



MEP Teaching Fellows



Grow Your Own
Adult Pathway



Grow Your Own (GYO) Programs

- Partnerships between educator prep programs, school districts, & community organizations
- Recruit & prepare local community members to enter the teaching profession & teach in their communities
- Increase diversity of educators
- GYO Pathway for Adults
 - PELSB-approved teacher prep program
 - Grant recipient must use at least 80% of grant funds to provide tuition scholarships or stipends
 - District employees or community members affiliated with a district
 - Of color or American Indian
 - Who seek a teaching license

Overview of the Application Process

- Grow Your Own Committee met to discuss plan for application
 - Core Team met to discuss scope & general project ideas
 - All MEP districts were invited to designate representatives for the committee and team
- Some committee members attended MDE informational sessions to learn more about the grant
- 4 primary districts were selected based on data (percentage of students of color) – these districts were the only 4 in MEP who would earn near-maximum priority points, as set by MDE
- Faribault led the application writing
- Districts contributed data and information to application while the committee continued to meet
- Drafts were shared with all committee members, with follow-up committee meetings to provide feedback and decide on program framework
- Owatonna served as the official applicant

Grant Overview

- \$750,000 over 5 years (through June 2028)

GOAL: 15 individuals of color – at least 13 ultimately earn a teaching license

- Applicants from across 4 districts and in the region
- Must be current employees of one of the districts or reside in the district boundaries

MEP Teaching Fellows Model

- \$10,000/year for tuition support or stipends (determined by each Fellow)
- “Choice with Support” model – Fellows pick which MN college/university they attend (must be PELSB-approved program)
- Fellows meet every other week with a Navigator
- Each Fellow is also paired with a Mentor Teacher in the area of their teaching interest (preference for teacher of color); check-in monthly
 - Mentors paid \$1,500 for mentoring a Fellow throughout entire program (not per year).

All project decisions are made by the **MEP Teaching Fellows Council**

- Council must be majority individuals of color.
- Council must include community partners, parents, and students.
- In addition, the Council must have at least one administrator from each of the 4 (now 3 & 1 from W/LSH/TCU) districts, as well as a **total** of at least four teachers (one each from the early childhood, elementary, middle, and high school levels) and two support professionals (ex. guidance counselors, social workers, paraprofessionals, academic support coaches, etc.).
- Council members' is time paid by each district (not the grant).

Council Responsibilities

- Guide the overall direction of the project – **key decision-making entity**
- Assist with development & implementation of marketing efforts
- Develop application process
- Determine and implement process for reviewing applications
- Select Fellows
- Select individual or entity to serve as the Navigator for this project
- Review project data and suggest project/work plan adjustments based on data

Next Steps

- Establish MEP Teaching Fellows Council
- First actions of the Council will then include:
 - Create the application process
 - Implement marketing efforts
 - Lead bid process for Navigator
 - Select first round of Fellows