



DESCRIPTION OF NATURE OF PARTNERSHIP

A partnership is an association between a grant applicant and educational stakeholder(s) in which the stakeholder agrees to provide human and material assets or access to academic and administrative resources to the grant applicant to develop or execute a Straight A Fund grant application. However, in a partnership, only the grant applicant is responsible for ensuring the grant is developed and executed according to the terms of the grant agreement with the Straight A Program Governing Board. Grant applicant partners are responsible only to the extent provided in their Partnership Agreement with the grant applicant.

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Straight A Fund throughout the state, applicants are encouraged to partner with education stakeholders. Each applicant must identify its partners and attach a description of each respective partner's roles and responsibilities.

Each member of the partnership is responsible for the following assurances:

1. Be knowledgeable about the applicant's Straight A Fund grant proposal and application, including advocacy of the Straight A Fund program.
2. Maintain familiarity with the partner's services to enhance the proposal, including specific goals and practices.
3. Demonstrate a commitment to clear roles and responsibilities of each partner as it relates to the grant proposal and application.
4. Sustain consistent communication among partners and stakeholders with a shared vision of the goals of the grant proposal. This includes participating in regularly scheduled meetings for project management and identifying areas for improvement.
5. Ensure partners have appropriate access to data for purposes of grant program improvement and evaluation in accordance with state and federal law.
6. Develop a clear project management plan to sustain the project over time.

Partnership Signatures

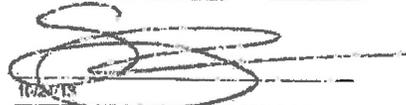
Applicant

Name: Stepstone Academy
 Title: Susan Hyland, Superintendent
 IRN: 013148
 Phone: 440-260-8891
 Email: susan.hyland@ohioguidestone.org
 Address: 2121 East 32nd Street
 City: Cleveland
 State: Ohio
 Zip: 44115

Sign: 
 Date: 10/25/13

Primary Partner

Name: Hanover Research Council, LLC.
 Title: Sidney Phillips, Senior Vice President of Development
 Tax ID/IRN: [REDACTED]
 Phone: 202-559-0053
 Email: sphilips@hanoverresearch.com
 Address: 1700, K Street NW, Suite 810
 City: Washington
 State: District of Columbia
 Zip: 20006

Sign: 
 Date: 10/25/13



Secondary Applicant (if applicable)

Name: _____
Title: _____
IRN: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____

Sign: _____
Date: _____

Secondary Applicant (if applicable)

Name: _____
Title: _____
IRN: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____

Sign: _____
Date: _____

Secondary Applicant (if applicable)

Name: _____
Title: _____
IRN: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____

Sign: _____
Date: _____

Secondary Partner (if applicable)

Name: OhioGuidestone
Title: Donna Keegan, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Tax ID/IRN: _____
Phone: 440-260-8338
Email: donna.keegan@ohioguidestone.org
Address: 202 East Bagley Road
City: Berea
State: Ohio
Zip: 44017

Sign: *Donna M Keegan*
Date: October 25, 2013

Secondary Partner (if applicable)

Name: _____
Title: _____
Tax ID/IRN: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____

Sign: _____
Date: _____

Secondary Partner (if applicable)

Name: _____
Title: _____
Tax ID/IRN: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____

Sign: _____
Date: _____



Project Overview – Stepstone Academy

In this document, Hanover Research provides a high-level overview of the research approaches that we will employ to meet Stepstone Academy's research needs.

INITIATIVE ONE: PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Hanover will work with Stepstone Academy to analyze current program offerings and the outcomes of each to inform elements that will be incorporated into the design of a survey instrument. Hanover will also review Stepstone Academy's network of partners so referrals may be made as one of the intended outcomes. Hanover will help identify which programs are best suited for different students and families based on the projected outcomes of the survey so that students and families may be better paired with each program.

INITIATIVE TWO: SURVEY DESIGN

Hanover will work with Stepstone Academy to incorporate the results of the analysis into the design of the Family Strengths Assessment to be conducted upon student enrollment with parents of Stepstone Academy Students. At a minimum, the survey instrument will gather:

- Sociographic information
- Demographic information
- Child's academic, emotional, and physical health readiness
- Parent's readiness to support their child's education (i.e. functioning regarding literacy, mental health, parenting, etc.)
- Barriers to school engagement
- Additional needs of children and families (information Stepstone Academy/OhioGuidestone can use to add/change available services to best meet family needs)

Outcomes (short-term):

- Engage Parents in school activities and in the children's education
- Connect families to services provided by OhioGuidestone and/or other community agencies
- Better prepare teachers and administrative staff to meet the academic, emotional and physical health needs of each student entering Stepstone Academy

Outcomes (long-term):

- Increased student attendance
- Decreased tardiness
- Improvement in academic outcomes

Note: Hanover is able to administer the survey online as another option for registrants. Administration of the survey is not considered a project and may be hosted alongside other projects in the sequential queue.

INITIATIVE THREE: SURVEY ANALYSIS

Hanover will analyze the results of the survey and summarize the results into a report (both a summary and long-form report for different stakeholders).

INITIATIVE FOUR: BEST PRACTICES OVERCOMING IDENTIFIED BARRIERS

After the survey has been conducted, Stepstone Academy may choose to leverage the findings to seek out other charter schools that have experienced similar challenges. Hanover may conduct research to help identify specific best practices in overcoming these challenges in order to learn from others' successes and failures.

INITIATIVE FIVE: NEW POLICY/PROGRAM TESTING

After reviewing best practices on how to overcome the barriers identified by the results of the survey analysis, Hanover has the ability to help design new programs by testing specific elements of potential programming. The research may answer questions such as, "How do we best introduce a new policy? How do we build stakeholder consensus? How do we best inform parents how to use this new resource?"

OhioGuidestone will provide IT assistance with creating a data collection system to record, store, aggregate, and report data from the Family Strengths Assessment.

By leveraging the information gathered on the perceptions of parents and stakeholders, Stepstone Academy and OhioGuidestone will have a firm understanding of the needs of families and how they translate to the programs they offer.