income actually dropped in all New England states from 2000 to 2012, according to the U.S Census. The decline in median income means many families must spend an increasingly greater share of their household income on higher tuition bills.

This challenge of affordability is occurring simultaneously with a changing economic landscape. Jobs are demanding that a greater proportion of our workforce hold a postsecondary credential, leading to growing returns on postsecondary credentials for students and their families.

In this environment, state financial aid programs are more important than ever to ensure that postsecondary opportunities remain affordable for all students.

Redesigning Aid springs from NEBHE's work on postsecondary opportunity and affordability (including the Regional Student Program) and focuses on two overarching goals:

1. To support New England state agencies and authorities implementing state financial aid programs; and
2. To catalyze activities that increase college affordability for New England residents.

### ***Purpose of the Grant***

The purpose of this grant is to support up to three New England states in assessing and redesigning state merit- and need-based financial aid policies and programs. Grantees will receive a one-time grant of \$7,500 and technical assistance and support services from NEBHE and national financial aid experts. NEBHE will work with participating grantees over the next two years and provide one or both of the following services:

- Phase I: An impact study of current state-supported student financial aid policies and programs that includes an examination of existing research on current and proposed state, federal and institutional financial aid policies and programs.
- Phase II: Consultation on how the impact study can be applied to redesign existing financial aid policies and programs and develop a statewide financial aid affordability plan.

### ***Grant Priorities and Information***

NEBHE welcomes proposals from public non-profit corporations, state agencies or authorities responsible for the administration of the state financial aid program(s) that:

- Commit to an impact study of the state's current financial aid policies and programs.
- Use the results of the impact study to consider changes to the state's current policies and/or programs.
- Use the results to develop a statewide financial aid affordability plan that:
  - Prioritizes access and success for low-income students;
  - Considers incentives to students to support timely degree completion;
  - Supports part-time students, returning adults and students in competency-based and accelerated programs;
- Seek to reinstate financial aid in states that have eliminated legislatively appropriated funding or increase investment for states that have a state appropriation.
- Engage stakeholders such as state financial aid administrators and other state higher education policymakers.

State financial aid policies and programs might include, but are not limited to:

- State grant aid programs
- State scholarship programs
- State 529 savings plans
- State pre-paid tuition plans

**Eligibility:** Public non-profit corporations/state agencies or authorities responsible for the administration of state financial aid program(s)

**Funding:** Each financial aid organization selected through the RFP process will receive \$7,500. Up to three awards will be made. In addition to the \$7,500 award, grantees will be provided with up to seven days of consulting services contracted through the NEBHE Redesign Aid Incubator in addition to being supported by NEBHE staff. \*

**Fund Use:** Funds can be used by agencies/authorities for costs associated with the implementation of the Redesigning Student Aid in New England project. Planned expenditures should be described in a brief budget narrative to be included in the grant submission materials. Allowable uses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Convenings
- Travel reimbursement
- Staff time

**Project Duration:** Upon approval through December 31, 2015

**Grant Contact:** Monnica Chan, Director of Policy and Research  
617-533-9530, [mchan@nebhe.org](mailto:mchan@nebhe.org)

**Grant Proposal Due Date:** April 11, 2014

**Required Forms:** Project Cover Page  
Project Narrative – Refer to Questions  
(not to exceed 10 double-spaced pages)  
Budget Narrative

**Submission Instructions:**

Submit one (1) electronic copy of all materials to:  
Monnica Chan, Director of Policy and Research at [mchan@nebhe.org](mailto:mchan@nebhe.org) by 5:00 P.M. on April 11, 2014.

Submit one (1) set with an original signature of the CEO/Commissioner/Executive Director to:

Monnica Chan, Director of Policy and Research  
New England Board of Higher Education  
45 Temple Place  
Boston, MA 02111

\* Technical assistance and project support to grantees will be provided through the NEBHE Redesigning Aid Incubator. Consultants or organizations will be selected by NEBHE through a Request for Response (RFR) to support states in conducting an impact study of existing financial aid policies and programs and use the results of the impact study to redesign policies and programs and develop a statewide financial aid affordability plan. In addition NEBHE will provide technical assistance throughout the course of the grant period, as needed.



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### Redesigning Student Aid in New England

<b>Name of Applicant:</b>		
<b>Contact Person:</b>	<b>Phone number:</b> (    )	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Address:</b>		

<b>Project Summary:</b>
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**RFP responses are due by Friday, April 11, 2014 at 5:00 P.M.**

<b>Submission Instructions:</b> Submit one (1) electronic copy of all materials to: Monnica Chan, Director of Policy and Research - <a href="mailto:mchan@nebhe.org">mchan@nebhe.org</a> by 5:00 P.M. on April 11, 2014.  Submit one (1) set with an original signature of the CEO/Commissioner/Executive Director to:  Monnica Chan, Director of Policy and Research New England Board of Higher Education 45 Temple Place Boston, MA 02111
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<b>Authorized Signature:</b>	<b>Typed Name:</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Date:</b>



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## Redesigning Student Aid in New England

### Questions to be Addressed in Project Narrative

*(not to exceed 10 double-spaced pages)*

1. To your knowledge, has your state established a postsecondary attainment goal in response to projected labor market demands? If a degree attainment goal has been established, describe how it was set including stakeholder involvement.
2. Describe your state's current college affordability landscape and any broad-based initiatives to make college more accessible for low-income students.
3. Describe your state's current student financial aid program(s). The description should include:
  - An overview of all state grant and scholarships, college savings plans, and loans available to state residents, including explanation of student eligibility criteria and student financial aid priorities
  - Governance structure and organizational chart of organizations / agencies / authorities administering state financial aid in the state
  - Board membership for your agency and responsibilities
  - Legislative or regulatory language creating financial aid programs, college savings plans, and loans
  - Sources and amount of funds available to students in FY 2013 and 2014 (please include revenue from assets under management; revenue generated from student loan administration; state appropriations; and other sources, as needed)
  - Number of aid recipients and average amount of grant or scholarship aid in FY 2013 and 2014 by program
  - Number of accounts and average account size of college savings plan
  - Recent evaluation(s) of state financial aid or impact studies (if applicable)
4. Please answer the following:
  - Who is typically included in the decision making process when changes to financial aid programs are made?
  - How are students and families notified of changes to state financial aid program(s) in your state?
  - What data are available to access the effectiveness of the current program(s)?
  - How do you track success for students receiving state financial aid?
5. Describe how this project might advance current college affordability goals or address challenges in your state.