



Training Grant Opportunity for Spring, 2019

You are invited to participate in a grant opportunity to bring a BRIDGES Intergenerational (IG) Program Curriculum to your community during Spring, 2019. Bridges Together will be awarding eight communities with a BRIDGES program of their choice. Preference will be given to organizations and schools that serve or are committed to including vulnerable populations: four in Massachusetts, Connecticut & Rhode Island as well as four in other states. This grant is made possible by Tufts Health Plan Foundation and The Retirement Research Foundation.

We have four BRIDGES program curricula from which to choose. Each involve older adults collaborating with children of different age groups. The four programs and their target ages for youth are:

- BRIDGES: *Our Stories* (K-3)
- BRIDGES: *Growing Together* (3-6)
- BRIDGES: *Our Smarts* (7-8)
- BRIDGES: *Lifelong Journeys*. (9-College)

The focus of BRIDGES is to provide shared experiences that lead to collaborative learning about aging as a lifelong journey. Details about these programs can be found in our *BRIDGES Program Curricula Suite Overview*. The BRIDGES Programs which support national educational standards have been running across the United States since 1991, involving more than 20,000 older adults and youth.

This grant is to pilot an online training platform to expand the reach of BRIDGES.

Timeline

- March 15th @ 11:59 PM: The grant application is due to Bridges Together.
- March 20th: You will be notified of the status of your application. If selected, your program will receive training materials for the BRIDGES program of choice.
- April 13th: The online six-hour BRIDGES training course must be completed by your team TOGETHER.
- June 21st: The six-week BRIDGES program must be completed.

- June 30th: A written report and pre and post surveys are due back to Bridges Together by this day.

Leadership Team

To help assure a strong BRIDGES program, we suggest that each community have a Leadership Team. The team completes the training together and then implements BRIDGES locally. The graphic below outlines the Team Members.

This grant requires a Leadership Team!

IG Champion:

Leads your BRIDGES Team. They are the main point person connecting Bridges Together and the Leadership Team members. They are often either the educator or volunteer coordinator.



2 Teachers at the same grade level OR 2 “Educators” (librarian, staff from a community center or afterschool program):

They teach BRIDGES about 1 hour per week for 6 weeks.

Volunteer Ambassador:

This older adult is part of the BRIDGES Leadership Team, supports the Volunteer Coordinator and volunteers in the classroom.

Volunteer Coordinator:

The point person who recruits, trains (at another time) and supports the volunteers.

Additional Members:

You are welcome to invite other people to join your Team such as administrators, parents, student leaders and/or funders. It is not necessary to have all BRIDGES Volunteers attend the training.

Training

The BRIDGES online training takes about 6 hours and will include:

- Team-building activities;
- Theories and best practices of effective IG programs;
- Volunteer management including recruitment;
- Related human development theories;
- The nuts and bolts of the specific BRIDGES program you chose.

In the past, this BRIDGES training was always conducted in person by a Bridges Together staff person. This grant is to pilot the online version of the training. **It is expected that the Leadership Team will complete the training together in one 6-hour session or two 3-hour sessions.** Also, **it is highly recommended that the Team share a meal together during the training.**

Expectations

We are excited about the prospect of collaborating with you but want to make sure that you understand:

- The six-hour BRIDGES online training course **MUST** be completed between March 20th and April 13th.
- The BRIDGES Program Curriculum must be run with the **same group** of young people for all six weeks.
- The BRIDGES Program in your community ideally will include at least 30 youth (2 classrooms is fine) with 2 volunteers per approximately 5 students. We recommend that the IG Leadership Team wait until after the training to recruit these volunteers.
- Part of this grant includes research on the efficacy of the program. As such, you will be expected to distribute and collect written surveys before and after the program. All written data must be returned by June 30th, 2019.
- Each program normally sells for \$5,000 but will be provided for your community at no charge to your organization. As part of the start-up, we will supply you with BRIDGES e-manuals on thumb drives plus any necessary picture books and music. You will be expected to provide nametags and art supplies such as markers, paper, etc.
- The majority of communities that implement a BRIDGES program on a pilot basis decide to expand their efforts in the future. Please note: Should you choose to expand, there will be minimal costs for training additional teachers and volunteer coordinators.
- It is expected that if the pilot program goes well, you will offer BRIDGES again in the future.
- Priorities will be given to Leadership Team that will include vulnerable participants. This includes older adults and youth who are isolated, at-risk in any way or suffering financially. NOTE: if you plan to include a social worker, outreach worker or guidance counselor who will pull in these participants, you may state this in your **Letter of Commitment**.

To Apply

1. You need one (1) BRIDGES Leadership Team Form signed by representatives from both the youth and older adult's organizations.
2. You need (2) two Letters of Commitment: one each from the youth's and the older adults' organizations or departments if they are within a library, community center or city structure.

Each *Letter of Commitment* should include:

- Your commitment to implementing a BRIDGES program on a pilot basis in the 2019 academic year.
- Why you want to offer a BRIDGES program in your community.
- How the participants are vulnerable.
- Your relationship with your children's /older adult's organization.
- That you expect the pilot will be successful and that you intend to offer the program again in the future.
- Letterhead
- The date
- Have the name and title of the organization's representative in the signature space
- Be sent as an attachment to an email
- Have a subject line that states: "Grant Opportunity for [YOUR COMMUNITY'S NAME]"
- Be emailed to: Andrea@BridgesTogether.org.

If you have ***any questions or concerns***, please contact Andrea J. Fonte Weaver at Andrea@BridgesTogether.org or 978-793-9509.