To: Northwestern University Faculty

From: School of Education and Social Policy, Office of Community Education Partnerships (OCEP)

Re: Northwestern-CPS Rapid Impact Grants Program, Request for Proposals, Round 2

Overview
With generous support from the Spencer Foundation, the Steans Family Foundation, The Crown Family, the Chicago Public Education Fund, and an anonymous donor, Northwestern University’s School of Education and Social Policy (SESP) and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) are proud to announce the Northwestern-CPS Rapid Impact Grants Program. The program’s goal is to fund small grants for research projects that are of high scholarly quality; that are completed along an accelerated timetable; that are immediately actionable; and that align with CPS programmatic priorities. While the program is administered and supported by SESP, all Northwestern faculty and postdoctoral researchers are invited to participate in the program. Postdoctoral applicants must include a faculty mentor on their project.

As detailed below, researchers will have 6 weeks to submit a short proposal. The proposals will describe the research question, its contribution to the scholarly literature, and its methodology, its budget and timeline, its CPS partner, and proposed products (both scholarly products and those delivered to CPS).

An anonymous review panel comprised of Northwestern faculty members will review the proposals for scholarly quality and contribution, appropriateness of the budget, and feasibility. Based on recommendations from the faculty panel, proposals will then be reviewed by CPS on actionability, timeliness, and alignment to CPS priorities.

This is the second round of funding for the Rapid Impact Grants Program.

Preliminarily approved research proposals will require approval by Northwestern’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) and CPS’s Research Review Board.

Timeline
- Week of January 14: Call for proposals announced to Northwestern researcher community
- February 25 by 5pm: Due date for proposals
- March 1: Northwestern scientific review committee delivers rated proposals to CPS
- March 1-29: CPS leadership rank orders proposals; CPS and SESP leadership determine preliminary funding decisions and notify researchers during the week of March 31.
- Proposals are due to ed_partnerships@northwestern.edu no later than February, 25 by 5pm. Please submit as a PDF with “Rapid Impacts Grant Submission” as the subject line.
- Disbursement of funds for preliminarily approved proposals will occur immediately following proposal approval from Northwestern’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) and CPS’s Research Review Board. Researchers are encouraged (though not required) to begin the IRB process in parallel with proposal submission, to accelerate the final approval and funds disbursement.
• Applicants are encouraged to consult the CPS research agenda, available at https://ocep.northwestern.edu/data-partnerships.html, to understand CPS’s research priorities.

While the program is administered and supported by SESP, all Northwestern faculty and post-doctoral researchers are invited to apply. Postdoctoral applicants must include a faculty mentor on their project.

Evaluation & Guidelines
Proposals will be initially evaluated by an anonymous panel of Northwestern faculty for scholarly quality and contribution, appropriateness of the budget, and feasibility and then by CPS leadership on the basis of these criteria as well as timeliness, actionability, and CPS priorities. The Northwestern faculty panel will give each proposal a rating ranging from 1 (very highest quality) to 5 (low quality) during the initial review. Proposals rated 3 or better will be conveyed to CPS, which will rank-order the remaining proposals on the basis of this quality rating, actionability, timeliness, and CPS priorities.

Proposals should be 3-6 pages in length, single spaced and include and describe the following:
- Title
- 500-word abstract
- Research question and its contribution to the scholarly literature
- Methodology
- The names and departments of your partners/supporters for this project at Chicago Public Schools and a description of how the researcher/research team will work in partnership with the district.
- Budget and timeline
- Expected products

Successful proposals will lead to both scholarly products as well as products generated for CPS use. Proposals using administrative data are especially encouraged, but proposals making use of other data sources are also welcome.

Proposals that can produce products for CPS by January 31, 2020 will have priority for funding. Projects must be 12 months maximum or shorter in duration, and end no later than March 31, 2020.

Budget
The maximum budget for a proposal will be $50,000. Proposals with budgets under $30,000 have the best chance of funding. Budgets should include only direct costs.

Questions
Questions can be addressed to ed_partnerships@northwestern.edu. Information regarding the CPS-Northwestern data sharing agreement and instructions for applying for administrative data from CPS, regardless of receipt of a grant, are available at https://ocep.northwestern.edu/data-partnerships.html