

AFTERSCHOOL MATTERS INITIATIVE
Research Grants

Request for Proposals
January, 2004 – December, 2004

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. Youth programs, particularly those within community-based organizations, have the potential to address a range of education concerns. Historically, 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.

Currently, The Robert Bowne Foundation (RBF) seeks to have a long-term and substantial effect on the field of out-of-school education, and, in 2003, launched several new 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; and
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, and 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

The theme for the 2004 RFP will be ***Positive Youth Development in Community-based Programs***. Proposals that address this theme will be assigned extra points, although other topics will be considered. Evaluations of youth programs will not be considered.

Suggested topics aligned with the theme include:

- Positive youth development as an organizing construct for the operation and design of youth development programs and the development of youth-related policy;
- Descriptions of activities at youth programs and analyses of activities that show how they support youth development in a range of areas, including, for example, the arts, citizenship, and leadership;
- Exploration of relationships between non-academic competencies that are acquired by youth at programs and academic success.

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 October 31, 2003. Those accepted will be notified in December 2003. The grant will begin in January 2004.
4. Those accepted into the grant program will be expected to attend the Robert Bowne Foundation Research Roundtable in New York City in the Fall of 2004 (additional financial support will be provided for those traveling from outside of New York City).

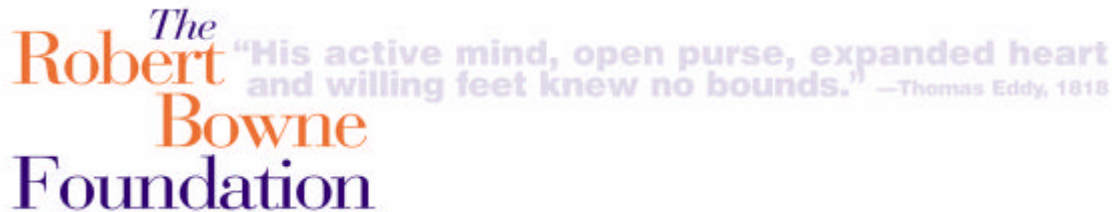
Funding & Documentation

Receipt of funding will be based upon submission of all required documentation, including an IRS 501(c)3 determination letter, project budget 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 2004. A final report must be received by The Foundation no later than December 30th, 2004.

The Robert Bowne Foundation (RBF) will be stated as a source of support in documents and presentations resulting from this funded project. Documents from this project may be posted on the RBF website, and published in other RBF venues.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact

Sara Hill, Ed.D
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The Robert Bowne Foundation
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Tel: (212) 931-1895
Fax: (509) 561-8952



**The Robert Bowne Foundation
2004 Research Grants**

APPLICATION

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

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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 and statement of its purpose and significance
 - a. What is (are) the purpose(s) of your research?
 - b. In what way(s) is the research aligned with the grant focus (see above)?
 - c. What were (are) some of your research questions?
 - d. 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 (particularly those responding to the grant focus identified above). 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. Who is the intended audience for your paper?
4. 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.
- 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: There are no overhead limits. Funds can be used to pay for applicant's time on the project. For most universities, applications must be sent through the Office of Institutional Research [or related department] and grant payment will be sent through this office).
- Most recent audited organizational budget;
- CV, resume of lead researcher(s).

Please email, fax, or mail completed applications no later than 5:00 p.m. October 31st, 2003.

Sara Hill, Ed.D.
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Sara,

You should ask for the direct contact information for the dept. of funded research or whatever so that you won't have to track them down or vice versa. Also, if the IRS Determination Letter has a different organizational name than that that the check must be payable to we need a document explaining that. We should double-check this on the current grants. If the information is not identical the auditors will give us a hard time.