2016 Grant Guidelines
Empowering Families to Help Children Thrive

**Funding Priority:** Empowering Families to Help Children Thrive

**Funding Type:** Unspecified

**Funding Amount:** $10,000

**Funding Locations:** Applicants’ work must demonstrably benefit, but need not be limited to, the Boston neighborhoods of Mission Hill, Fenway, Roxbury, and/or the South End.

Our Funding Priority
Northeastern Students4Giving will award a grant of $10,000 to an organization empowering at-risk and under-represented families to help children thrive. Applicants must engage parents, guardians, and/or caregivers through clinical or non-clinical direct services focused on building skills and strategies within the family that help children and youth achieve successful outcomes. Programs or services may be offered in or out of the home and may include, but are not limited to: new parent and teen parent mentoring, advancing literacy and early childhood development strategies in the home, building children’s self-esteem and positive self-identity, constructive conflict resolution and interpersonal communication skill development, nurturing pro-social behaviors, drug and violence resistance strategies, resource advocacy, nutritional counseling, and college process coaching. These examples are illustrative, not exhaustive.

We will favor applicants that:

- Use strengths-based and culturally appropriate approaches to foster resiliency, strengthen protective factors within the household, and address ecological risks.
- Have demonstrated expertise in working with at-risk and under-represented populations.
- Employ evidence-based methods consistent with positive psychosocial development.
- Recognize and celebrate the diversity of family configurations in which children can thrive.
- Are community oriented.
- Work collaboratively with public agencies, other nonprofits and community organizations, schools, and other stakeholders to align services to support the whole family and the whole child.
What We Will Fund
Applicants must demonstrate an existing commitment and expertise relevant to this funding priority. The grant may be applied to a need of the organization’s choosing, including program support, operating and administrative expenses, or capacity building. Applicants will be asked to:

- Specify how they intend to use the grant.
- Explain how it will contribute to the organization’s ability to empower families to help children thrive.
- Explain how they will know whether the grant has been used successfully.
- Explain the rationale for initiating a new program, if applicable.
- Provide lessons learned and evidence justifying the continuation of an existing program, if applicable.

We look favorably on applications from organizations working collaboratively with public agencies, other nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders, but we will award the funding only to the applicant.

Eligibility
Applicants must adhere to the following eligibility requirements:

- NS4G will only fund registered 501(c)(3) organizations.
- As part of their selection process, students will conduct a limited number of site visits to organizations advancing to the final round of consideration. Applicants must be willing to host a site visit and be accessible via public transportation.
- At the conclusion of the grant period, the recipient will be asked to submit a report on their use of the grant.
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion within their organization and populations served.
- Applicants must adhere to comprehensive non-discriminatory practices in hiring and providing services.
- Faith-based organizations may apply, provided that the purpose of the grant is not to advance or promote a particular faith or worldview.
- *Past recipients of NS4G grants are not eligible to apply.*

Our Decision-Making Framework
We engage in a rigorous review process to identify organizations that demonstrate:

- Clarity of purpose and a deep understanding of the need(s) being addressed and the community being served.
- Credible strategies for achieving and measuring impact.
- Fiscal responsibility and sustainability.
- Sound management and governance.
Application Process
We hope that our application process will benefit all applicants by exposing them to a larger pool of funders. Therefore, we ask applicants to complete a two-step process:

1) Submit a brief Grant Application directly to NS4G. The application is available at [www.northeastern.edu/impactlab/2016-application](http://www.northeastern.edu/impactlab/2016-application).

To learn more about our rationale for working with The Giving Common, please visit our FAQ at [www.northeastern.edu/impactlab/grantmaking-faqs](http://www.northeastern.edu/impactlab/grantmaking-faqs).

Important Dates and Contact Information
- The NS4G application and Giving Common profile must be completed by March 11, 2016. Please allow sufficient time for your Giving Common profile to be processed. We recommend submitting your information to the Giving Common by February 12, 2016.
- Grant awards will be announced in early April 2016.
- For more information about the Giving Common and support for completing your profile, please contact Leigh Handschuh, Nonprofit Effectiveness Program Associate, at leigh.handschuh@tbf.org or 617-338-1623.
- For more information about NS4G and our application process, please contact Rebecca Riccio, Director of the Social Impact Lab, at ns4g@northeastern.edu or 617-373-4020.

More About Us
Northeastern Students4Giving (NS4G) is a philanthropy education program that enables students to make a positive and lasting impact in the communities where we live and learn through grant making. We make grants to community-based nonprofit organizations that address critical economic and social challenges facing the Boston neighborhoods of Mission Hill, Fenway, Roxbury, and the South End. Through our grant making, we further strengthen the relationship between the Northeastern University community, our grantees, and the neighborhoods they serve.

Since 2008, students have used a consensus-based approach to manage all stages of the NS4G funding cycle, from conducting needs assessments through making grant determinations. Past funding priorities have included trauma treatment, diversity and inclusion, youth violence, households at risk due to financial insecurity, positive youth development, thriving families, intimate partner violence, post-incarceration reintegration, mental health, and policy and advocacy to support under-represented families. Our philanthropy is informed by coursework in human services and nonprofit management as well as many experiences students have had working and volunteering in the nonprofit sector. NS4G is advised by Social Impact Lab Director Rebecca Riccio and Human Services Director Lori Gardinier, MSW, PhD. Our decision-making is completely independent of any other relationships applicants may have with the university.

*Funding for NS4G’s grant making is provided by the Learning by Giving Foundation and other Northeastern University donors.*