

## **TFI Chicago Fellows Tribute - Grant Application**

### **Summary**

Mikva Challenge, in partnership with the JPMorgan Chase will be providing funding to community-based organizations to implement a project addressing one or more of the key issue areas identified by The Fellowship Initiative (TFI) Fellows.

### **Sources of Funding**

JPMorgan Chase utilizes the talent of their employees to facilitate the mentorship program, The Fellowship Initiative (TFI). This initiative is dedicated to improving education outcomes for young men of color. TFI provides intensive academic and leadership training to help 60 young men in Chicago complete their high school education and better prepare them to excel in colleges and universities. TFI is part of the firm's broader ongoing efforts to provide adults and young people with the education, skills and resources that contribute to greater economic mobility. To date, more than 200 JPMorgan Chase employees have worked with TFI Fellows as mentors, coaches, role models, speakers, or volunteers in various capacities. Since its launch in 2010, the program has been expanded to include classes in Dallas, Los Angeles, and New York, in addition to Chicago.

Mikva Challenge is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to develop community leaders and engaged, informed, active citizens. We are a dynamic youth empowerment agency that provides high school students with unique civic learning opportunities and hands-on experiences in political campaigns, public policy advocacy, government internships, and youth activism programs. Named for Chicago leaders Abner and Zoe Mikva, we have grown quickly in our 19 years and we now serve 15,000 students annually in Chicago, Southern California, and Washington, D.C.

### **Background**

Over the course of several months, Mikva Challenge staff attended TFI sessions to guide the Fellows through the Mikva Challenge "Youth Change-Maker" process and provide leadership and teambuilding focused on building collaboration, critical thinking, and communication skills. This process began with "Project Soapbox" where the Fellows crafted speeches on issues that mattered to them and had the opportunity to perform their speech for the TFI class. Through this process, the Fellows began identifying issues in their schools and communities they wanted to address. Using an asset-based approach, Fellows also identified their personal and community assets and reflected on how those assets can address an issue the Fellows identified in their communities and schools. Mikva Challenge staff collected all the issues and grouped them into the six key issue areas including:

- Food deserts
- Gun violence
- Lack of extracurricular opportunities in schools
- Lack of job opportunities for youth
- Lack of support for undocumented students and families

- Mental Health Stigma

Mikva Challenge staff facilitated an activity to understand the root causes by analyzing the issues in terms of symptoms and causes. The Fellows worked in small groups to complete a root cause analysis for each of the six issue areas listed above and identified actionable roots that can be addressed through community-based partnerships. When given the opportunity to analyze the root causes of the issues that impact them, young people are empowered with the knowledge to identify solutions that would best address that issue. The issues areas listed above are complex public health issues and this RFP is a unique opportunity to implement solutions identified by young people. In addition, the TFI Fellows are leading the effort in designing and evaluating the proposals.

The Fellows are serving a youth philanthropists for community-based projects that address one or more of the key issue areas identified. Many of these issue areas align with the JPMorgan Chase priorities of workforce readiness and community development.

### **Eligibility and Application Format**

This RFP is limited to projects addressing one or more of the issue areas outlined in the section above. The Fellows have identified two steps the selected grantees must fulfill as a term of the grant. These steps must be incorporated as part of the larger project proposal. The steps include:

- Gun Violence
  - Step 1: Identify 2-3 areas within a community area(s) where there are higher rates of gun violence.
  - Step 2: Identify people inside and outside the community who can serve as mentors to young people in their community who have been exposed to gun violence in these areas.
- Mental Health Stigma
  - Step 1: Create and distribute a survey to collect information on current knowledge and perception of mental illness among Chicago youth.
  - Step 2: Host workshops to build awareness around mental illness.
- Food Deserts
  - Step 1: Host community forum (with emphasis on community youth voices) to understand the wants and needs around healthy food.
  - Step 2: Create a feasible plan to expand food pantries and/or farmers' markets and incorporate findings from community forum.
- Lack of extracurricular opportunities in schools
  - Step 1: Survey youth to learn about their interests and identify partners that could provide related programming.
  - Step 2: Host an event where all identified partners attend so students can sign up for extracurricular opportunities at the event. Local businesses should also be involved in maintaining the sustainability of the programs.

- Lack of employment opportunities for youth
  - Step 1: Create and distribute a survey in high schools to understand the types of jobs youth are interested in.
  - Step 2: Use survey data to host a job fair for youth who need money to support themselves and encourage potential employers to offer “on the spot” hiring.
- Lack of support for undocumented students
  - Step 1: Host a program to help DACA youth financially.
  - Step 2: Serve as a resource for undocumented students and their families.

Fellows will also consider projects that address the following areas:

- Youth homelessness
- Youth-police relations
- Pregnant and/or parenting youth
- Teen dating violence
- Youth substance abuse
- Support for teens in single-parent households

Any applicant who applies for a project that addresses those issues will be required to submit the **first three steps** of their project in their proposal.

**Application Requirements:**

- Be a 501(c)(3) organization.
- Be requesting funds for projects/initiatives that have a direct connection to one or more of the key issue areas identified by TFI.
- Have the organizational capacity to implement the steps identified by TFI for the issue area the project is addressing.

**How To Apply:**

Please submit the application in the form of a video. The video must include:

- Overview of organization
- Which of the key issues identified by TFI will the proposed project address and why was it selected
- Goal/objectives of proposed project
- Identify the community area or neighborhood the project will operate in and what the expected impact is
- Outline how the applicant will implement the two or three steps identified by TFI and provide a timeline for the project
- Explain how the organization will engage the community and young people

The components above can be addressed in one video or in separate video files. The total length of all the videos should be no more than eight (8) minutes.

Applicants must also complete an online form to provide information about the applying organization and the proposed project’s budget. A link to the form is provided below.

**Available Funding and Contract Terms**

Between \$30,000 - \$40,000 for two to three organizations is available for the implementation of the TFI Chicago Fellows Tribute grants. Applicants may request funds between \$10,000 and \$20,000; not all grantees will receive the maximum amount requested. Applicants will be notified by the end of April about the requested funding.

Funds must be used between **July 1, 2018** and **December 31, 2018**. Successful applicants will receive notification of funding prior to the contract start date.

**Evaluation of Proposals**

The Chicago TFI Fellows will review and evaluate the proposals using the following standard scoring rubric.

Section	Meets Criteria	Available Points
Organization Experience	The organization has experience implementing the type of work outlined in this proposal. The applicant organization has significant experience working within the targeted community area.	15
Research	The organization finds and understands the root causes of the selected issue area(s) and the proposed project has evidence of being successful in addressing the selected issue area(s).	25
Clarity of Goals and Objectives	It is clear how the organization's mission aligns with the proposed project. The goals and objectives of proposed project are clearly defined.	25
Innovative and Creative	Proposed project meets a need in the community and utilizes steps outlined by TFI. The organization utilizes their areas of expertise to engage youth in the community throughout the project implementation.	25
Budget	There is a clear connection between the costs outlined in the budget and the goals and objectives outlined in the proposal.	10
<b>Total Possible Points</b>		<b>100</b>



**Submission**

All complete applications must be submitted by **11:59 pm on Friday, April 20.**

Applicants must complete [this form](#) and submit the video as a link in the form or email the video to [meghana@mikvachallenge.org](mailto:meghana@mikvachallenge.org). Applicants must also produce a budget justification as an Excel document outlining what the awarded funding will be used for. Please follow the format provided in the template below:

Expense Item	Amount	Purpose	Notes
<b>Total:</b>			

The total amount on the budget should match the total amount of funding requested in the application.

For additional questions, please contact Meghana Menon at [meghana@mikvachallenge.org](mailto:meghana@mikvachallenge.org).