



# 2025 Student Basic Needs Michelson Spark Grant

## Letter of Interest

**Please provide the following information for your organization:**

**Name:**

**Mission:**

**Website:**

**EIN:**

**Is your organization registered as a 501(c)(3)?**

☐

Yes

☐

No

**Year of founding:**

**City and State:**

**Please provide the following information for your application's main point of contact if the grant is awarded:**

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Email:**

**Phone Number:**

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*The following questions allow us to learn about how your staff reflects the population you serve.*

**Is your organization led by someone who identifies as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color (BIPOC), LGBTQIA+, and/or a minority gender identity (e.g. cisgendered woman), non-binary (e.g. genderqueer, gender fluid, etc.), transgender, or is a member of an otherwise gender expansive identity?**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Choose not to disclose

**What percentage of your board (or other governing body) is system impacted? System impacted includes people affected in a negative way by their incarceration or of a close relative as well as those who have been arrested and/or convicted without incarceration.**

☐ <25% ☐ 25-49% ☐ 50-74% ☐ 75-100%

☐ Unsure ☐ Choose not to disclose

**What percentage of your organization's leadership is system impacted?**

☐ <25% ☐ 25-49% ☐ 50-74% ☐ 75-100%

☐ Unsure ☐ Choose not to disclose

**What percentage of your organization's staff is system impacted?**

☐ <25% ☐ 25-49% ☐ 50-74% ☐ 75-100%

☐ Unsure ☐ Choose not to disclose

**We welcome any comments or explanations about the demographic representation in your organization.**



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**Has your organization previously submitted a proposal for any previous Michelson Spark Grant round?**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

**Amount of funding requested for this grant:**

**Is your proposed project new or existing?**

☐ New ☐ Existing ☐ Existing with incremental impact

**Input grant period in number of months:**

**Will your project impact California students?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**Were students involved in developing this proposal and/or will they be involved in the execution if funded?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**If yes, please expand. (150 words)**



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**Select which focus area your project would address. Select all that apply**

- Systemic approaches and actionable strategies for higher education systems to address student housing and food insecurity. These can include, but aren't limited to:
  - Implementing and integrating policies, such as AB 79 (Basic Needs Implementation and Data Coordination) and similar legislation addressing student housing, food security, and financial stability.
  - Innovative approaches that facilitate the transfer of public benefits, housing supports, and childcare resources when students move between institutions.
  - Innovative and scalable financing and partnership models that address student housing and food insecurity
  - Policy advocacy efforts that systematically address housing and food insecurity
- Innovative approaches that strengthen equitable economic mobility and long-term student stability. These can include, but aren't limited to:
  - Expanding workforce development pipelines that promote economic mobility for low-income and first-generation students (including those that strategically leverage work study)
  - Supporting post-graduation housing and employment transition programs that extend basic needs support beyond college completion
  - Models that move basic needs operations from grant-based to sustainable, institutionalized systems with skilled, permanent staff (including innovative approaches that mitigate the impact of recent federal policy shifts)
  - Policy advocacy efforts that strengthen economic mobility and long-term student stability
  - Innovative and scalable financing and partnership models that strengthen economic mobility and long-term student stability



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**Select which focus area your project would address. Select all that apply**

- Systematic approaches that address basic needs insecurity via innovative Emergency Student Aid models. These can include, but aren't limited to:
  - Evaluating and scaling emergency aid and direct financial assistance programs to assess and ensure their long-term impact on retention, degree completion, and post-graduation stability
  - Scalable strategies to support students ineligible for state or federal aid
  - Innovative financing and partnership models that help scale and sustain emergency student aid
  - Policy advocacy efforts that systematically address emergency student aid

**Please provide an overview of the project you are proposing, including the amount of funding requested and usage of funds. Be sure to include which population(s) would be impacted by the grant. Please also include a proposed timeline for grant usage. (500 words max)**



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**Describe the three (3) metrics or Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) you are measuring as part of this project to gauge success of this program below.**

**Does your project have the potential to impact public policy? If so, how? (200 words max)**

**Please upload any related documents you would like us to review.**



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*The following questions allow us to learn about the population you serve.*

**What percentage of the population you serve is BIPOC?**

☐ <25% ☐ 25-49% ☐ 50-74% ☐ 75-100%  
☐ Unsure ☐ Choose not to disclose

**What percentage of the population you serve is LGBTQIA+?**

☐ <25% ☐ 25-49% ☐ 50-74% ☐ 75-100%  
☐ Unsure ☐ Choose not to disclose

**What percentage of the population you serve is system impacted?  
System impacted includes people affected in a negative way by their incarceration or the incarceration of a close relative, as well as those who have been arrested and/or convicted without incarceration.**

☐ <25% ☐ 25-49% ☐ 50-74% ☐ 75-100%  
☐ Unsure ☐ Choose not to disclose

**What percentage of the population you serve is economically disadvantaged?**

☐ <25% ☐ 25-49% ☐ 50-74% ☐ 75-100%  
☐ Unsure ☐ Choose not to disclose

**We welcome any comments or explanation about the demographic of the population you serve.**

**Is it important for you to receive grant funding within the accelerated turnaround of the Spark Grant program? If so, why? (100 words max)**



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**How did you hear about this grant opportunity?**

- ☐ Michelson 20MM Site ☐ Previous Familiarity with Michelson 20MM  
☐ Email Outreach ☐ Direct Referral from a Michelson 20MM Partner  
☐ Article/blog post ☐ Social Media ☐ Other

**Did you meet with our staff prior to submitting this LOI? While not required, we encourage you to share your idea with our staff in advance to gain insights into whether or not your proposal aligns with our funding priorities and how to maximize alignment.**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**How many hours did this LOI take to prepare and submit?**

**On average, how long does it take for your organization to receive a response from other funders on grant proposals?**

**Would you like to be added to the following mailing lists? Select all that apply.**

- ☐ Michelson Spark Grants ☐ Student Basic Needs Initiative  
☐ General Michelson 20MM Foundation

**Is there anything else you would like to tell us related to your proposal?**

