Grant Title: CHARLES STEWART MOTT FOUNDATION

Funding Opportunity Number: N/A

Agency/Department: Charles Stewart Moss Foundation.

Area of Research: Improving educational policies & practices for children and families in low-income communities.

Release and Expiration: N/A

Application Deadline: Letters of Inquiry are accepted year-round.

Amount: Median grant size is in the $100,000 range. Majority of grants are between $15,000 and $250,000 annually.

Length of Support: Both single- and multi-year proposals are acceptable.

Eligible Applicants: Tax exempt 501(c)(3) status by the IRS is required for organizations.

Summary: The program area of Improving Community Education seeks to ensure that education serves as a pathway out of poverty by advancing systemic changes that improve educational policies and practices, particularly for children and families living in low-income communities. Funding is made under three objectives: community-driven reform, vulnerable youth, and learning beyond the classroom. Grant-making for community-driven reform works from the premise that unequal education is both a cause and an effect of poverty. The Foundation support groups working to address the causes of inequitable education: powerlessness, lack of opportunities, poverty and its effects, high dropout rates, achievement gaps, and inadequate schools. The grant-making seeks to strengthen the field of education organizing by identifying and expanding use of best practices, drawing attention to the educational impact, and increasing the number of participants and supporters. The Foundation seeks effective community-driven reform strategies that increase student achievement across entire school districts and at the state or regional level. The Foundation makes grants: to support community organizations working for community-identified reforms at the district, state or regional levels; for research and technical assistance to community organizations involved in education reform; and to support a six-year, eight-site study of community-driven reform and student achievement. Grant-making under the vulnerable youth objective is centered on improving the reconnection points to education for dropouts and near dropouts. The Foundation is focused on strengthening and improving program models, policies and field efforts that create successful and multiple pathways for vulnerable youth who have dropped out of school and not connected to relevant systems. The Foundation seeks policies and practices that ensure that vulnerable youth are prepared for college and careers. The Foundation makes grants: to organizations providing programs that ensure dropouts can connect to pathways that lead to a diploma, postsecondary options and labor- market success; to organizations and institutions advancing policy innovations to ensure that public systems serve dropouts and other underserved students more effectively; and to support efforts that bring greater attention to the needs and issues of dropouts and students at risk of dropping out of school. Learning beyond the classroom seeks to provide optimum opportunities for academic support and enrichment for young people to learn and develop both in school, summer, and after school. Central to this effort are partnerships between school and community-based organizations and other local institutions. The Foundation seeks sustainable, community-driven learning opportunities that support both academic achievement and positive youth development throughout the school-day, summer and afterschool hours, especially for poor and minority students. The Foundation makes grants: to organizations and institutions providing research, evaluation and documentation of effective practices; to organizations to build systems and structures to support public policy and professional development of school-day and afterschool educators and leaders; and to organizations to raise public awareness and develop public policies aimed at increasing funding and implementing effective school/community partnerships and programs.

Detailed Information:
http://www.mott.org/about/programs/pathwaysoutofpoverty/improvingcommunityeducation.aspx