

**Early-Phase Competition Absolute Priority 4 (SEL)
Jobs for the Future Inc.
S411C220150
On-ramp to Postsecondary Transitions (OPT)**

Applicant Name: Jobs for the Future

Project Title: On-ramp to Postsecondary Transitions

Type of Grant Requested: Early-Phase

Absolute Priorities the Project Addresses:

Absolute Priority 1—Demonstrate a Rationale (Early), Moderate (Mid), Strong (Expansion)

Absolute Priority 4-- Field-Initiated Innovations—Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs

Competitive Preference Priorities the Project Addresses:

Competitive Preference Priority 1—Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities

Competitive Preference Priority 2-- Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Students, Educators, and Faculty

Total number of students to be served by the project: 1,200

Grade level(s) to be served by the project: 9-11

Your definition of high-need students: Low-income students, students of color, disengaged youth, and/or students most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

Brief description of proposed project, including project activities: OPT builds on proven dual enrollment (DE) strategies and combines strategic DE with work-based learning (WBL) and a college and career navigation course (CCNC). Major activities include an OPT Blueprint, program of study maps, a strategic WBL Toolkit, community asset maps, and technical assistance.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: OPT will measurably improve student achievement and attainment by: 1) expanding the number of schools creating OPT opportunities; 2) implementing a CCNC, strategic DE aligned to promising postsecondary credentials, and WBL aligned with labor-market demand; 3) fostering cross-sector partnerships to provide high-needs students with a comprehensive continuum of services (CCS); and 4) disseminating promising practices and learnings.

Describe how the proposed project is innovative: OPT will develop and demonstrate promising new strategies for accelerating HS completion and boosting college and career readiness by building on and braiding together existing evidence-based strategies, including DE, WBL, college and career navigation supports, and the provision of a CCS. OPT will contribute to knowledge of the effects of strategic DE aligned to pathways; iterate on existing strategic DE designs in combination with WBL, a CCNC, and a CCS; and foster innovative cross-sector partnerships that support student success and equity.

Identify other studies and/practice related to the proposed project: February 2017 What Works Clearinghouse Intervention Report, Dual Enrollment Programs, IES

Proposed implementation sites: OPT partners will develop a competitive RFP to recruit 40 high schools from across Colorado that will then be randomly assigned to treatment and control conditions.

List all organizations partnering with this project: Jobs for the Future, Colorado Succeeds, NORC