

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE INITIATIVE ACADEMIC YEAR 2005-2006

BACKGROUND:

The University System of Georgia's African-American Male Initiative (AAMI) was launched in Fall 2002, via an extensive quantitative and qualitative research study and the collective work of a 52-person statewide task force comprised of higher education, K-12, civic and business leaders (the Task Force on Enhancing Access for African-American Males). The qualitative research consisted of 17 focus groups with Black males – 16 conducted on geographically and demographically diverse University System campuses, and one conducted at a prison with a high populations of African-American male inmates. The quantitative research consisted of telephone surveys with 700 members of the targeted cohorts: Black males, their parents, teachers and others who influence their academic choices.

The research and task force efforts culminated in Spring 2003, with the development of a comprehensive report and 15 specific recommendations for submission to the Board of Regents, both of which were formally adopted by the board in May. (See <http://www.usg.edu/aami> for PDFs of the report and <http://www.usg.edu/news/2003/052103.phtml> for an electronic copy of the news release regarding the recommendations.)

In addition to the report and recommendations for action, several AAMI Pilot Programs also were launched at various USG institutions in two difference rounds of funding during the 2003-2004 and the 2004-2005 academic years. These pilot programs were aimed at identifying successful strategies to enhance the recruitment and retention of Black males in the respective USG institutions that were awarded funding. Resulting "best practice" information will be collected and shared within the University System and with external sources that continue to identify the USG as a model in this arena.

In **Round One** of the pilots, six USG institutions received \$10,000 each to implement and/or support new or existing individual programs (see <http://www.usg.edu/news/2003/041603-1.phtml>). In **Round Two** of the pilots, collaborative programs were funded in three strategic areas of the state: Atlanta, Albany and Savannah. Two USG "sister institutions" in each of the three locations were required to join together, along with a civic partner already engaged in work with Black males, on a single collaborative project. In all, six USG institutions received \$27,000 each for this phase of work – or \$54,000 per project – for their collaboration. (See news release on Round Two at <http://www.usg.edu/news/2004/062904.phtml>)

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:

The University System of Georgia will award a new round of AAMI pilot funding to USG institutions during the 2005-2006 Academic Year. New and existing programs are eligible for consideration. **Round Three AAMI Grants** will range from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Depending on the size of the grants, at least six projects will be funded.

In an effort to foster programs that have an ultimate goal of self-sustainability, institutions that seek grant awards must indicate their desire and ability to fully match the full amount of their award (e.g., \$30,000 grant must be matched by an institutional commitment of \$30,000). The institutional funding commitment may be partially shared with (not fully absorbed by) an involved civic partner or philanthropic entity. Funding proposals must specify how all of the funding will be utilized (both the AAMI award and the mandatory institutional match), and all funds also must be accounted for in the required evaluative reports.

This new funding requirement reflects the evolution of the pilot programs from an initiative that initially funded individual projects, then collaborative projects, and now is encouraging the development of projects with the potential for sustainability beyond the AAMI fund source.

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING PROPOSALS:

Funding proposals must address the following criteria:

- **Goals and Objectives:** How will the program enhance the recruitment, retention or graduation of black males?
- **Target Cohort:** Will the program serve Black males in the K-12 admissions pipeline or Black males already enrolled at USG institutions?
- **Specific/Documented Role of Civic Partner:** How will the initiative involve an organization/entity already engaged in work with African-American males in the institutional service area? (Official documentation required)
- **Proposed Outcomes:** What measurable barometer movement does the initiative seek to achieve? (e.g., increased Black Male enrollment in Fall 2006; increased enrollment of Black males in college-prep curriculum of partnering school; increased performance of Black males on the SAT exam in the partnering school district)
- **Requested Funding Amount and Institutional Match:** Cite the specific amount of the grant being requested, which must be matched equally by institutional/partner sources.

PILOT GOALS/POTENTIAL INITIATIVES:

AAMI pilot grants are aimed at providing operational funding to establish or support specific collaborative programs that will increase the recruitment of African-American males and their retention and graduation from USG colleges and universities.

Funding preference will be given to those programs which will offer measurable strategies to address the following challenges: expanding the number of Black males enrolled in the College Prep Curriculum (CPC) in Georgia high-schools; increasing Black males' success in academically rigorous and CPC-prerequisite courses (e.g., pre-algebra, science, English, foreign language, etc.); standardized test preparation; academic intervention and support programs; targeted summer bridge programs; learning community initiatives; programs that enhance Black males' successful orientation to the college experience and their subsequent retention; and communications-driven initiatives, aimed at Black males, their parents and other influencers, which support institutional goals for the targeted population.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:

All funding requests must be received in the University System Office by **September 30, 2005**. Submissions should be directed to:

Arlethia Perry-Johnson
Associate Vice Chancellor for Media & Publications
Project Director, AAMI
270 Washington Street, Room 7052
Atlanta, Georgia, 30334
Phone: (404) 656-2250
Fax: (404) 651-9301
Email: Arlethia.PerryJohnson@usg.edu

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Institutional officials will be notified of their receipt of an AAMI Award on or about October 24, 2005.

EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS:

An evaluative report must be submitted by the presidents of awarded institutions (or their designee) at the end of the 2005-2006 Academic Year, specifying the outcomes of the funded project. **The deadline for the report will be June 16, 2006.** If the work of the project/program will continue through the summer months, a preliminary report should be submitted by the initial deadline date, with a final report submitted not later than September 29, 2006.

The mandatory reports should address the following points:

- The specific programmatic initiatives to which the funds were directed;
- Number of and details regarding the cohort of African-American males impacted by the funding;
- Specific evaluation and measurement strategies used to assess the effectiveness of the project/program and the resulting data collected from such assessment regarding project/program outcomes;
- How the program's successes are being shared with other University System institutions; and
- Recommendations on how and at what cost the programs might be expanded/replicated to have additional impact on the institution's and the System's AAMI goals.

QUESTIONS:

Questions regarding the RFP process may be directed to Arlethia Perry-Johnson via e-mail or telephone.