

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Milgrom Computer Coding Fellowship Program Grant

January 3, 2022

Background

During his life, the late Hymen Milgrom donated substantially towards improving urban education, most significantly through the Urban Teacher Education Program at the University of Chicago, a program that has since progressed to a large scale with federal funding. The Hymen Milgrom Supporting Organization (HMSO), created with a \$17-million gift to the University of Chicago from the estate of Hymen T. Milgrom (AB, Accounting, '35), was established to seek ways that public education can help urban children become more highly skilled and more successful as adults.

In service of this, the HMSO launched several programs.

- The “Successful Pathways from School to Work” research initiative, launched in 2013, supports research that will help educators become more effective in fostering the skills, dispositions, and experiences essential for success in the modern labor market, as well as in society as a whole.
- The Milgrom Community Service and Innovation Fellowship for University of Chicago students, launched in 2018 focuses on helping improve the lives of disadvantaged children and youth in Chicago through education-related community service.
- The Milgrom Educational Innovation Challenge, launched in 2019, focuses on designing solutions to problems facing Chicago neighborhoods and communities by funding University of Chicago organizations to provide programming to University of Chicago students to work collaboratively with students from Chicago public middle schools and high schools high schools to generate entrepreneurial solutions to educational needs in local communities while building students’ academic, workplace and leadership skills with support from the grantee organization.

Building on the success of these initiatives, the HMSO is launching a new program focused on computer coding as a pathway to success. The **Milgrom Computer Coding Fellowship** will be focused on helping improve the lives of disadvantaged youth in Chicago and their opportunities for successful employment by developing their computer coding and programming skills beginning in the summer of 2022. The HMSO will give grants to University of Chicago organizations to enable them to provide an opportunity to local high school students to learn to code. We are now soliciting proposals from interested campus entities. This request for proposals describes the need for the training program the HMSO will fund for a maximum of 2 years beginning in 2022; the kinds of programming the grant will support; who may

apply; the likely duration and level of support for funded grants; the deadlines for submitting grant proposals; and the process by which proposals will be reviewed.

Training Program Goals

The HMSO invites proposals for a new Milgrom program that will provide youth in the Southside or other Chicago neighborhoods with tangible and portable computer coding skills that will be valuable to gaining employment in today's economy. By also drawing on the existing talent and expertise of University of Chicago undergraduates as mentors and trainers for the high school participants, we hope to involve a cadre of future leaders that are engaged in direct action to improve urban education and its outcomes. Grantees will receive funding to design and implement a program (or expand an existing program) that may provide high school fellows and mentors with the following:

- (1) Support for up to \$5,000 each for mentor stipends for a full-time summer internship, awarded through competitive application to the Milgrom Computer Coding Fellowship program
- (2) Limited material support for qualified high school participants (e.g., devices for the programming, transportation and/or other direct expenses.)
- (2) Mentoring to support the fellows' work in the program
- (3) Course work to prepare mentors and/or fellows
- (4) Post-fellowship support to reflect on and extend their program experience

Additional covered expenses might include:

- Limited administrative and supervisory support
- Other program costs (i.e. local transportation, costs for recruitment)

A detailed justification will be required of all budgeted items.

Grantees should give preference to undergraduate applicants as mentors to the Milgrom Computer Coding Fellowship. However, graduate students should also be permitted to apply for the program.

Who May Apply for the RFP

The HMSO will consider grant proposals from any University of Chicago office, department, division, school, or organization. All grants must have a UChicago entity as the principal recipient, however cooperation and partnerships with non-University of Chicago entities are allowed and encouraged.

Duration and Level of Support

The HMSO will consider applications for either one-year or two-year grants, for a grant period beginning in the summer of 2022. The maximum level of support is \$85K per year, for up to two years.

Guidelines for Proposal

The HMSO now seeks Proposals describing applicants' ideas for the new Milgrom Computer Coding Fellowship program. Applications should not exceed 7 single-spaced pages and should include the following information, in this order:

1. Background
 - a. Describe the prior work, current programs, and/or major achievements that make the applicant and/or organization(s) qualified to develop the proposed program. If this is a collaborative proposal, briefly name and describe the partners.
 - b. Describe relevant relationships with other organizations—both on and off-campus—that will help advance your goals for the proposed computer coding program.
2. Purpose of Funding Request
 - a. Title and 250 word summary of the proposed program and the coding skill set it will provide for participants.
 - b. Justify the “value added” of the proposed new program as compared to existing community and internship opportunities already available to University of Chicago students and local high school participants. Explain clearly how the program you propose differs from and improves upon these current offerings.
 - c. Explain the components of the program (e.g. coursework, mentoring, follow-up) and how they will address the coding program goals.
 - d. Describe how students will be screened and selected for admission to the program.
 - e. Explain clearly how the project will build the fellows' coding skills.
 - f. **Provide a contingency plan for possible COVID related delays or disruptions.**
3. Personnel
 - a. Briefly describe the proposed project's personnel, the roles each will play in the program, and, if known, the individuals anticipated to fill these roles.
 - b. Please designate the main contact for the proposal and provide contact details.
4. Evaluation
 - a. Describe the results you expect the program to achieve by the end of the funding period and your criteria for success.
 - b. Explain how you will assess the effectiveness of the program.
5. Time Schedule

- a. Proposed Start and End dates for award
 - b. Describe the timing and duration of key activities, including both planning/development and program implementation.
6. Budget
- a. Provide detailed budget (by year, if applicable) and itemized justification for your project
 - b. If appropriate, describe how the program will leverage existing campus resources and what new resources will be required to implement your plans.
 - c. If the total budget exceeds \$170K for two years, state the amount requested from the HMSO and explain anticipated sources of co-funding.

Application Process and Deadlines

Please include a brief CV for all key project personnel (Not included in page limits). Proposal and CVs must be received by March 20, 2022. Grant awards will be announced no later than April 29, 2022.

Questions related to the Milgrom Computer Coding Fellowship can be sent to Jodi Khan at jodikhan@uchicago.edu. Completed proposals should be submitted via <https://uchicago.infoready4.com>