

Due December 15th, 2005

The Robert Bowne Foundation
“His active mind, open purse, expanded heart and willing feet knew no bounds.” —Thomas Eddy, 1818

AFTERSCHOOL MATTERS INITIATIVE
Research Grants

Request for Proposals
January, 2006 – December, 2006

Background/Goals

The Robert Bowne Foundation is a family foundation that, since 1987, has supported the development of quality programs in New York City offering education to children and youth in the out-of-school hours, especially those living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Historically, youth programs have served the important function of providing a safe place for youngsters to engage in leisure activities with supportive adults. A growing number of such programs, responding to parents' concerns about their children's success in school, have begun to include educational support among their offerings and to function as a critical link for families and children between home and school.

The Robert Bowne Foundation (RBF) seeks to have a long-term and substantial effect on the field of out-of-school education, and launched several initiatives to accomplish this mission. *Afterschool Matters* is one of the initiatives, the goals of which are to:

1. Generate and disseminate research about community-based organizations serving youth during the out-of-school hours;
2. Build a network of scholars studying community based-organizations serving youth;
3. Contribute to basic knowledge and the improvement of practice and policy in the area of community-based youth programs.

One of the projects of the *Afterschool Matters* Initiative is **The Robert Bowne Foundation Research Grants**. This is a national grant competition. Applicants do not have to be located in New York City, nor do they have to conduct research in or about New York City programs.

Four grants of **\$10,000** will be awarded to support either

Original empirical research in or about community-based youth programs during the non-school hours;

Or

Research syntheses or policy analyses of community-based youth programs.

Grant focus

- Descriptions and analyses of community-based youth organizations as institutions that support youth development: i.e., civic engagement, social and emotional development, arts development, academic achievement, etc.
- Descriptions and analyses of program models that collaborate with a range of community institutions, such as faith-based organizations, schools, business, etc.;
- Exploration of employment-related topics – i.e., youth organizations as spaces for training and employment, youth as workers, community economic development and youth programs, etc.

. Note: Evaluations of youth programs will not be considered.

Criteria for Acceptance

1. Applicants must respond to the attached application form and respond to all questions. (Proposals should be no more than 2,000 words in length).
2. Applicants must be affiliated with a university or other not-for-profit IRS 501(c)3 organization.
3. Applicants must submit proposals **no later** than December 15th, 2005. Those accepted will be notified in late December, 2005. The grant will be awarded in January 2005.
4. Those accepted into the grant program will be strongly encouraged to attend the Robert Bowne Foundation Research Roundtable in New York City in the Fall of 2007 (additional financial support will be provided for those traveling from outside of New York City).

Funding & Documentation

Receipt of funding will be based upon submission of all required documentation, including an IRS 501(c)3 determination letter, project budget (Note: Overhead expenses charged should not exceed 5% of grant) and most recent audited organizational financial statement. Those who are awarded grants will be required to submit a *brief* interim report describing activities to date. The interim report form will be sent out in July 2006. A final paper must be received by The Foundation no later than December 30th, 2006.

The Robert Bowne Foundation (RBF) will be stated as a source of support in documents and presentations resulting from this funded project. A final paper, in the form of an article or academic paper will serve as the final document required by the Foundation. Papers issuing from this project may be posted on the RBF website, published in the RBF *Occasional Paper Series* or other RBF venues.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact

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**The Robert Bowne Foundation
2006 Research Grants**

APPLICATION

_____ Name	_____ Organization/University
_____ Title	_____ Address
_____ Tel. Number	_____
_____ Fax Number	_____ email address:

Grant focus

- Descriptions and analyses of community-based youth organizations as institutions that support youth development: i.e., civic engagement, social and emotional development, arts development, academic achievement, etc.
- Descriptions and analyses of program models that collaborate with a range of community institutions, such as faith-based organizations, schools, business, etc.;
- Exploration of employment-related topics – i.e., youth organizations as spaces for training and employment, youth as workers, community economic development and youth programs, etc.

PART A: PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW IF YOU ARE PROPOSING TO CONDUCT ORIGINAL EMPIRICAL OR SITE-SPECIFIC RESEARCH OR REQUESTING FUNDS TO SUPPORT A CONTINUING RESEARCH PROJECT. Please limit your responses to no more than 2,000 words. (If you are proposing to write a research synthesis or policy analysis, go to part B).

1. Research question(s), purpose/significance.
 - a. Describe the proposed research project.

- b. What is (are) the purpose(s) of your research or the need for your research?
- c. In what way(s) is the research aligned with the grant focus (see above)?
- d. What were (are) some of your research questions?
- e. What is your research design or plan?
- f. How do you think the research will contribute significantly to the knowledge base of the youth development/afterschool education field?

2. Description of research project

- a. Please describe the scope of your research project, including population and site studied, research methods and theoretical or philosophical framework.

3. Dissemination

- a. How and with whom do you propose to share the results of your research?

PART B: RESEARCH SYNTHESIS OR POLICY ANALYSIS

Applicants have the option of applying for funds to write a research synthesis or policy analysis. Please note that the Robert Bowne Foundation will reserve the right to publish this document in one of The Foundation publications and/or to post it on The Foundation website. Please respond to the following questions. Please limit your responses to no more than 2,000 words.

1. What do you intend to cover in your paper (please include an outline)?
2. In what way(s) is the paper aligned with the grant focus (see above)?
3. What is the theoretical or philosophical framework used to inform your analysis or synthesis?
4. Who is the intended audience for your paper?
5. How do you think your paper will contribute either to the research community, youth development practitioners, and/or to policy makers?

Note: Non-academic styles of writing are acceptable.

PART C: ATTACHMENTS

Please attach the following to your application:

- Your organization's IRS 501(c)3 determination letter. (Note: If the IRS Determination Letter (501(c)3) has a different organizational name than that to which the check must be payable, RBF will need a document explaining the discrepancy).
- Applications from most universities must be sent through the Office of Institutional Research [or related department]. If this is the case, please provide contact information for this department, as grant payment will be sent through this office.
- A letter of support from department chair (if affiliated with a college or university), OR
- A letter of support from executive director (if affiliated with a community-based organization).
- A letter of support from key contact at research site, if applicable (all participants in research study must also sign a letter of informed consent, if participants are underage youth, parents must sign a letter of informed consent).
- A budget and narrative briefly describing how the grant will be used. (NOTE: Organizations cannot charge more than 5% of the grant in overhead costs. Funds can be used to pay for applicant's time on the project. Materials, within reason, are also covered by the grant.
- Most recent audited financial statement;
- CV, resume of lead researcher(s).

Please email, fax, or mail completed applications no later than 5:00 p.m. December 15th, 2005.

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