

Florida Student Postsecondary Success RFP



Glossary of Terms for the Florida Student Postsecondary Success RFP

This glossary provides additional context and clarity on how specific terms are being used and defined within this RFP. These definitions, when appropriate, are tailored to this proposal process.

Chronic Absenteeism: Generally defined as a student missing 10 percent or more of the school year, for any reason—used by the Florida Department of Education and by the U.S. Department of Education.

Collaborative Partner: An organization or individual that agrees to support another party in a particular goal, project or initiative. The partnership is typically formal and built on principles of mutual benefit and shared responsibility. Collaborative partnerships may be between organizations in the same industry or different industries. Conditions of the relationship may involve sharing finances, knowledge, people, resources, and competencies.

Economically Disadvantaged: Individuals or families living below low-income thresholds, according to family size established by the U.S. Census Bureau. Schools often identify economically disadvantaged students to allocate resources and services that mitigate the impact of socioeconomic barriers. Economically disadvantaged K-12 students are often defined using eligibility for the free or reduced-price lunch program. Students eligible for Pell Grants are described as the economically disadvantaged population in a higher education setting.

Evidence of Relationship: Several items may be used as proof of a relationship between entities. These documents may include contracts, letters of agreement, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), employment and partnership agreements, proof of relationship affidavits and other legal documentation.

Fiscal Agent/Sponsor: An established 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization that agrees to accept donations on behalf of a group that is engaged in charitable activities but does not have its own IRS tax-exempt status. The fiscal agent is a third-party organization that handles various financial and administrative duties on behalf of another party. While a nonprofit is acting as a fiscal agent, they must retain supervision and control over funds, making sure they are used strictly for the sponsored group’s charitable work; keep records proving that funds are used for tax-exempt purposes; and ensure that funds are used in a manner that furthers the fiscal agent’s own charitable work.

Historically Underrepresented: This refers to populations that data shows traditionally have the lowest numbers or percentages of students enrolling, persisting, and/or completing 2- or 4-year degree programs.

Indirect Cost: Indirect expenses represent the costs of doing business that are not readily identified within a particular grant, contract, project function or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the organization and the conduct of activities it performs. Indirect costs might include expenses such as rent, administrative salaries, office expenses, telephone/internet/utilities, accounting and legal services. Helios will allow up to 10% of the overall budget to be used for indirect costs.

Opportunity Gaps: The differing rates of statistical information among different groups of students in educational achievement, such as college enrollment, college persistence, and/or degree attainment.

Partners and New Partners: For the purpose of this RFP only, a partner is described as an organization with an open, active grant agreement with Helios.

We are seeking to identify “new” partners, which we define as organizations that do not have an open, active grant agreement with Helios. Organizations with Helios event sponsorships, emergency grants like hurricane relief, or donations made without a grant agreement, who do not have open, active grant agreements meet the criteria of a new partner and are eligible to apply. Applicants in the following scenarios are also eligible to apply:

- The applicant’s current Helios grant is ending within the next six months. However, any new application through the RFP should not be an extension of a project Helios already funded.

- The applicant is a current Helios grantee but is acting as a fiscal agent for another organization. In this instance, the fiscal agent organization would be eligible to apply through the RFP.
- The applicant is in a separate area of a larger institution that currently has a Helios grant (e.g., another college or center within a large university).

The intent of this RFP is to be inclusive, while also establishing new relationships with entities currently unfamiliar to Helios. If you have any questions about whether you qualify as a new partner, please send a description of your situation to FloridaRFP@helios.org.

Sustainability: Viability of a project or work beyond the specified grant term. This includes but is not limited to the creation and implementation of a tool or process, improved practices, policy changes, increased revenue sources, improved fundraising strategies that demonstrate self-sufficiency, etc.

Underrepresented: An underrepresented group is a subset of a population whose representation is significantly lower than their proportion in the general population. Specific characteristics of an underrepresented group vary depending on the subgroup being considered.

Underserved Communities: Populations and geographic communities where data demonstrates gaps in access to and engagement in postsecondary education.