

***OCTAE Connection* Flash Edition**

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Arnold Foundation Calls for Proposals to Improve Higher Education System

The [Laura and John Arnold Foundation](#) (LJAF) announced the launch of a new [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) soliciting innovative ideas to improve outcomes for students in higher education.

LJAF is interested in funding research and evaluation projects testing interventions related to post-secondary success (including student learning, persistence, completion, time to completion, job placement, and post-college earnings). They are particularly interested in interventions that promise to improve success among underserved students, such as low-income students, students of color, adult students, and veterans. LJAF has committed up to \$10 million for these grants.

This RFP is soliciting two types of project proposals:

Innovation Tier: LJAF recognizes that many innovative ideas will not be ready for larger-scale evaluations of impact until they can be successfully piloted. Therefore, proposals are being solicited for small-scale pilot projects, supported by compelling logic, that faithfully implement and study postsecondary interventions.

Validation Tier: LJAF is seeking proposals to rigorously evaluate interventions that either have highly promising prior evidence or are widely implemented. These evaluations build policy-important evidence about “what works” to increase postsecondary success in a cost-effective manner. LJAF strongly prefers randomized controlled trials but under certain conditions may consider rigorous quasi-experimental evaluations with strong designs.

Letters of Interest are due by Jan. 31, 2019. To learn more about the criteria for proposals and how to apply, please read the [full description](#) on the LJAF [website](#).

Department of Education Extends Program to Defray Costs of Enrolling Displaced Students

The Department of Education is extending a program to provide funds to postsecondary institutions that enrolled displaced students affected by a covered disaster or emergency, namely hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and the wildfires in calendar year 2017. The program — [Defraying Costs of Enrolling Displaced Students](#) — helps to “defray unexpected costs in the areas of tuition, fees, and room and board (e.g., housing and meal plans) that have not already been reimbursed by a third party.” The application deadline for the

program, funded at \$75 million, has been extended through Dec. 31, 2018. More information about the program can be [found here](#).

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