

**Request for Proposals:
5th – 10th grade STEM Education
Teacher Professional Development**

Helios Education Foundation defines STEM education as an interdisciplinary approach to learning which removes the traditional barriers separating the four disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and integrates them into real world, rigorous and relevant learning experiences for students.

Our Goal

Helios Education Foundation Request for Proposals (RFP) is targeting programs specifically focused on and measuring improved knowledge and education in the area of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) through professional development of teachers in grades 5th-10th.

Research supports a direct, positive correlation between the effectiveness of the teacher and student achievement. Our experience and staff expertise continues to point to a lack of high quality professional development opportunities for teachers in STEM education. The shortage of effective teachers in math and science education continues to result in low test scores for students, particularly underserved populations; less rigorous course taking by students, either due to a lack of qualified teacher or student preparation; and ill-prepared college-going students resulting in high levels of remedial course taking, which research evidence demonstrates leads to students not completing their postsecondary education. In order for students in Florida to be enrolled in accelerated STEM coursework and STEM career and technical programs, teachers need to participate in relevant and rigorous professional development focused on deepening their content knowledge and instructional skills in the middle grade science and mathematics courses.

This RFP encourages innovative pilot, developmental, and promising project ideas in professional development that fosters knowledge and education in the area of STEM for teachers in 5th . 10th grade.

Who Can Apply?

Local, regional, state and national nonprofit organizations or public entities that provide services to STEM teachers in the Florida Tampa Bay area (comprised of eight counties: Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk, Sarasota, and Manatee) are invited to apply. Parties interested in submitting a proposal must meet the Foundation's basic application criteria (<http://www.helios.org/how-we-partner.aspx>).

National and regional organizations who apply, regardless of location, must partner with a local organization in the Tampa Bay area to be eligible.

Who is this Proposal Targeting?

Helios seeks to benefit STEM teachers working with students in 5th - 10th grade. While we expect most projects will target a direct service population working with a majority of lower

performing students (i.e. FCAT score of 3 or less), we would exclude projects that include teachers working with higher performing students as well.

The beneficiaries must also demonstrate a need for the designated type of professional development.

How much are the potential grant awards and for how long?

We expect to make several grant awards between \$200,000 and \$300,000 per year, contingent on a program's depth and scope of service delivery. Grant awards will be limited to no more than \$1,000,000 in total with an anticipated grant period of three years.

Key Dates

March 2011

- Host RFP webinars sessions and launch RFP
- Organizational description information submitted by March 15th
- Applications due to Helios on March 29th

May 2011

- Successful Applicants notified by phone

Questions?

For general information about Helios Education Foundation or to access additional Request for Proposal information, please visit our Foundation's website at www.helios.org.

For specific questions about the content of the Request for Proposal, please contact either: Stacy Carlson, Vice President and Program Director -- Florida at scarlson@helios.org or Jo Anne Vasquez, Vice President and Program Director Transition Years . Arizona, Teacher and Curriculum Initiatives at jvasquez@helios.org.

For technical questions about the Application process, please contact: Linda Thompson, Vice President and Director of Grants Administration lthompson@helios.org.