



Grant Opportunity – Convening, Training and Supporting a Community-Wide Intergenerational Leadership Team

What: Five communities will receive Bridges Together consultation, training and facilitation services to convene an Intergenerational Leadership Team so that they can initiate or expand an intergenerational initiative. Examples of programs may be found in the ABCs of Intergenerational Activities handout, which is available with other detailed plans in the Recipes for Intergenerational Success page of the Bridge Together website:

www.BridgesTogether.org/Programming

Who: Senior center staff with colleagues from at least four different departments/ organizations in town who want to increase intergenerational collaboration between adults 60+ and young people. Five communities will be selected.

Why: Many communities want to increase the number and nature of intergenerational events in their communities – from tutoring to art projects, mentorship programs to school-based learning, music and much much more. Generations United, the national umbrella organization for intergenerational collaboration, advocacy and programming, suggests that there is a continuum of intergenerational engagement. The goal of the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Bridges Together is to help communities move from one level of the continuum to the next. Here is the continuum:

- Learning about the other age group: i.e., telling children that older adults live in the apartment building next door to the school and informing the young people about the town's senior center and the types of services and fellowship activities that go on there.
- Seeing the other age group at a distance: i.e., this includes students coming in and out of the school and noticing older adults going in and out next door.
- Meeting each other: It is critical to encourage opportunities for meaningful engagement so that people can get to know one another. i.e., have an event where people will meet each other and have a conversation or participate in an activity. You can also open up some events at the senior center to other age groups.

- Annual or infrequent activities: i.e., this would include hosting a one-time or twice-a-year concerts with multiple age groups performing together.
- Demonstration or [pilot] projects: i.e., for a music program, have older and younger musicians learn the same songs separately, come together to practice them and then perform them in a joint concert.
- Ongoing Intergenerational Programs: i.e., continuing with the music theme, two options include 1) offering joint music lessons for old and young and 2) having an intergenerational chorus, band or orchestra that rehearses regularly and then performs together throughout the year.
- Creating Intergenerational Settings: i.e., sticking with music, do you have space that can be shared with performing groups from the other generation? Or... think big! Can you create a music center where people of all ages are able to practice and perform, with a spirit of community and getting to know one another?

How: Senior center staff and their colleagues will be expected to:

- Attend an informational webinar to be offered on August 1, 2016 at 12:30 PM and August 18, 2016 at 9:30 AM. Someone from the senior center must attend one of the two webinars with as many colleagues as they would like.
- Before September 30: Identify at least four partners (private organizations or town departments in the community); collect letters of intent from each partner on why they want to be part of this opportunity and what they will contribute to the overall effort. A coversheet with all letters must be emailed to Julie@BridgesTogether.org with "Community IG Leadership Team" in the subject line. Partner organizations can be town departments including libraries, park & recreation, schools, places of worship and/or community clubs such as the Junior Women's Club, Rotary, etc.
- October 7: Bridges Together will notify communities of the award.
- October 20 – December 31: Each member of the Community Intergenerational Leadership Team will attend a full-day workshop on the nuts and bolts of intergenerational programming. Each team will identify at least one new intergenerational opportunity they will implement.
- December 1 to about February 1: Team will meet with the Bridges Together intergenerational experts regularly to plan and organize the new program/activities/events. Bridges Together will be available for two webinars with your team so that you may receive support and feedback.
- December 1 – May 31: Hold the intergenerational event(s) or launch the new intergenerational program.
- February – June 1: During the Spring, each community team MUST create and gather material for a multi-media presentation on their event and the impact that it had as well as provide a short written report. These tools will be useful for

showcasing the project to others and encouraging its replication in other communities in subsequent years. Multi-media could include a short video or PowerPoint show.

Outcomes:

Older adults and young people will benefit from the new and/or enhanced intergenerational initiatives in their community. The Intergenerational Leadership Team will provide a multi-media summary of their work.

The cost of the project management and consulting services to be provided to each community, valued at \$4,400, is underwritten by the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging, under the Service Incentive Grant from the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs for Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017).

Letter of Intent

Each partner organization must submit a Letter of Intent that should include:

- *Initial* thoughts on what intergenerational projects the team might pursue.
- How the community will benefit and what they hope to achieve from this experience.
- How their organization or department will benefit from intergenerational programming.
- Description of previous intergenerational efforts.
- A clear statement that they will:
 1. Run at least one intergenerational program or event,
 2. Assure that the full project team will attend the full-day training,
 3. Meet regularly with the other Intergenerational Leadership Team members, and
 4. Provide a multi-media summary of their work and written report by June 1, 2017.

Submit the Letter of Intent packet to Julie@BridgesTogether.org with “Community IG Leadership Team” in the subject line by September 30, 2016.

Should you have any questions about this grant opportunity, please contact Julie Shaw at 978-793-9509.