



The Bridges Collaborative Cohort

What is the Bridges Collaborative cohort?

The Bridges Collaborative Cohort is a group of approximately 50 organizations (district, charter, and housing) committed to school integration in their own communities from states across the country that will develop expertise in messaging and communications, collaborate on problems of practice, and strategize on how to make their schools more diverse, rigorous, integrated and inclusive.

Who is eligible to join the cohort? How do you join?

We plan to launch a cohort of about 50 school districts, charter networks, and fair housing advocates in the Fall of 2020. Applications are available [here](#) as of Friday, June 26, 2020. Applications are due by 11:59pm PST on Friday, August 7, 2020. Applications are submitted by organization, and not by individual. The cohort is designed for 2-5 individuals from each organization. A cohort will be selected based on the strength of the application submitted.

How should an organization select the individuals for the cohort?

The Bridges Collaborative believes that team learning is more powerful than individual learning and has organized the cohort to include small teams from each organization. Organizations can designate between two and five individuals to be a part of the Bridges Collaborative.

The only requirements are that there be a minimum of two individuals and that one member is either the head of the organization (that is superintendent or CEO) or in the cases of very large organizations, a C-Suite-level employee (such as a chief of enrollment, deputy superintendent), and the second member should be the most senior member of the organization that deals directly with school integration and diversity initiatives. (In some districts, this will be enrollment officers, or innovation zone chiefs.) The remaining members (3-5) are recommended, but optional, and can be any individuals who add perspective to the school integration/diversity work the organization hopes to undertake. These can be policy advisors, chiefs of staff, principals, teachers, nonprofit partners, and so on. Organizations designate these individuals on their applications.

The requirements around membership are designed to enable high quality collaboration across organizations.

How long is the cohort experience?

The Bridges Collaborative cohort will participate in a two-year arc of collaboration and support that will feature three national convenings and a series of regional convenings, as well regular opportunities for online collaboration and access to trainings and resources from The Century Foundation.

What are the benefits of membership in the cohort?

Members will have the opportunity to collaborate with leaders from districts, charter schools, and fair housing organizations from across the country who are committed to school integration; access workshops, modules, presentations, and resources from school integration experts; and learn from high-quality poll-tested messaging and communications resources for advancing school integration.

Does being a part of the cohort cost money? Is there financial support?

There is no cost for the organizations that have been accepted as cohort members. There will be some limited financial support available for travel to convenings and accommodations. More details are provided to organizations that are accepted as cohort members.

When is the first event?

The cohort kickoff and first national convening will be virtual and will take place on Thursday and Friday, October 15 and 16, 2020.

How does COVID-19 impact the cohort?

In order to take all proper precautions relative to COVID-19, the first national convening will be virtual. We hope for future national convenings and events to be possible in person, but will closely monitor COVID-19 and take state and federal guidelines into account. We will ensure that we give timely information to our cohort members to allow for adequate planning.

Contact

For inquiries about the Collaborative, prospective membership in the collaborative or simply to connect with the director, email Stefan Lallinger at lallinger@tcf.org.