

**Northwest Georgia Housing Authority—Rome, GA****Grant Amount: \$100,000****Purpose of the ROSS for Education Program:**

The ROSS for Education program (also known as Project SOAR (Students + Opportunities + Achievements = Results)) is a new demonstration program reflecting HUD’s commitment to expand educational services to youth living in HUD-assisted housing. Research shows there are large gaps in college attendance by family income that are not driven by level of preparation. A key barrier to college attendance is that low-income youth are least likely to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even though they are most in need of financial aid.

The ROSS for Education program provides grant funding to public housing authorities to deploy education navigators to provide individualized assistance to public housing youth between the ages of 15-20 and their families in FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, post-secondary program applications and post-acceptance assistance.

Grantee Project Summary:

The average annual net income for Northwest Georgia Housing Authority (NWGHA) households is \$11,580. By contrast, the median income for residents of the counties NWGHA serves are \$41,046 and \$39,121, respectively. Few NWGHA parents ever attended college, and many did not complete secondary education. A majority of residents in NWGHA live in poverty. Such data point to the relationship between education and income, the need for increased educational opportunity for those living in public housing in the region and, in turn, the ROSS for Education grant.

Using its ROSS for Education Grant, NWGHA plans to employ one part-time Education Navigator to work with 80 public housing youth between ages 15-20. The proposed program is centered on having the trained Navigator working closely with prospective college students and their families to negotiate the sometimes complicated process of applying for college. The approach will emphasize close, personal interactions with prospective students, and their families and student peers to heighten motivation for success. Four specific goals have been developed: FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, post-secondary program applications and follow up counseling. To implement the grant, NWGHA will work closely with its partners including, Shorter University, Good Neighbor Ministries, Appalachian Housing & Redevelopment Corporation, and Georgia Northwestern Technical College.

FY2016 ROSS FOR EDUCATION GRANT AWARD

“Project SOAR”



Housing Authority of the City of Prichard—Prichard, AL

Grant Amount: \$106,049

Purpose of the ROSS for Education Program:

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The ROSS for Education program provides grant funding to public housing authorities to deploy education navigators to provide individualized assistance to public housing youth between the ages of 15-20 and their families in FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, post-secondary program applications and post-acceptance assistance.

Grantee Project Summary:

The Housing Authority of the City of Prichard has a very low rate of high school graduates. According to the US Census Bureau, only 76.1 percent of Prichard’s residents have a high school diploma and 90.4 percent of the city’s population does not have a college degree. The cycle of poverty and financial deficiency is positioned to continue unless Prichard’s youths can earn higher education to support higher incomes. According to a recent news article, Prichard’s county alone accounts for 15 percent of the failing schools in the whole state of Alabama. In addition to a high rate of failing schools, college enrollment for Prichard’s local schools is equally as poor. Only 15 percent of the residents attend school at Mobile County’s local colleges. Given these conditions, there is a significant need the ROSS for Education grant in Prichard.

Using its ROSS for Education Grant, the Housing Authority plans to employ one part-time Education Navigator who will commit to serve 101 youths between the ages 15-20 and their families. The program approach will be to offer high-school and college-age youth additional support in completing the necessary steps for enrolling in post-secondary education, including completing the FAFSA, addressing other potential barriers to college attendance that may impact low-income youth more than their higher-income counterparts (i.e., limited financial literacy and college readiness) and assisting with the complicated post-secondary application processes as well as the transition into the first year of education after acceptance. To implement the grant, the Housing Authority will work closely with its partners including University of South Alabama, Bishop State Community College, Mount Hebron Church Ministries, 100 Black Men and Consumer Credit Counseling Services, M.T. Blount High School Alumni Association, Mobile Community Action, Mobile Work, and Urban Financial Service Coalition.



“Project SOAR”

Housing Authority of the City of High Point—High Point, NC

Grant Amount: \$156,938

Purpose of the ROSS for Education Program:

The ROSS for Education program (also known as Project SOAR (Students + Opportunities + Achievements = Results)) is a new demonstration program reflecting HUD’s commitment to expand educational services to youth living in HUD-assisted housing. Research shows there are large gaps in college attendance by family income that are not driven by level of preparation. A key barrier to college attendance is that low-income youth are least likely to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even though they are most in need of financial aid.

The ROSS for Education program provides grant funding to public housing authorities to deploy education navigators to provide individualized assistance to public housing youth between the ages of 15-20 and their families in FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, post-secondary program applications and post-acceptance assistance.

Grantee Project Summary:

Census data shows that 70.3 percent of City of High Point’s population does not have a bachelor’s degree or higher. College enrollment for the local schools is equally as poor, with less than 3% of residents attending school at any of the local colleges. The problem is not just academic but is also the inability to pay the cost of attendance. Because the average annual income of a High Point public housing resident (\$16,375) is less than the lowest cost to attend a local college, then it is unlikely for a resident to send their child to college or to even attend college themselves. Accordingly, public housing families with college-ready and near college-ready youth need assistance to find financial revenue streams such as Pell grants, loans, and scholarships to help them pay for college expenses. Given these conditions, the need for a ROSS for Education grant is great.

Using its ROSS for Education Grant, the Housing Authority of the City of High Point plans to employ one part-time Education Navigator to work with 347 public housing youth between ages 15-20. The program approach will be to offer high-school and college-age youth additional support in completing the necessary steps for enrolling in post-secondary education, including completing the FAFSA. It will also address other potential barriers to college attendance that may impact low-income youth such as limited financial literacy and college readiness, assist with the complicated post-secondary application processes and the transition into the first year of education after acceptance. To implement the grant, the Housing Authority will work closely with its partners including, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater High Point, Guilford Technical Community College, United Way of Greater High Point, Operation Xcel, Guilford County Schools, Family Service of the Piedmont, Inc., Communities in Schools, and Middle College at GTCC High Point.

FY2016 ROSS FOR EDUCATION GRANT AWARD

“Project SOAR”



Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles—Los Angeles, CA

Grant Amount: \$452,000

Purpose of the ROSS for Education Program:

The ROSS for Education program (also known as Project SOAR (Students + Opportunities + Achievements = Results)) is a new demonstration program reflecting HUD’s commitment to expand educational services to youth living in HUD-assisted housing. Research shows there are large gaps in college attendance by family income that are not driven by level of preparation. A key barrier to college attendance is that low-income youth are least likely to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even though they are most in need of financial aid.

The ROSS for Education program provides grant funding to public housing authorities to deploy education navigators to provide individualized assistance to public housing youth between the ages of 15-20 and their families in FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, post-secondary program applications and post-acceptance assistance.

Grantee Project Summary:

For many households in the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) English is not the primary language and youth have parents whose education level does not exceed high school or have a high school diploma or its equivalent. A low percentage of youth come from families that have individuals who hold a post-secondary education degree. As an aggregate, youth demonstrate low graduation rates and even among those who graduate there is a lower number of students that qualify for or attend college. Across the high schools, the average cohort graduation rate is 71 percent with less than 45 percent of these students qualifying for state universities. Fourteen percent of students do not graduate on time and there is a 15 percent cohort dropout rate. Further, there is a diminishing number of students who will or even can matriculate to college with such statistics stacked against them.

Using its ROSS for Education Grant, HACLA plans to employ three full-time Education Navigators to serve up to 250 public housing youth ages 15-20. In partnerships with SoCal CAN and LA Chamber of Commerce Unite LA, College Resource Hubs will be established with a designated Education Navigator. These hubs will provide college planning resources, computers, workshops, and drop-in advising. Education Navigators will provide individualized counseling, peer engagement, personal and digital summer outreach through phone calls and text messaging. Students will be connected to Level Up, their regional college success program, further connecting a cohort of other low-income, first generation students headed to their campus and pairing them with an upperclassman who will serve as an ambassador. This peer and near peer model demonstrates transfer rates of 90 percent, which is three times the national norm.

FY2016 ROSS FOR EDUCATION GRANT AWARD

“Project SOAR”



Housing Authority of the City of Seattle—Seattle, WA

Grant Amount: \$452,000

Purpose of the ROSS for Education Program:

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The ROSS for Education program provides grant funding to public housing authorities to deploy education navigators to provide individualized assistance to public housing youth between the ages of 15-20 and their families in FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, post-secondary program applications and post-acceptance assistance.

Grantee Project Summary:

For the 2014-15 school year only 67 percent of Housing Authority of the City of Seattle (SHA) residents graduated from high school compared to 76.3 percent of students district-wide. Data demonstrates that only 29 percent of SHA residents completed the FAFSA and that SHA students are not improving at the rates expected, a trend that will continue to be compounded as an increasing number of jobs in Seattle require advanced degrees. In addition to assistance in completing FAFSA, SHA youth need credit retrieval, social and emotional support, and a clear path (not necessarily limited to a four-year college degree) that leads to a job that pays living wages.

Using its ROSS for Education Grant, SHA plans to employ three full-time Education Navigators to work with 427 CHA public housing youth between ages 15-20. The Navigators will help determine students’ goals and strengths, provide regular coaching and mentorship, and help youth work toward their goals. It will be the aim of each Navigator to meet the youth where they are, help them find their path, and move towards goals that make sense for them. The ROSS for Education grant will help youth choose and follow the post-secondary route that works for them, including university, community college, trade or technical school or other paths. To implement the grant, SHA will work closely with its partners including, Seattle Public Schools, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Catholic Community Services, East African Community Services, SafeFutures Youth Center, and United Way of King County.

FY2016 ROSS FOR EDUCATION GRANT AWARD

“Project SOAR”



Philadelphia Housing Authority—Philadelphia, PA

Grant Amount: \$300,356

Purpose of the ROSS for Education Program:

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The ROSS for Education program provides grant funding to public housing authorities to deploy education navigators to provide individualized assistance to public housing youth between the ages of 15-20 and their families in FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, post-secondary program applications and post-acceptance assistance.

Grantee Project Summary:

Data shows that on-time school graduation rates from neighborhood high schools in Philadelphia ranged from 36-64 percent. The average dropout rate for 13 neighborhood high schools exceeds 45 percent. A large contingent of Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) youth lives in North Philadelphia and attends the high school with the lowest graduation rate, Strawberry Mansion High, which was shown on 60 Minutes as the most dangerous high school in the United States. Matriculation to college of the graduates from the high school ranges from a low of 15 percent to a high of 30 percent. Guidance counselors, traditionally responsible for assisting with college preparedness, FAFSA completion and related activities, have been cut significantly in recent years in schools with the highest concentration of at-risk students. Such conditions indicate a clear need for an Education Navigator initiative in Philadelphia.

Using its ROSS for Education Grant, PHA plans to employ two full-time Education Navigators to work with 250 public housing youth between ages 15-20. Education Navigators will employ strategies to address and prevent participants from dropping out of school and encourage the goal of post-secondary education, as well as promote awareness and benefits of a college education and provide readiness and services to youth selected to participate in the program. This will encompass one-on-one academic advising, completing the FAFSA, and help with completing college and scholarship applications. To implement the grant, PHA will work closely with its partners including, Ceiba, Intercultural Family Services, Inc., Philadelphia Job Corps Life Sciences Institute, Philadelphia Youth Network, District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund, Center for Social Policy & Community Development, Urban League of Philadelphia, and The School District of Philadelphia.

FY2016 ROSS FOR EDUCATION GRANT AWARD

“Project SOAR”



City of Phoenix Housing Department—Phoenix, AZ

Grant Amount: \$452,000

Purpose of the ROSS for Education Program:

The ROSS for Education program (also known as Project SOAR (Students + Opportunities + Achievements = Results)) is a new demonstration program reflecting HUD’s commitment to expand educational services to youth living in HUD-assisted housing. Research shows there are large gaps in college attendance by family income that are not driven by level of preparation. A key barrier to college attendance is that low-income youth are least likely to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even though they are most in need of financial aid.

The ROSS for Education program provides grant funding to public housing authorities to deploy education navigators to provide individualized assistance to public housing youth between the ages of 15-20 and their families in FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, post-secondary program applications and post-acceptance assistance.

Grantee Project Summary:

Many of the City of Phoenix Housing Department (CoP) families are facing intergenerational poverty and have lived in low-income public housing throughout their life. Most of the youth qualify for FSA but need guidance on how to apply. The majority of the youth are students in the Phoenix Union High School District. Data shows that approximately 30% of the students who enter 9th grade will never graduate and of those who do graduate, only 44% pursue a post-secondary education and few are likely to complete it. Data also shows the following for residents of the targeted sites: 10.9-26.8 percent have completed less than 9th grade education, 10.7-13.7 percent have no high school diploma, 20.3-28 percent graduated high school (vs. 86 percent at the state level), and 8.7-20.8 percent have a bachelor’s degree (vs. 27 percent at the state level). The ROSS for Education grant will assist CoP in breaking the cycle of poverty through an increase in youth entering college as first-generation students.

Using its ROSS for Education Grant, the City of Phoenix Housing Department (CoP) plans to employ three full-time Education Navigators to work with 250 to 298 public housing youth between ages 15-20. Education Navigators will build relationships with youth and their families, reach out to students who are out of school, not enrolled in post-secondary education or at risk for drop out, and provide help with identifying self-sufficiency goals, identify alternative schools or GED programs and help program participants complete and submit their FAFSA. To implement the grant, CoP will work closely with its partners including, Phoenix Public Library, City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation, Friendly House, Greater Phoenix Urban League, Kickstart Mentorship Academy, Phoenix Revitalization Corporation and Worthy Institute, LLC, Housing Supportive Services, College Depot, Phoenix Union High School District, New Pathways for Youth, Maricopa Community College Dual Enrollment Program, City of Phoenix Office of My Brother’s Keeper, and Achieving a College Education Program.

FY2016 ROSS FOR EDUCATION GRANT AWARD

“Project SOAR”



Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee—Milwaukee, WI

Grant Amount: \$81,800

Purpose of the ROSS for Education Program:

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The ROSS for Education program provides grant funding to public housing authorities to deploy education navigators to provide individualized assistance to public housing youth between the ages of 15-20 and their families in FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, post-secondary program applications and post-acceptance assistance.

Grantee Project Summary:

The average annual income for a family of four in the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee’s (HACM) developments is just over \$18,000, 85 percent of HACM households are headed by a single female, and one-third of HACM’s adult residents do not have a high school diploma. Families do not have a tradition of investment in academic achievement, much less the pursuit of post-secondary education. Understanding the importance of the FAFSA plus completing the paperwork is challenging to most parents, but if the family is not fully prepared for the paperwork, the task may either be put off to the last minute resulting in errors, or not completed at all. Milwaukee’s Public School (MPS) system has one of the lowest FAFSA application rates in the State of Wisconsin. The latest data for FAFSA for MPS indicates that Milwaukee’s largest public school district, MPS, shows only 38 percent of the enrolled high school seniors as of June’s 2014-2015 school-year had completed the FAFSA application. Such conditions show the need for a ROSS for Education Grant.

Using its ROSS for Education Grant, HACM plans to employ one part-time Education Navigator to work with 208 public housing youth between ages 15-20. HACM has developed an education initiative model of support and intervention that encourages academic success. The approach will focus on college readiness, financial literacy, post-secondary application issues and transitioning into the first year of post-secondary education. The success of the program will rely on direct contact with each student and their family. The Navigator will work directly with each student and their family, to offer support and assistance, including visiting homes to encourage the family to set up and maintain a study area, and working with parents/caregivers to ensure that the student stays in school. To implement the grant, HACM will work closely with its partners including, Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Community Learning Centers.

FY2016 ROSS FOR EDUCATION GRANT AWARD

“Project SOAR”



Chicago Housing Authority—Chicago, IL

Grant Amount: \$452,000

Purpose of the ROSS for Education Program:

The ROSS for Education program (also known as Project SOAR (Students + Opportunities + Achievements = Results)) is a new demonstration program reflecting HUD’s commitment to expand educational services to youth living in HUD-assisted housing. Research shows there are large gaps in college attendance by family income that are not driven by level of preparation. A key barrier to college attendance is that low-income youth are least likely to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) even though they are most in need of financial aid.

The ROSS for Education program provides grant funding to public housing authorities to deploy education navigators to provide individualized assistance to public housing youth between the ages of 15-20 and their families in FAFSA completion, financial literacy and college readiness, post-secondary program applications and post-acceptance assistance.

Grantee Project Summary:

Overall, Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) youth lag slightly behind their Chicago public schools peers on several high school indicators, including freshman on-track rate, standardized test scores and post-graduation college enrollment. Data also shows only about half of CHA high school seniors who graduate on-time enroll in college the fall after their graduation. This data reveals how important individualized assistance is to support a student’s academic success in both applying for and selecting a college and the follow up to reduce enrollment barriers.

Using its ROSS for Education Grant, CHA plans to employ three full-time Education Navigators to work with 750 CHA public housing youth between ages 15-20. Education Navigators will provide key support in areas that will increase both initial enrollment and continuous enrollment through to graduation. The approach will draw from the Department of Education’s evidence-based GEAR UP program. GEAR UP, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, directly impacts participants’ college readiness, financial literacy and post-secondary program application completion within the school setting. To implement the grant, CHA will work closely with its partners including, Northeastern Illinois University’s Center for College Access and Success, City Colleges of Chicago, Chapin Hall Collaborative and Thrive Chicago.