



APPLICATION

Strengthening State Coalitions for Public Education in New England

Nellie Mae Education Foundation

This is the application that goes with the Request for Qualifications. The sections here follow the RFQ in the same order, so you can see what each answer is for.

Character limits are ceilings, not targets, and include spaces. Please do not over-polish. If anything is unclear, reach out before the deadline rather than guessing.

Applications are due September 30, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. EST through the [Nellie Mae Online Grantee Portal](#). Please log into the Nellie Mae portal, new organizations will need to create an account. After logging in, enter and navigate to [the application link](#) to access the application.

Part 1. About Your Organization

Organization legal name and fiscal sponsor, if you have one:

Authorizing Representative contact, with title, email, and phone:

Website:

Annual operating budget for your most recent completed fiscal year:

Number of full-time and part-time staff:

Target audience:



Part 2. A Few Confirmations

Please confirm each of the following.

- Our organization's primary purpose is education policy or practice in New England.
- We are a 501(c)(3), or we have a fiscal sponsor in place.
- We have at least one full-time staff member, or the equivalent in dedicated capacity.
- We work with other organizations toward shared goals, beyond attending meetings a funder convenes.

Part 3. What You Are Working to Change

1. What have you been trying to change in public education in your community or state over the last two years? Be as specific as you can. We are more interested in one concrete thing than a full list.

Up to 1,500 characters.

2. Where is that work right now? For example, are you still building attention to the problem, developing a proposal, pushing for something to be adopted, working on how something gets carried out, or looking at whether it worked?

Up to 900 characters.

3. What would progress look like over the next two years? What would tell you that you were getting somewhere?

Up to 900 characters.

Part 4. Your Read on Your Community Or State

1. What is happening in your community or state right now that makes this the moment for this work, or makes it harder? What openings do you see, and what are you watching out for?

Up to 1,500 characters.

2. Who else is working on this in your community or state, and how does your work fit with theirs?

Up to 1,200 characters.

Part 5. The Role You Play

1. What do you do that no one else in your community or state does? And what do you rely on others to do?

Up to 1,200 characters.

2. Who do you have real access to when you need it? This could be state agency staff, legislators, district leaders, community leaders and members, families, young people, reporters, or others. Tell us about a time that access mattered.

Up to 1,500 characters.

3. Which communities does your work reach, and how do the people in those communities direct and inform what you work on?

Up to 1,200 characters.

Part 6. How You Work With Others

This section matters to us more than any other. We are not asking whether you believe in collaboration. We are asking what it has looked like in practice. Please use real examples, including ones that did not go smoothly.

1. Think about the last time you helped set a shared plan or agenda with other organizations. Who was in the room, how did they get there, and who decided what went on the agenda?

Up to 1,500 characters.

2. Tell us about a time something went wrong in a partnership or a shared effort. What did you do, who did you bring in, and what changed afterward?

Up to 1,500 characters.

3. Tell us about working with an organization you do not always agree with. What was hard about it, and what did you do to keep the relationship?

Up to 1,500 characters.

4. When have you passed something along to another organization: funding, data, a platform, public credit, or a relationship? Tell us about one instance.

Up to 900 characters.

Part 7. What Changes for Students

1. Draw the line for us from what your organization does to what is different for students. Which students, and what changes for them?
Up to 1,500 characters.
2. What information or data do you use to decide what to do next? Tell us about a time you changed course because of what you learned. What did you do differently as a result of what you learned?
Up to 1,500 characters.

Part 8. Working Across Levels And Across State Lines

1. How does what you learn locally reach decision-makers, and how do decisions get back to the people you work with? Give us an example in each direction if you have them.
Up to 1,500 characters.
2. Is there anything you have built that others could use? A tool, an analysis, a way of organizing something. Do you already share it with anyone outside your state?
Up to 900 characters.

Part 9. Your Organization's Footing

1. Who else funds you, and roughly what share of your budget does Nellie Mae represent?
Up to 600 characters.
2. How many months of operating reserve do you currently hold?
3. Has your organization ended any of the last five fiscal years in deficit? If so, how many years, and what happened and what changed?
Up to 900 characters.
4. What would happen to this work if Nellie Mae funding ended?
Up to 900 characters.

Part 10. Questions for Your Group

1. What do you bring to the group of organizations working together in your community or state? Not what you hope to get from it, but what others there would say they get from you.
Up to 1,200 characters.

Part 11. What Else is Happening In Your Space

1. What other initiatives, coalitions, or funders are already working on this in your communities? What would our funding add that is not already covered?

Up to 1,500 characters.

Part 12. Request And Attachments

1. Who leads the organization, and who else holds decision-making responsibility?

Up to 600 characters for the last question.

2. Amount requested and a short note on how you would use the funds during the two-year grant period. You do not need to attach a project budget unless requested later:

Up to 1,200 characters.

Please attach the following.

IRS determination letter, or fiscal sponsor agreement.

Current organizational operating budget.

Most recent audited financials or Form 990.

[Other, as needed]

Part 13. Certification

By submitting, I certify that the information here is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Name and title: _____ Date: _____