Carolina Career Connected Learning RFP

PART 1: Intent to Apply (1-2 hours)

Thank you for your interest in the Carolina Career-Connected Learning RFP, powered by The Leon Levine Foundation. This initial application is designed to be a lighter-touch screening for aligned organizations and ideas. It should take 1-2 hours to complete. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a more detailed proposal via a Part 2 application. Please answer all questions to help us understand your organization's fit and readiness.

SECTION A: Organization Information

1. Organization Name:
2. Primary Contact:
3. Primary Contact Title:
4. Main Contact Email Address:
5. Organization Website:
6. Organization Address:
7. Organization Employer Identification Number (EIN):
8. Total Organizational Operating Budget (Current Fiscal Year) *Enter the total budget for your entire organization.*
9. List your organization's Top 5 donors for the last complete fiscal year with amounts. *Do not include contributions from federated donors (such as United Way), bequests, or government entities.*

SECTION B: Eligibility

10. **501(c)(3) Status:**
    ☐ Yes, we are a 501(c)(3) organization
    ☐ We have a fiscal sponsor
    ☐ No (ineligible)

11. **Annual Non-Governmental Revenue Over $500,000:** *Non-governmental revenue includes philanthropic donations, foundation grants, and earned income; it excludes federal, state, and local government funding. This $500k threshold must be reflected in your most recent IRS Form 990.*
    ☐ Yes
    ☐ No (ineligible)

12. **Geographic Focus:** *Our program serves students in:*
    ☐ North Carolina
    ☐ South Carolina
    ☐ Both
    ☐ Neither (ineligible)

13. **Does your organization currently serve low-income students in Grades 9–14 or first-gen college students?**
    ☐ Yes
    ☐ No (ineligible)

14. **Lead Applicant Structure (if applying with partners):**
    ☐ Sole applicant
    ☐ Lead organization in a multi-org partnership
    ☐ We are not the lead (ineligible)

15. **For Collaborators**: if applying as a partnership, please list your key collaborators (e.g., specific school districts, employers, nonprofits, etc.).

SECTION C: Research Data
Please note that the information provided in Section C will be used by TLLF's Research & Evaluation team to better understand our applicant pool and improve future grantmaking processes.

16. **How did you first hear about this RFP?** (select all that apply)
    ☐ Email from a funder
    ☐ Website or newsletter (Please specify below)
    ☐ Social media
    ☐ Peer organization
    ☐ Professional network/listserv
    ☐ Other (Please specify below)

17. **If you selected "Website or Newsletter" or "Other," please specify**.

18. **Have you applied for funding from The Leon Levine Foundation before?**
    ☐ Yes
    ☐ No
    ☐ I don't know

19. **How many years has your organization been in operation?**
    ☐ 0–2
    ☐ 3–5
    ☐ 6–10
    ☐ 11–20
    ☐ 20+

20. **How many full-time employees does your organization have?** (Multiple Choice)
    ☐ 0–2
    ☐ 3–5
    ☐ 6–10
    ☐ 11–25
    ☐ 26+

21. **Does your organization have dedicated staff for data, evaluation, or learning?**
    ☐ Yes (full-time)
    ☐ Yes (part-time or shared role)
    ☐ No

22. **Which primary population(s) does your organization serve?**
    ☐ Children (0–11)
    ☐ Youth (12–17)
    ☐ Adults
    ☐ Seniors
    ☐ Families or Parents
    ☐ Specific demographic focus
    ☐ Other

23. **What is your organization's primary service area?**
    ☐ Single neighborhood

☐ Single county
☐ Multi-county region
☐ Statewide
☐ Multi-state

24. **What systems do you use for data collection?** (Multiple Choice)
☐ Excel
☐ CRM (e.g., Salesforce)
☐ Case management software
☐ Custom database
☐ No digital tracking

25. **Does your organization have formal policies to include community voices in decision-making?**
☐ Yes
☐ In progress
☐ No

SECTION D: Program Overview & Strategic Fit

26. **Problem Definition**: What specific problem or community issue is your program trying to address? Please describe the specific hurdles faced by the students you serve. (600 character max; roughly 100 words)

27. **Program Summary:** Describe the program for which you are seeking support. Detail the model of career-connected learning you employ, who it serves, program goals, how TLLF funding would be used, and the pedagogical or operational methods that make your approach a "breakthrough". (1800 character max; roughly 300 words)

28. **Total Project Budget** What is the estimated total cost of the specific program/project for which you are seeking funding?

29. **Approximate % of students served who are Low-Income:**

30. **Approximate % of students served who are First-Generation**:

31. **Target Population B:** Who will be served through this initiative? (Check all that apply)
☐ Middle school students (Grades 6–8)
☐ High school students (Grades 9–12)
☐ Early postsecondary students (Grades 13–14 / community college)
☐ Other (describe below)

32. **If you selected "Other" above, please describe**.

33. **Core Career-Connected Learning Components:** *Which program elements currently exist in your model?*
☐ Work-based learning (internships, apprenticeships, paid placements)
☐ Industry-recognized credentials for HS students
☐ Dual enrollment or strong HS–postsecondary pathways
☐ Employer engagement or co-designed curriculum
☐ Career exploration programming
☐ AI-driven or tech-enabled guidance

☐ First-gen family engagement
☐ Job placement support
☐ Other (describe below)

34. **If you selected "Other" above, please describe**.

35. **Labor Market Alignment and Connection to Workforce:** Identify the primary career pathways you prepare students for. Explain why these roles are high-demand or high-wage in your specific region and how they meet MIT Living Wage thresholds and are resilient to AI/automation. (600 character max; roughly 100 words)

36. **Outcome Snapshot**: Provide 1-2 "headline" outcomes that best demonstrate your program's impact on livable-wage career paths or postsecondary attainment. (1200 character max; roughly 200 words)

37. **Growth & Scaling Vision** Describe what you hope to expand, strengthen, or scale if funded. Articulate whether you intend to deepen impact in a single region or develop a replication model to reach other parts of North or South Carolina. (100 words). (600 character max; roughly 100 words)