

Carolinas Career-Connected Learning Challenge



Welcome!

While we wait to begin, please introduce yourself in the chat: Name, Org, Title, Location, and *Bonus: Who is your all-time favorite Super Bowl halftime performer?*



Asha Patel

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Program
Director

Our Story: Legacy With Urgency

Established in 1980 by Family Dollar Stores founder Leon Levine, our foundation has grown to \$2 billion in assets, nearly tripling in size since 2023

We're now the second-largest private foundation in North Carolina, among the top 10 in the Southeast, and in the top 75 nationwide



Our Impact: By The Numbers

\$590M
Total Grants

Awarded since our founding in 1980

\$101M
Record Year

Grants awarded in fiscal year 2025

400+
Grant Partners

Across North & South Carolina

Our Mission

Empowering Underserved Carolinians to be Self-Sufficient and Strengthening Our Jewish Community



STRONGER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Maternal and Early
Childhood Health
Early Childhood Education
Flourishing Families
Housing Stability
Mental Healthcare



FUTURES THAT WORK

Collaborative Health
Care Systems
Extended Learning
Career Connected Learning
Economic Security



VIBRANT JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Immersive Experiences
Leaders and Allies
Belonging and Vitality

The Why

Igniting Mobility Through Career-Connected Learning

In the Carolinas, only 31 out of 100 ninth-grade students in our public schools will graduate, enroll in college, and earn a degree or industry-valued credential within six years.

Only half of middle and high school students say they are learning skills relevant to the jobs they want, and only 29% believe their school is preparing them for the workforce.

This RFP is designed to surface, support, and scale breakthrough leaders and models that narrow the education-to-workforce gap in Grades 7-14.

This is an area ripe for innovation.



The What

Work-based and Career-Aligned Learning

Scalable Work Experiences

Industry-Recognized
Credentials

Flexible Academic Pathways

Modular & Competency-
Based Learning

Strategic Partnerships & Innovation

Industry-to-School
Integration

AI/Tech-Supported Career
Exploration

Seamless Educational
Transitions

Regional Alignment

First-Gen & Community Support

Holistic Family Engagement

Direct Job Placement

Community-Connected
Learning

Our Goals



**Put more high
schoolers on
pathways to livable
wage jobs**



**Improve
outcomes for
low-income
students**



**Build career-
planning
continuity across
Grades 7-14**



**Encourage
employer
co-design**

The Who

501c3 orgs, including:

- Nonprofit Organizations
- K-12 Public School Districts
- Community Colleges
- Universities

Financials: Minimum of \$500,000 in non-governmental contributed revenue (per latest IRS Form 990)

Geography: While orgs can be based anywhere, the project must serve students in North or South Carolina

Focus: Programs must currently serve students in Grades 7-14 or first-gen college students, with a primary focus on low-income populations

Prioritizing orgs that aren't current TLLF partners, though current partners with compelling new collaborations are welcome to apply

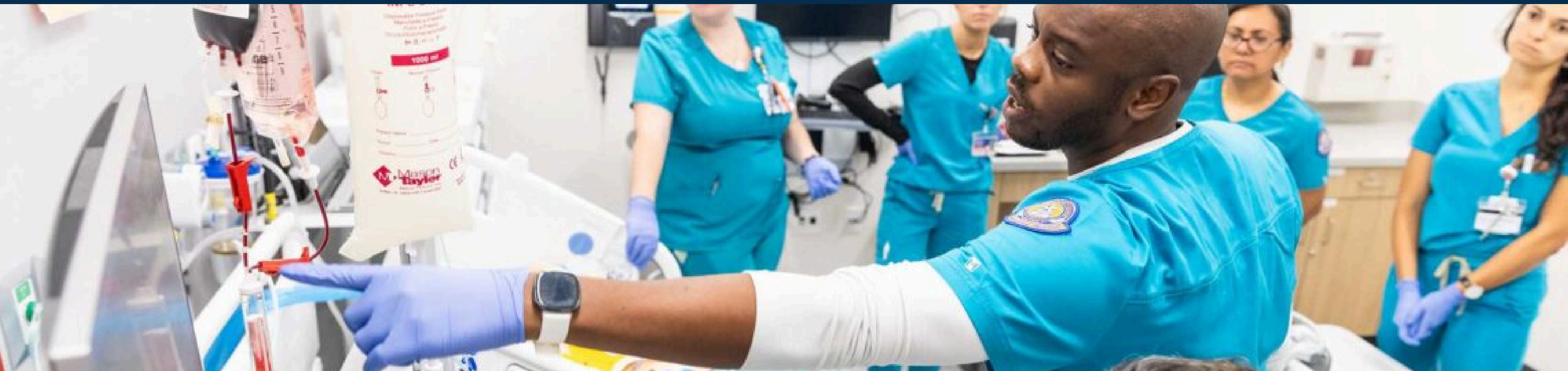
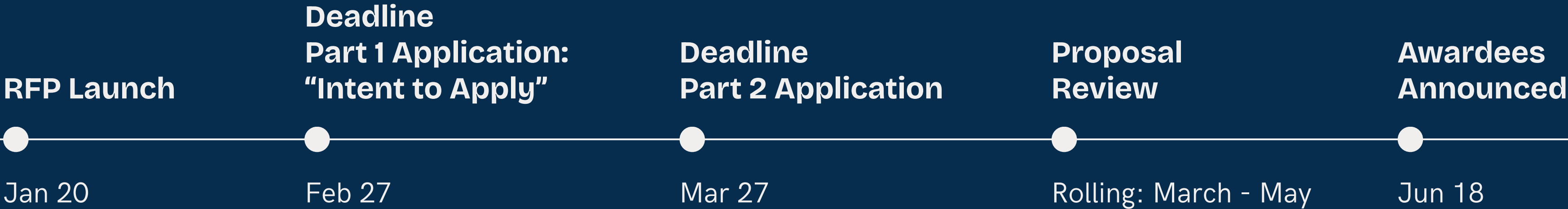


Funding \$2.5M

**We are offering up to \$2.5M
in total general operating
funding**

**Grant Size: Unrestricted 1-
year grants up to \$500,000,
Most funded concepts will
be awarded between
\$125,000 and \$250,000**

Timeline



Q&A

To ask a question, please
use the Zoom buttons below
to either raise your hand or
submit via the Q&A box

