Transforming Institutions to Increase Student Success:

A collaborative technical assistance and learning opportunity
for APLU Powered by Publics Institutions

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the benefits and intended outcomes from this opportunity?

- This experience will provide an opportunity for a select group of leading Powered by Publics institutions to work together, with APLU, leading higher education policy and practices organizations and content experts to identify common challenges and capacity needs, share strategies to address needs and receive in-depth no-cost technical assistance in high impact areas including but not limited to: high quality digital learning, college readiness, affordability and advising redesign.
- Institutions will work with APLU and consultants to explore and identify specific needs as they relate to strengthening capacities to support student success and will build connections with and receive supports from an ecosystem of higher education content experts to address these areas and strengthen efforts already underway on your campuses.

How is this different from Powered by Publics?

- Powered by Publics provides institutions with collaborative learning spaces, both virtual and in-person, for campuses to engage in co-creation and continuous improvement in high priority areas related to degree completion and equity.
- The cohort selected for this opportunity will engage in deep needs assessment and receive customized technical assistance from content experts. This work is aligned with the learning hub topic areas of teaching and learning, holistic student supports, and affordability and will complement the efforts already underway through the Powered by Publics network as we learn and share throughout the project’s duration.

What types of technical assistance, programming and professional development/trainings would my institution receive?

- Services range in duration, anticipated time on task, depth of engagement and audience. Some are designed for specific groups such as advisors and faculty and focused on role specific challenges, others are designed for campus leadership teams to take an in-depth approach to changing policies and practices.
- Services will be customized collaboratively with participating institutions and content experts to meet the specific needs of institutions.
Examples of the types of services include faculty professional development coaching on course redesign, coaching and guidance with a cross campus team on redesigning placement policies and academic readiness policies to support student success in first year courses, or coaching for a team of advisors and advisor managers on implementing effective advising practices.

Are there guidelines for how we use the stipend?

- We encourage institutions to use the stipend to support their participation in this project. We will not ask institutions to develop a budget or report to APLU on how the stipend is used.

How much time will it take to participate? What will be the burden on my staff?

- Monthly cohort calls and in-person meetings: 1 hour per month, plus 2-3 hours of pre-work and follow up offline. One 8-hour in-person meeting each November, plus travel time.
- Institutional Transformation Assessment (ITA): Administered in Spring 2021. 1 hour per participant to complete the survey, plus 5-6 hours for the in-person facilitated sensemaking meeting and 2-3 hours of follow up discussion with leadership.
- Postsecondary Data Partnership (PDP): Estimates for Institutional Research staff range from 80-250 hours over a 2-3 month period to construct the cohort and course data files, submit data, and review dashboards. Leadership may also spend 3-4 hours reviewing the dashboards and participating in follow up discussions.
- Technical assistance and professional development services: Time on task will vary based on the depth of engagement, duration, audience and intended outcomes. Services will be tailored to meet the needs of institutions and could range from 5-7 hours over the course month for faculty to participate in webinars or trainings to 80-100 for a team to participate in a revision or implementation of a new policy or practice over the course of a year.

What are the data sharing expectations?

- Institutions will be required to submit data to the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Postsecondary Data Partnership (PDP) on a semi-annual basis.
- Selected institutions will sign a Data Sharing Agreement with the NSC to outline how the data will be shared.
- Institutions will also be required to participate in the Student Achievement Measure (SAM). SAM is a transparency initiative where higher education institutions track multiple cohorts of students across institutions to create a more complete picture of undergraduate student progress and completion within the higher education system. You may find additional information about SAM here: [www.studentachievementmeasure.org](http://www.studentachievementmeasure.org).
- Institutions are expected to share ITA assessment and PDP data with external organizations associated with the Intermediaries for Scale initiative, including (1) APLU, (2) American Institutes for Research (AIR), which serves as an independent evaluator of the IFS initiative and (3) the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).
• ITA data shared with these external partners will not include identifiers of the institution staff who submit ITA data. BMGF will receive aggregated PDP data, while student-level PDP data shared with APLU and AIR will not include student identifying information. Selected institutions must agree to work with the NSC to include APLU, AIR, and BMGF as authorized users of PDP data.

• The external partners will examine ITA and PDP data to facilitate learning across institutions and intermediaries included in the Intermediaries for Scale network and will work with APLU, your institution and content experts to identify appropriate technical assistance supports to meet your institutions’ needs. Data will not be used for commercial purposes, and BMGF will not use data to make funding decisions.

Who should I engage on my campus if we are to participate as a Proof of Scale cohort member?

• Leadership (president, provost, and diversity officer) to authorize activities such as the ITA, PDP, equity consultant, and service delivery.

• Campus student success team to participate in monthly calls and in-person meetings, participate in ITA sensemaking, review PDP dashboards, and work with the equity consultant.

• Institutional Research staff to create and submit data files for the PDP.

• Other key campus representatives engaged in cross-campus student success efforts including those in academic affairs and student affairs. This may include faculty and department chairs, advisor managers and professional advisors; university business officers who are engaged in strategic finance efforts; department chairs; centers for teaching and learning staff; financial aid leadership and financial aid advisor, etc.