



Funding Categories

2016 Call for Proposals

Please read ALL of the requirements for each funding category carefully.

Apply to the funding category that fits your project and your organization's capacity.

Recognizing that, in some cases, the categories below may not be mutually exclusive, we encourage applicants to select the funding category that best fits the proposed project.

INNOVATION CHALLENGE: *Can be funded up to a total of US\$500,000 over two to four years.*

An Innovation Challenge project is un-tested but proposes a new way to deal with a problem or gap in education.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Propose new, innovative, creative ideas with practical and cost-effective strategies
- Clearly describe how the innovation seeks to solve the gap or problem identified
- Present a learning agenda to seek information on the effectiveness of the model

EXPANDING & ADAPTING PROJECTS: *Can be funded up to US\$1 million over two to four years.*

An Expanding & Adapting project is a project that has been operational for a minimum of two to three years and has the following characteristics:

- Model is clearly articulated and past the development stage
- Organization is working to further adapt model based on expansion process and learnings
- Organization has a clear plan for strategic expansion to multiple sites
- Model is ready or preparing to undergo rigorous evaluation at multiple sites to better understand impact

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Have developed a clear Theory of Change.
- Have previously shown a degree of effectiveness impact on smaller scale.
- Have strengthened, adapted, and simplified their model over time through the organization's internal learning, and can articulate the pieces that they think are most important and are driving impact.
- Have clear and specific learning questions about the project model pertaining to:
 - Impact
 - Cost effectiveness
 - Why certain parts of the model seem to work in some settings but not in others



- How to adapt the model as it is expanded to new implementation sites
- Have conducted or includes a clearly identified plan for external evaluation of the project.
- Can show political will to support this model and can clearly articulate current and active stakeholder involvement at multiple levels: local/regional/national government, community, school, parents, youth, etc.
- Can articulate the specific pathways, actors, and steps the organization feels are necessary for further expanding and scaling up this particular model in a future project phase.

COLLABORATION PROJECTS: *Can be funded up to US\$500,000 over two to four years.*

In Collaboration projects, two or more organizations/stakeholders are involved, each with its unique strengths and presenting its comparative advantage in a certain area of work. The organizations will decide among themselves who might present the proposal as the ‘lead’ organization. This kind of collaboration encourages organizations doing similar work to come together as partners and expand the impact of their individual work. In the process, they may share and learn together, help strengthen each other’s organizational capacity, and coordinate efforts in advancing relationships/working agenda at the government level. Collaboration can take place between implementers and evaluators/researchers. Such projects may be intended to rigorously test/research the impact and cost-effectiveness of *individual* PSIPSE projects (those currently active or projects applying in 2016 for funding).¹ Or to conduct research across *multiple* PSIPSE-funded projects (e.g. by focusing on a common intervention approach like public-private partnership or a theme such as teacher capacity building).

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Have well-defined goals and a realistic approach to achieve them within the given cultural and political context.
- Have developed a clear Theory of Change.
- Clearly explain the dynamics within the education sector that present the opportunity to influence or strengthen the system through collaboration.
- Have sound rationale for choosing the collaborative partners.
- Demonstrate that the lead applicant has credibility and/or expertise in navigating and managing complex stakeholder relationships.
- Have strong project management structure including reporting and clear roles and responsibilities.
- Have an effective governance structure for working in a collaborative environment.

EVIDENCE-TO-ACTION PROJECTS: *Can be funded up to US \$500,000 over two to four years.*

An Evidence-to-Action project is primarily focused on engaging actors who are well-positioned to guide a systemic change in secondary education that support the wider goals and objectives of PSIPSE presented in this Call. In these projects, the engagement between organizations/stakeholders might be to:

¹ Such research would be conducted in partnership with the organization implementing the project. List of funded organizations can be [found here](#). [Examples of previously funded research include but are not limited to: randomized control trials, quasi-experimental, and rigorous mixed methods research methodologies.]



- Foster collaboration around topics relating to secondary education and creating an alliance to guide policy direction and implementation.
- Conduct and share analyses of national and local positions on different topics related to secondary education.
- Strengthen relationships between advocates, policy-makers, and community members.
- Enhance the capacity of education policy-makers.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Identify the relevance of the project in a broader context.
- Have developed a clear Theory of Change.
- Have well-defined goals and a realistic approach to achieving them within the given cultural and political context.
- Describe the policy context and educational environment in each target community and explain how these present the opportunity for sustainable influence.
- Synthesize and disseminate knowledge about best practices.
- Demonstrate how best practices in secondary education might be adapted for implementation in different contexts and adopted by policy makers.
- Originate from organizations that have a history of engagement and impact with policy-makers and partner organization.
- Provide a strong rationale for each individual or institution included or targeted in the project.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Within the above categories, PSIPSE will fund both implementation projects as well as research. Funding recipients will be expected to:

- Demonstrate the relevance of their project in a broader context to address a major barrier to improved secondary education outcomes nationally, not just the specific target population or geographic region(s), and
- Have a well-defined theory of change, clear research questions and can outline strong research methodology designed to answer those research questions.
- Are national level or headquartered organizations or organizations that significantly collaborate with local research partners, academic institutions and/or project implementers to build research capacity at the national level
- Meaningfully engage young people and other stakeholders in the research, analysis, and dissemination process
- Have a clear dissemination plan for sharing research results for public use.