

APPLY NOW AND JOIN THE: Propel SEL Professional Learning Community

Is your youth-serving organization interested in building capacity to embed social emotional learning (SEL) into your organization's daily work?

Apply to participate in the *Propel SEL Professional Learning Community!*

What is Propel SEL? *Propel SEL* is a 12-month action learning project for 2-4 person teams from organizations that offer out-of-school youth development and mentoring programs for youth in grades 6-12 in the 9 county metro to increase intentionality of social-emotional learning practices in their organization.

Benefits to your organization:

- Establish your own practice and reflection on social emotional learning.
- Work with staff, youth, and families to co-create shared understanding of SEL through use of toolkits and takeaways to use with your team.
- Create and implement strategies to integrate SEL into your program.
- Improve your ability to communicate your impact by determining a process for evaluating and/or reflecting on SEL within your program for continuous program improvement.
- Connect with colleagues and energize your staff team!

Why we're doing it: Our shared vision is that systems, programs and practitioners will support Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for youth through intentional practices that improve youth outcomes. As a result, more youth throughout the Twin Cities Metro will be socially and emotionally equipped and ready to succeed when they graduate from high school.

Propel SEL is grounded in an equity framework: Social and emotional skills tend to be more complex and nuanced in communities of color among youth, adults, and professionals in the field. They must navigate their own cultural landscapes as well as those of the dominant culture. This initiative aims to recognize and support those advanced skills. We also want to support the development of SEL in *all* communities in which this initiative is piloted, whatever their characteristics. We think that by building and sharing SEL knowledge across diverse communities, programs, organizations and networks, we can improve the lives of youth and youth workers while informing and influencing the field.

Who is making this happen? *Propel SEL* is a collaborative project **funded by Greater Twin Cities United Way and the Carlson Family Foundation**, and facilitated through a partnership between Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth, Ignite Afterschool, Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board and Sprockets with professional development design by the Youth Work Learning Lab and Minneapolis Beacons.

What is SEL?

Social emotional learning is the dynamic and complex process through which children, youth and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to:

- understand and manage emotions,
- set and achieve positive goals,
- feel and show empathy for others,
- establish and maintain positive relations, and
- make responsible decisions.

SEL is fundamental to:

- one's identity,
- health and well-being,
- ethical development,
- motivation to achieve, and
- academic learning.

Our social emotional development is formed within the context of our cultural identities.

Hosted by:



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Organizational Commitment

- Ability to assemble a 2-4 person Propel SEL organization team that includes a decision-maker (someone who can make budget and/or staffing decisions), a staff who supervises other full or part time staff and a staff person who works directly with young people. Some of these positions maybe overlapping in smaller organizations.
- Ability for all members of your Propel SEL organization team to participate in monthly 3 hour (9am-12pm) cohort sessions between February 2018-February 2019, with NO meetings June-August 2018.
- Ability to do planning work in-between meetings. This will most likely include incorporating SEL topics into staff meetings or discussing topics with other staff, engaging parents in SEL discussion or notifying them of your work, and engaging young people directly in your SEL planning and work.

Criteria, Directions to Apply and Selection Notification:

Two Propel SEL Professional Learning Communities will begin in February, 2018. Each cohort will include up to 30 participants from approximately 8-10 organizations. One cohort will include organizations that primarily operate in Minneapolis and Saint Paul and the second cohort will include organizations that primarily serve youth in all suburban communities in the 9-county metro.

The Propel SEL initiative is committed to equity and diversity in selection of organizational teams. We encourage both small and large organizations, public sector and nonprofit to apply. We also encourage culturally-specific organizations as well as those that serve youth from a broad range of cultural backgrounds to apply. The selection committee will look at the breadth and scope of organizations to ensure diversity of perspective and experience in each learning cohort.

- Participants must represent a public or non-profit organization that provides at least one mentoring or after school/summer youth development program in the 9-county Twin Cities metro for youth in any range between 6th and 12th grade.
- Participants must have explicit support from the organizations Executive Director, Chief Executive Officer or equivalent position (for large systems such as a school district or county library, or park and recreation system- the relevant department director, school principal, or branch director will suffice). Their name, email and phone must be provided in the application.
- The organization's Propel SEL Staff Team must meet all criteria listed in the "Organizational Commitment" section above.
- Financial resources should not prohibit participation. The application will include the option to request a need-based stipend to the organization to contribute to staff time, mileage, and other expenses.
- Organization's [must complete the on-line application no later than December 14th, 2017](#). Access the application [here](#).

Final decisions and notifications will be made by January 15th 2018.

Questions? Contact: Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth (Brooklyn Park/Brooklyn Center applicants) Ivan.Lui@brooklynsallianceforyouth.org, Ignite Afterschool (suburban applicants not in Brooklyn Park/Brooklyn Center) kari@igniteafterschool.org, Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board – Minneapolis Afterschool Network (Minneapolis applicants) phil.rooney@minneapolismn.gov, Sprockets (Saint Paul applicants) Jocelyn at jwiedow@ywcaofstpaul.org