

## Development of Local Educational Affiliate Program (LEAP)

### I. Background

The educational landscape during the past few decades in Kentucky has been characterized by significant change. Individuals, leaders, and communities alike have become more concerned with the quality and value of education and the positive role it has in shaping Southern and Eastern Kentucky. The creation of Forward in the Fifth, along with passage of key education reform to create a new state accountability system and adoption of the Common Core State Standards, presents new opportunities for discussion and action. Efforts to improve graduation rates, reduce student drop-outs, lessen needed remediation between high school and postsecondary learning, and increase the relevance and rigor of coursework have since drawn more attention from both educators and non-educators. Past experience is a great teacher. Communities who have proactively embraced educational challenges and sought solutions collectively have yielded much better results than those choosing to ignore or downplay them.

### II. Funding

Forward in the Fifth, in partnership with The Center for Rural Development, will make available funding to local communities to serve as a catalyst to advance educational attainment. The purpose of this funding will help to establish a *county-specific group* devoted solely to the improvement of education. It should be comprehensive in nature and comprised of individuals from education, community leaders, parents, students, and other interested persons. This grant cycle will award \$1,500 to selected groups whose vision and mission is focused on sustainable changes to improve learning and educational success among its residents. A total of six (6) applicants will be selected for a total of \$9,000 to develop a local affiliate of Forward in the Fifth and work collaboratively as a county to reduce educational challenges and strengthen educational progress in the future. The project must be completed within six months after the grant award. Additionally, each selected community will be required to provide a *local match of 20 percent* toward use in the approved project. Each successful applicant will be required to host a community forum at the completion of its grant activity for the purposes of informing and engaging others within the county for future work.

### III. Eligibility

A. **Eligible applicants** for funding must include EACH of the following attributes:

- a. Be located in *Adair, Bath, Bell, Breathitt, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Estill, Floyd, Garrard, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Jessamine, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Taylor, Wayne, Whitley or Wolfe Counties.*

Prior funding recipients are not eligible to apply for this funding cycle.

- b. Encompass a diverse group representation within the specific target county (e.g., geographic, gender, educational levels, career interests). Counties having multiple school districts and communities must demonstrate in their proposal how real collaboration will occur rather than using the funding for only a small

sub-population within a county. Only **one** application will be accepted per county.

- c. Proof of a non-profit organization (501 c3) status, a K-12 school, accredited higher education institution, a community educational foundation, or existing community education group with documented past programmatic and fiscal successes
- d. Submit a complete proposal and commit to provide the required match of 20 percent (cash or in-kind) of the requested funding upon selection of the project by the specified deadline

#### **B. Types of Projects**

Each applicant will have the freedom to determine one of its greatest challenges in which their given county of stakeholders desire to address. However, applications should demonstrate need, identify root cause(s), suggest proven strategies for improvement, and note how the project will be evaluated to determine its success. This activity must align to Forward in the Fifth's mission of improving educational attainment within the service area. The applicants are reminded that this will be a competitive scoring process so each proposal should be realistic and able to be completed within the six-month period. Funds for this project are intended to develop a core group of stakeholders who are interested in improving education using a grassroots approach for this project and continue future activity.

Eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Enhancing teacher effectiveness through quality professional development
- Engaging a diverse group of stakeholders to increase the value the community places on education
- Providing direct services to students to improve student graduation rates, reduce drop-out rates, or remediation rates
- Developing and strengthening parent engagement to increase student success
- Advancing educational and civic literacy/skills of students or the general public within the county

Funding **WILL NOT** support administrative costs, purchase of equipment, facility renovation or construction, or food. Incentives are eligible project costs, but should not exceed 25 percent of the total funding request.

#### **IV. To Apply**

An application form is provided following this guidance document. Eligible applicants desiring to seek financial support for the development of a local affiliate program within their county should complete the attached application and **submit one original and three copies to the following address postmarked no later than September 9, 2011.** Applications received with a later postmark will not be considered. **No faxes will be accepted.**



Local Education Affiliate Program  
Forward in the Fifth  
2292 South Highway 27, Suite 300  
Somerset, Kentucky 42501

## V. Proposal Review Process

Each proposal will undergo an initial screening process to ensure timeliness, completeness, and eligibility. Upon successfully meeting this assessment, the existing applications will be scored on the following aspects:

<b>Scoring Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Project background (e.g., need, data sources, project focus)	<b>10</b>
Proposal Quality (goal, objective(s), activities, persons responsible, timelines delineated)	<b>15</b>
Budget outline and narrative (use of funds including the required match)	<b>10</b>
Project evaluation and measurable outcomes	<b>15</b>
Sustainability (likelihood of continued activity to further the development of the local affiliate after initial funding is expended)	<b>15</b>
Community support and engagement	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>75</b>

## Local Education Affiliate Program

Sponsored by Forward in the Fifth and The Center for Rural Development

<b>Applicant Information</b>		
Fiscal Applicant:		
Address:		
City, State, Zip Code:		
County:		
Daytime Phone: (     )	Daytime Fax: (     )	Email:
Employer Identification Number:		

<b>Contact Information</b>	
Who should be contacted about this project?	
Name:	
Job Title:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, Zip Code	
County:	
Daytime Phone: (     )	Daytime Fax: (     )
Email:	

<b>Authorization</b>	
<p>I certify to the best of my ability that the information contained in this application is true and accurate. The fiscal agent of this application has authorized it; the applicant has authority to apply for funding support; the applicant will comply with federal, state, and local regulations; and that I am legally authorized to bind the aforementioned fiscal agent into contract with Forward in the Fifth for the project described below.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature of Authorizing Official</p>	<p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Date</p>
<p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Title of Authorizing Official</p>	<p>(     ) _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Phone Number</p>
<p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complete Mailing Address</p>	<p>(     ) _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fax Number</p>

## Local Education Affiliate Program Application Form

The Local Education Affiliate Program is a collaborative effort of Forward in the Fifth and The Center for Rural Development to assist counties in improving educational progress within our service area of Southern and Eastern Kentucky. This program is structured in a manner that each county has the flexibility to plan, implement, and evaluate their efforts to address challenges found within their educational pipeline. The project **MUST** be undertaken in a collaborative effort with a minimum of four (4) vested stakeholders participating in the entire project (additional groups are preferable). Possible suggestions may include, but are not limited to: local school systems, higher education institutions, city and county governments, faith communities, civic groups, parent organizations, student clubs, and businesses Applicants are also asked to think about sustainability of the groups once this source of funding is exhausted. **Only one application from each county will be accepted for this program.**

**Each of the following items should be addressed in the applicants' proposal for funding. Applications should be double-spaced with one-inch margins, using Times New Roman, 12 point font. Attach as many sheets as necessary to briefly but completely answer each question. (Refer to grant guidelines for eligibility status.)**

1. What is the title of your proposal?
2. Briefly describe the educational stakeholders who will be engaged in this project and include a listing of the members and their affiliation. Is the local educational affiliate already in existence or is this a newly formed group? How has or will the group be formed to ensure equal participation and accountability of the proposed project(s)? What is your plan to include new individuals or groups into the local affiliate?
3. Include a description of your goal and objective(s) for this project.
4. Briefly describe your proposed project. How and why was this particular project selected? What data sources support this decision? Is this project new or is it being addressed by others within your county or region? (*Keep in mind that this project must be completed within six months.*)
5. What impact will this project have on improving educational attainment in your specific county? Which audience(s) will be targeted for the activity?
6. Outline the project tasks to be completed, including who will be responsible for successful completion of key tasks and a timeframe for task completion. (*Keep in mind that this project **MUST** be completed in six months.*)

7. How will you evaluate the project? What is/are your expected outcome(s)?
  
8. Outline your project budget and include a brief narrative description. Indicate where the required in-kind or cash match will be used.) This is required before a grant award is made to any applicants.
  
9. Briefly discuss the sustainability of this county affiliate in relation to future activity to improve educational attainment and literacy.

**All applications should be should be postmarked with one (1) original and three (3) copies included no later than September 9, 2011 to be considered. No faxes will be accepted. All applicants will be notified upon receipt of their proposal and throughout the evaluation process. Questions can be forwarded to Laura Kamperman, Community Education Specialist, at (606) 677-6000 or at [lkamperman@centertech.com](mailto:lkamperman@centertech.com).**

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