

Postbaccalaureate Education Support Fund

from National PROPEL and Solving For Science

[Solving For Science](#) is proud to partner with PROPEL to further its mission to promote diversity and inclusion for all in the scientific workforce by providing research experiences and career development opportunities for postbaccalaureate scholars including those from historically excluded backgrounds as well as those with a demonstrated commitment to promoting diversity in science (to learn more about PROPEL, visit our site [here](#)). To this end, our larger goal is to create a national network of leaders in postbaccalaureate education who inspire and elevate postbaccalaureate programs across the country with support from the Postbaccalaureate Education Support Fund. We hope this fund will encourage and support the growth and expansion of postbaccalaureate education in more institutions nationwide.

The Postbaccalaureate Education Support Fund offers small grants of up to \$10,000 to programmatic leaders that demonstrate commitment and foresight in postbac education. Solving For Science invites leaders with current or developing postbac programs to submit proposals describing their plan to expand or enrich their institution's program.

In addition to the small grant, awardees will join the National PROPEL partner network, offering connection with leaders from other institutions to share best practices and resources. The National PROPEL leadership team will also offer consultation services in the form of regular meetings (minimum quarterly, maximum monthly) and access to a catalog of resources, including curriculum syllabuses, funding support best practices, and other support materials.

We strongly encourage interested applicants to contact National PROPEL chief strategist Jessica Allen (jessica.allen@ucsf.edu) to discuss your proposal before submission.

Our application will open on February 2nd, 2026 with a deadline of March 27th, 2026. To apply, go to [our application link](#). We plan to announce selections one month after the above due date. Additional openings will be announced, but we hope to reopen for new applications yearly.

Award information

A grant of up to \$10,000 will be awarded to applicants that can demonstrate a sound foundation to establish the PROPEL model at their institution. This grant does not include indirect costs to your institution. We are particularly interested in proposals that focus on these areas:

- Outreach and scholar recruitment (e.g. development of a [Matchmaking Event](#))
- Curriculum and career development workshops
- Community building and peer-to-peer networking
- Mentorship training (for postbac supervisors, especially faculty)

- Data tracking and program evaluation for the purposes of developing and understanding best practices in postbac education

Competitive applications to this fund will demonstrate most (if not all) of the following in their proposals:

- Well-defined values in alignment with [PROPEL values](#)
- A leadership team of faculty representing a broad range of departments and institutions at the university.
- Proposed projects that are feasible within the budget of the grant and will support future expansion of their current program or support development of a new PROPEL program. We encourage mention of 1-on-1 consultation with the National PROPEL team as part of your proposal for any portion of your program implementation.
- Proposed projects that have exciting implications to generate data or practices that can be shared with the National PROPEL network.
- Pledged support from their institution (or other funding partners) in the form of matching funds to increase the impact of this small grant.

Funds to support the above activities can be applied to a wide range of costs at the awardee's discretion with justification, including event expenses, speaker honoraria, curriculum coordination effort, administrative or IT support.

Solving for Science and National PROPEL are interested in projects that propose to expand existing postbac programs or develop entirely new programs. Applicants with existing postbac programs should provide a summary of current activities and how these funds will expand existing efforts. Applicants with new program proposals should summarize their plan to implement, including a timeline and other funding support. We intend for all funds to be used to directly advance the above-described projects. The Postbaccalaureate Education Support Fund does not offer funds to defray indirect costs to your institution.

We understand that you may lack the knowledge to incorporate all aspects of the PROPEL model at your site. Therefore, mentioning planned consultation with our team is encouraged in your proposal. As part of your application, please indicate any programmatic areas for which you are especially interested in consultation support.

Funding will support projects and activities for 1 year, concluding with an annual report. Awardees may reapply for up to two years of consecutive funding. Awardees will be required to participate in quarterly National PROPEL Partner meetings for the duration of funding, but are both invited and encouraged to continue attending meetings after their own funding period has concluded.

Eligible Institutions

Higher Education Institutions

- Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education

Key Dates for 2025

February 2th – Applications Open

March 27th – Application Deadline

Funding decisions will be made within 1 month of the above due dates, with funding disbursed within 2 months.

Application Instructions

In addition to contact information, the information required to complete an application is described below:

Program description

For applicants with existing postbac programs, briefly describe your program in 4000 characters or less, including:

- Number of scholars admitted per year
- Brief overview of curriculum
- Length of the program (number of years scholars spend in the program)
- Approximate size of programmatic mentor pool
- Mentorship training
- Programmatic evaluation plan

For applicants with plans to create a new postbac programs, briefly describe your plans in 4000 characters or less, including:

- Brief overview of other financial support
- Timeline to program launch
- Brief overview of curriculum
- Length of the program (number of years scholars spend in the program)
- Approximate size of programmatic mentor pool
- Mentorship training plan
- Programmatic evaluation plan

Consultation

We are thrilled to work closely with our awardees on incorporating the PROPEL model at their university. We understand that each site is different, and there will necessarily be site-to-site variations in capacity, funding, and structure. If awarded, select the topic(s) on which you are most interested in receiving consultation:

1. Recruitment, especially sourcing scholars for this new style of program
2. Communicating program style and expectations to potential mentors
3. Matching scholars with mentors (Matchmaking Event)
4. Curriculum
5. Community building ideas
6. Mentorship training
7. Internal/external fundraising
8. Program evaluation
9. Navigating DEI wording and policies
10. Other (please describe)

Proposal

Briefly describe your proposal to use a grant of up to \$10,000 to support or expand postbaccalaureate education at your institution in 4000 characters or less. **We encourage you to mention of consultation meetings with our team as part of your proposal.**

We are particularly interested in proposals that focus on the following dimensions:

- Scholar recruitment (especially development of a Diversity Supplement Matchmaking Event)
- Curriculum and career development workshops
- Community building and peer-to-peer networking
- Mentorship training (for scholar supervisors, especially faculty)
- Data tracking and program evaluation for the purposes of developing and understanding best practices in postbac education

Matching Funds

We're excited about applicants that would be able to leverage the Postbaccalaureate Education Support Fund award to generate supplementary/matching funds from their institution or other sources, although this arrangement is not a requirement to apply. Please let us know about any organizations that have promised to provide matching funds within your application.

Leadership Team

We strongly encourage thoughtful creation of leadership teams, especially teams that represent a broad set of departmental and/or programmatic affiliation from across your institution. A diverse team of dedicated leaders can expand the program's reach, offer better networking and recruitment, and amass more resources. A team also allows for

more equitable labor division. In your application, please list the members of your leadership team, including a minimum of three (3) faculty members. Please include each leadership team member's 1) name, 2) affiliation(s), 3) proposed role in your postbac program.

Reporting

Awardees will be required to submit a final report at the end of each round of funding detailing their activities and the effect of these funds on their postbaccalaureate program.