

**Best Buy Foundation
National Partner Career Pathway Request for Proposals
September 4, 2018**

Best Buy Foundation Ignites Potential through Technology

For half a century, Best Buy has been a catalyst for the rise of technology as a means to improve virtually every aspect of our lives.

Technology know-how is crucial for young people preparing to enter the job market for the first time. Nearly 80% of jobs over the next decade will require tech skills. Best Buy is committed to giving underserved teens hands-on access to the tech education and tools they need to be prepared for the tech-reliant jobs of the future.

We open the door to opportunity with technology training and tools that transform underserved teens from consumers to creators – a new generation of engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers, designers and dreamers.

National Partner Overview

To prepare underserved teens for the tech-reliant jobs of the future, the Best Buy Foundation seeks national nonprofit career pathway partners that generate interest and awareness in tech-related careers; improve access to training, credentialing, and employment; and support tech career progression.

Our goal is to help underserved teens obtain the tech skills and training they need to be prepared for a successful career. For more information on Best Buy's Community Relations, visit:

<https://corporate.bestbuy.com/community-relations-overview>.

Grant Overview

Best Buy is searching for national organizations with a demonstrated track record in career pathway programming to build tech skill proficiency as well as provide career readiness and employment opportunities for underserved teens.

Best Buy's national Career Pathway program takes place at Best Buy Teen Tech Center locations across the nation. The program components include: 1) Hard-skills training; 2) Soft-skills training; 3) Work-based Learning Experiences (e.g. job shadows, career panels, etc.); and 4) Internship Placement.

All career pathway nonprofit applicants must ensure their program is at a minimum of 9-12 months of programming, which includes skills training and work-based learning experiences as well as an internship placement for the youth at the end of the program. Best Buy is seeking national nonprofit organizations with multiple locations nationwide to allow for current or future programming in a variety of cities across the country.

Each Best Buy Teen Tech Center location will have a designated part-time staff member to help implement the career pathway program at the local level.

The primary responsibilities of the Best Buy Teen Tech Center location include:

- Working with schools and other community-based organizations to build awareness of the program to drive youth participation.
- Ensuring access to teens from underserved communities.

- Working in collaboration with the national career pathway partner to provide on-the-ground programming to Best Buy Teen Tech Center youth based on the national partner's curriculum.
- Enabling participation of Best Buy employees to serve as volunteers.
- In collaboration with national career pathway partner, recruit local companies/subject-matter experts to provide work-based learning experiences for youth, including internships.

National Career Pathway Partner Eligibility Criteria

Best Buy invites national career pathway nonprofits that have a fundamental commitment to youth, ages 16-21, to apply for funding.

Required eligibility criteria include:

- Providing curriculum and training for Best Buy Teen Tech Center staff to implement career pathway program at the local level.
- Creating a toolkit for the career pathway program that would be able to be implemented by the Best Buy Teen Tech Center staff.
- In collaboration with Best Buy Teen Tech Center, recruit local companies/subject-matter experts to provide work-based learning experiences for youth, including internships.
- Attending quarterly national partner calls to exchange best practice, consider collaboration efforts and share resources.
- Driving the partnership by taking initiative to set-up additional meetings with Best Buy staff to ensure grant deliverables are being met.
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with a proven track record of serving youth ages 16-21.
- Demonstrated track record in engaging youth at the local level who have been disconnected from education and careers.
- Commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- Opportunities for local Best Buy employees to participate in the program as volunteers.
- National nonprofit organizations with multiple locations nationwide to allow for current or future programming in a variety of cities across the country.
 - Ability to conduct programming in at least 1-5 cities across the country. Preferred locations include the locations of our Best Buy Teen Tech Centers, including but not limited to: Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Jersey City/NYC, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Oakland, San Antonio, San Diego, Seattle and Washington D.C.
- Desired programs will have the following components:
 - Rigorous tech-related curriculum, mentorship, and soft and hard skills training for youth over a 9-12-month period (programming must take place for a minimum of nine months);
 - Use technology to develop skills in a wide range of track areas: 3D design, arts (must include tech components), augmented reality, automotive (tech components), coding/programming, computer repair/help desk, cyber security, entrepreneurship, graphic design/photography, digital marketing/media, digital music/audio production, gaming design, mobile apps, multi-media production, retail, robotics, software engineer, video/film production, virtual reality, etc.
 - General career-readiness training such as resume prep, mock interviews, etc.*
 * NOTE: Best Buy is also seeking a provider for solely the soft-skills portion of the career readiness curriculum that could be used at all Best Buy Teen Tech Centers. The curriculum would be integrated into all career track curriculum.
 - Align training with regional labor market needs to ensure youth gain relevant skills and engage youth in work-based learning opportunities (i.e. job shadows, career panels, etc.);
 - Engage youth in an internship opportunity at the end of the career pathway program.

- Grantees are expected to participate in and/or support evaluation efforts including interviews with key program staff, youth participant surveys (including collection of consent forms from participants' parents/guardians), and internship supervisor/employer surveys.
- Success metrics will include: developing skills for tech-reliant jobs; achieving a degree or credential with real value in the current labor market, gaining employment with self-supporting wages, and/or having opportunities for further education and career advancement.
- **Other preferred program components include:**
 - Pathways from high school to post-secondary/tech-related credentialing programs;
 - Opportunities for dual enrollment/college credits for underserved teens completing high school;
 - Offer digital badging as a credential for engaging in the career pathway program;

Required Elements of the Proposal: Please include in online submission

Proposals will be evaluated and competitively ranked by a review committee from Best Buy. The review committee may choose to conduct a site visit or conference call as part of the selection process. The overall comprehensiveness, quality and clarity of the proposal will be taken into consideration.

Please submit proposal online via this link -www.cybergrants.com/bestbuy/NationalGrantquiz. Make sure to address each requirement below in the section that corresponds to the online application. The grant will be to support the operation of the program for one-year from date of implementation. Grant recipients will be eligible to apply the following year for funding based on demonstrated success.

Contact/Organization Information - General information on proposal contact and organization.

Proposal Information - Program title; grant amount requested; program start-/end-date; activities; student progress/tracking; program outcomes including: increased knowledge of technology, increased interest in technology, technology skill development, workforce readiness, formation of mentors, increased awareness of and interest in tech-related careers, increased youth employment, increased likelihood/attainment of high school graduation and college enrollment, increased likelihood of post-secondary degree/certification completion in tech related fields, increased opportunities for further education and career advancement, increased likelihood of internship/apprenticeship/placement/completion in roles utilizing tech skills, increased likelihood of degree or credential with real value in current labor market, increased likelihood of employment with family/self-supporting wages, attainment of internship/apprenticeship in tech related field; Program focus, locations, impact; and volunteer opportunities.

Demographics Information - Program youth outreach, ethnicity, gender and ages.

Finances - Organization budget, program budget, additional funding sources and funding sustainability plan.

Authorization - Diversity and Inclusion/Non-discrimination Policy.

Proposal Deadlines and Administrative Information

Grant Awards	Program grants (no general operating) typically range from \$100k to \$350k
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Grant Period	Up to one year of funding. Organizations demonstrating success are eligible to apply for future funding in subsequent years
Proposal Due Date	Proposal must be submitted no later than 5:00pm EDT on Monday, October 1, 2018
Final Submissions	www.cybergrants.com/bestbuy/NationalGrantquiz
Proposal Requirements and Information	Proposals must be submitted electronically
Notification Date	Thursday, January 31, 2019
Additional Information	https://corporate.bestbuy.com/community-relations-overview/
Contact	CommunityRelations@BestBuy.com

National Partnership RFP Webinar Details

Best Buy will host a webinar to provide an overview on the National Partnership RFP on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. CT.

[Join Webex meeting](#)

Meeting number: 967 243 303

Call-in number: 1-888-844-9901

Access Code: 6021682

Can't join the meeting? [Contact support.](#)