



Request for Proposals (RFP): Regional Collaboration Grants

Overview

Campus Compact's **Regional Collaboration Grants** invest in member institutions working together to strengthen civic and community engagement within their local and regional ecosystems. As a national coalition, Campus Compact believes many of today's most pressing challenges are experienced locally and require collaborative, locally rooted solutions. These grants provide seed funding for members to convene partners, develop shared strategies, pilot collaborative initiatives, and strengthen regional partnerships that advance higher education's public purpose while contributing to broader national priorities.

The goal of Regional Collaboration Grants is to spark enduring regional collaboration. Seed funding enables members to build relationships, strengthen regional networks, test innovative approaches, and lay the foundation for future partnerships and investment.

Funding Opportunities

Tier 1 Planning & Network Development Grants (Up to \$1,500)

- Supports planning, convening, partnership development, network mapping, community conversations, and exploration of shared priorities. Designed to be a low-barrier opportunity for members to bring people together, explore an idea, strengthen relationships, or begin developing a regional collaboration.

Tier 2 Capacity-Building & Implementation Grants (\$1,501–\$5,000)

- Supports pilot initiatives, collaborative implementation, shared infrastructure, and other activities that strengthen regional capacity. Represents a larger investment, so applicants are asked to provide additional project detail and

may access a broader range of Campus Compact support during implementation.

Eligibility

To be considered for funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Institutional Membership:** Applicants must be from a Campus Compact member institution in good standing (e.g. dues paid for the upcoming year). *Check your member status [here](#). The lookup includes, when available, your institution's primary liaison to Campus Compact (aka, Campus Champion). Champions will be notified of grant submissions.*
- **Co-Applicant:** All applications must include a co-applicant from a **different** Campus Compact member institution. (e.g. dues paid for the upcoming year). *Check your co-applicant's member status [here](#).*
- **Applicant Role:** The lead and co-applicants must have clear institutional affiliations and be current faculty, staff, or administrators at the institutions that hold the Campus Compact Membership.
- **Participation:** Participation in the projects supported by this grant need not be restricted to Campus Compact member institutions. In fact, we encourage applicants to invite participation from across their regional contexts. Student participation is also encouraged.
- **Collaboration:** Meaningful collaboration with community-based organizations or other regional partners is strongly encouraged.

Timeline

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with a strong preference for submissions received on or by **September 30, 2026**. Any proposal received after September 30th will be considered while funding remains. Proposals received after funding is exhausted will be considered for funding in Spring 2027, when we anticipate another funding opportunity.

All projects funded through this opportunity must be complete and materials submitted by May 31, 2027.

Funding Priorities

Regional Collaboration Grants are intended to catalyze ongoing regional partnerships rather than support one-time activities. **All proposals should demonstrate the potential for continued collaboration beyond the grant period** by describing how relationships, networks, or initiatives will continue after Campus Compact funding concludes.

In addition, preference will be given to projects that align with one or more of the following priorities:

- **Strengthen Regional Networks & Long-Term Partnerships:** Projects bring institutions, community organizations, and other partners together in ways that build relationships beyond a single event or activity. We are particularly interested in collaborations that create the foundation for sustained regional engagement.
- **Address Local Manifestations of National Challenges:** Projects respond to issues facing local communities while contributing to broader conversations and solutions related to civic and community engagement, democracy, student success, or higher education's public purpose.
- **Create Opportunities for Shared Learning Across Institutions:** Projects generate ideas, practices, resources, or lessons that can be shared with other Campus Compact members through presentations, communities of practice, the Virtual Hub (*coming Summer 2027*), HEDEX, or other coalition spaces.

Application Requirements

Campus Compact aims to keep application requirements proportional to the amount of funding requested. All applicants will provide the core information needed to understand the proposed collaboration. Tier 2 applicants will provide additional detail appropriate to the larger investment and scope of work. Please use the proposal template below for the written portion of your application.

Application Materials & Templates	
On-Line Application	Click here
Proposal Template	Click here

Budget Template	Click here
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Requirements for All Applicants

1. Project Overview

Provide basic information about your proposed collaboration, including:

- Project title
- Funding tier requested
- Lead institution and primary contact
- Co-applicant institution and contact
- Requested funding amount
- Project period/Timeline
- Two- to three-sentence project summary

2. Regional Opportunity & Proposed Collaboration Description

Briefly describe:

- The regional opportunity, challenge, or need you seek to address.
- What you propose to do with the grant funding.
- Why collaboration among institutions and/or community partners is an appropriate approach.

Suggested maximum: 250 words

3. Alignment with Funding Priorities

Identify at least one Regional Collaboration Grant funding priority that your project advances & briefly describe how the proposed work advances the selected priority or priorities.

- Strengthen Regional Networks & Long-Term Partnerships
- Address Local Manifestations of National Challenges
- Create Opportunities for Shared Learning Across Institutions

Suggested maximum: 150 words

4. Statement on Continued Collaboration

Regional Collaboration Grants are intended to catalyze ongoing relationships rather than fund isolated activities.

Briefly describe what you hope happens after the grant-funded activity is complete. How could this project contribute to continued relationships, partnerships, or regional collaboration?

Suggested maximum: 150 words

5. List of Collaborators

Identify the institutions and organizations currently participating in or expected to participate in the project.

Partner Organization	Organization Type	Primary Role	Existing or New Partnership?	Commitment Status
University A	Member Institution	Project Lead	Existing	Confirmed
College B	Member Institution	Co-Applicant / Host	Existing	Confirmed
Community Foundation	Community Partner	Community outreach	New	Pending

6. Simple Budget

Provide an itemized budget identifying how grant funds will be used, being certain to reference the list of allowable expenses below. A budget template is included with the application template and is also available [here](#).

Allowable Uses of Funds

- Convenings and meetings
- Facilitation and speakers

- Stipends for students and/or community partners (should not exceed 30% of entire grant budget)
- Travel directly related to the project
- Planning and partnership development
- Communications and shared resource development
- Materials and supplies
- **Indirect costs and alcohol are not allowable expenses.**

Additional Requirements for Tier 2 Applicants

7. Expanded Project Narrative

The Project Narrative is your opportunity to describe both **what** you hope to accomplish and **why** regional collaboration is the right approach.

Provide additional information about:

- The anticipated outcomes of the proposed project.
- The strengths, expertise, or resources participating partners bring to the collaboration.
- How the proposed work will strengthen regional capacity or position the collaboration for continued work.

Suggested maximum: 500 words

8. Project Design & Collaboration Matrix

Complete the table below to summarize your proposed project. The goal is to show how individual activities contribute to stronger regional collaboration and advance one or more Campus Compact national priorities.

Major Activity or Milestone	Timeline / Target Date(s)	Campus Compact National Priority	Contribution to Regional Collaboration	Expected Outcomes (Outputs & Outcomes)	Related Budget Item(s)
<i>Regional planning summit</i>	<i>October 2027</i>	<i>Strengthen Regional Networks &</i>	<i>Four member institutions and three community</i>	<i>Output: 35 participants. Outcome: Regional</i>	<i>Meeting space (\$500) Catering (\$300)</i>

		<i>Long-Term Partnerships</i>	<i>partners develop a shared regional action plan and commit to ongoing collaboration.</i>	<i>steering committee established and shared priorities identified.</i>	
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9. Budget Narrative

Briefly explain how the proposed expenses support the activities and goals of the project.

Suggested maximum: 250 words

Campus Compact Partnership

Tier 1 applicants may request technical assistance from Campus Compact to strengthen their project.

Please indicate where assistance would be valuable.

- Promotion through Campus Compact channels
- Connections to peer institutions or national partners

In addition to the support above, Tier 2 applicants may request:

- Project planning and implementation support
- Facilitation or program design
- Speaker recommendations
- Communications and marketing support
- Event registration support
- Promotion through Campus Compact channels
- Virtual meeting technology
- Other support identified in consultation with Campus Compact

Requested support will be discussed with grant recipients and is subject to Campus Compact staff capacity and availability.

Communications & Recognition

Recipients agree to acknowledge Campus Compact's support in public communications related to the funded project.

This includes, when appropriate:

- Event webpages
- Registration materials
- Promotional materials
- Social media
- Press releases
- Presentation slides
- Resource materials produced through the grant

Campus Compact will provide approved logo files and acknowledgment language upon award.

Sharing What We Learn

Regional Collaboration Grants are intended to strengthen not only individual partnerships, but the broader Campus Compact coalition. Recipients may be invited to share lessons learned through presentations, Communities of Practice, HEDEX, the Virtual Hub (coming soon!), or other Campus Compact learning opportunities

Tier 1 Grant Recipients will submit:

- A brief summary of project activities and outcomes.
- A list of participants
- A list of grant expenditures.

Tier 2 Grant Recipients will submit;

- A final project report describing activities, outcomes, and lessons learned
- A list of participants.
- A brief learning reflection highlighting promising practices, challenges, and recommendations that may benefit other Campus Compact members.
- A final accounting of grant expenditures.

Additional reporting guidance and templates will be provided to award recipients.