**Request for Proposals for Lesson Study Support**

The McDougal Family Foundation invites proposals from Chicago public schools for financial support for using lesson study to improve teaching and learning. Grants will cover **only** the following expenses:

* substitutes to provide time for lesson study activities;
* an honorarium of $140 per teacher per lesson study cycle (up to 5 teachers per cycle, up to 2 cycles per teacher).

“Lesson study activities” includes but is not limited to the following activities: research and planning; observing research lessons at other schools; teaching, observing, and discussing the research lesson; and writing the post-lesson reflection.

Within 14 days after each research lesson, the planning team will be expected to send to the foundation by email a report consisting of the lesson research proposal (lesson plan) with a post-lesson reflection describing what was learned from the teaching of the lesson and from the discussion (approximately 3 paragraphs). The report may be posted to a public website (e.g. http://LessonStudyGroup.net) at the discretion of the foundation. The honoraria for the teachers are payable upon submission and acceptance of the report.

Grants **will not cover** any other expenses. Examples of **excluded** expenses are

* out-of-school time for teachers;
* fees or honoraria for knowledgeable others;
* registration fees for conferences;
* transportation;
* materials.

Such expenses must be covered by other funds.

The foundation accepts both “learning grant” and school-wide proposals. Learning grants are intended for schools with no prior experience with lesson study. These grants will provide support for a single lesson study cycle, and will typically be in the range of $6000. School-wide grants are intended for schools seeking to use lesson study as a year-long, systemic process. These grants may be in the range of $12,000 to $20,000. School-wide proposals that include use of common planning time will be favored.

Grants funds will be made available through the Children First Fund. All activities should be completed by May 31, 2017 to ensure that reimbursements can be processed before the end of the school year.

A sample budget and timeline for elementary schools can be accessed at **http://tinyurl.com/pjd3x8q** ; a sample budget and timeline for high school can be accessed at **http://tinyurl.com/ngp9wlw** . A sample learning grant budget and timeline is at http://LSAlliance.org/public\_docs/sample\_learning\_grant.xlsx

**The proposal should be signed by all participating teachers and by the school principal.** Please submit to:

Peter Mich

McDougal Family Foundation

737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1040

Chicago IL 60611-7014

312-255-0916

PMich@McDougalFamilyFdn.org

Proposals are **due by June 6, 2016** and grant awards will be made by June 30.

Lesson Study Alliance (<http://LSAlliance.org>), a Chicago-based non-profit organization, has agreed to provide any technical assistance they can at no charge to first-time grantees. The foundation encourages grantees to make use of their support, but doing so is not required.

**Resources**

Applicants who are new to lesson study should familiarize themselves with the process before applying. We suggest the article “CLR: A powerful form of Lesson Study” at <http://LSAlliance.org/clr-a-powerful-form-of-lesson-study> . In addition, there will be information sessions at several schools; see <http://LSAlliance.org/grants> for details. Finally, several Chicago schools have acquired significant experience with lesson study, and welcome inquiries. See <http://LSAlliance.org/chicago-lesson-study-schools> .

Other questions? Contact Peter Mich, [PMich@McDougalFamilyFdn.org](mailto:PMich@McDougalFamilyFdn.org), 312-255-0916.

**Application for Lesson Study Support**

Please use as much space as needed to provide the following information. **By June 6,** please send the proposal, budget, and materials to:

Peter Mich

McDougal Family Foundation

737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1040

Chicago IL 60611-7014

312-255-0916

PMich@McDougalFamilyFdn.org

1. Name and address of school:

2. Primary contact person’s name, title, email address, and phone number (include summer contact information):

3. What problem of student development does the school hope to address through lesson study?[[1]](#footnote-1) For what content area(s) will lesson study be used? (1-4 sentences)

4. What history does the school have using lesson study? (1-4 sentences)

5. What training or experience has the staff had with lesson study? (1-4 sentences)

6. Who will be involved?

7. Who will serve as the knowledgeable other[[2]](#footnote-2) to help maximize staff learning from lesson study? Describe that person’s qualifications and her/his experience with lesson study and explain why you have chosen her or him. (2-4 sentences)

8. Who will be invited to observe the research lesson(s)? (Inviting outside observers is optional. Teams doing their first research lesson may wish to invite only school colleagues.)

10. Please describe your plan of activities in narrative form. (1-4 paragraphs)

11. Please attach a budget and schedule of activities, clearly showing how substitutes or other coverage will be used. The budget can include costs that will be borne by the school. A sample budget and timeline for elementary school is available at http://tinyurl.com/pjd3x8q . A sample budget and timeline for high school is available at http://tinyurl.com/ngp9wlw .

12. Please affix the names and signatures of participating teachers and of the school principal. Also attach brief (1- or 2-sentence) bios of each participant.

1. Lesson Study is most powerful when used to seek a solution to a broad issue in student development that might be addressable through changes in teacher practice. Example: “How do we develop students who will argue mathematically with each other, in line with Standard for Mathematical Practice #3 of the Common Core?” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A knowledgeable other is an independent person respected by the planning team who has deep expertise in the content and pedagogy being studied, and ideally, experience with lesson study. The person might be, for example, a university professor, a district content specialist, or a veteran teacher from another school. A knowledgeable other should be present for the teaching of the research lesson and the post-lesson discussion, and may also provide guidance during planning. Lesson Study Alliance, a Chicago-based non-profit, provides knowledgeable other services for mathematics, and can help locate experts in other content areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)