



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

GRANTS AVAILABLE TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS THAT ENGAGE STUDENTS IN LEARNING ABOUT LONG ISLAND

Grants Offered

The *Long Island Index* is pleased to announce a grants initiative to fund the development of programs that will engage Long Island students in learning more about our region. The majority of the grants will be for amounts up to \$5,000. A smaller number of grants will be available for over \$5,000 to fund those projects that reach a wider number of students and/or require more technical development. All grantees will be expected to use some *Long Island Index* materials as part of their program.

Proposals are due by June 15, 2008. Funding decisions will be announced by August 15, 2008.

Who May Apply

Grants are available to any organization or educational institution working with Long Island students. Community planners, community organizers, and others are also encouraged to apply. Please note, funds must be distributed either through an educational institution or a not-for-profit organization. No grants will be made to individuals, religious organizations for religious purposes, corporations or programs and projects outside of Nassau or Suffolk Counties.

Collaborative efforts between organizations will be given priority because we believe they can result in greater impact than can be achieved individually.

Project Ideas

We are interested in funding a wide range of ideas and are open to receiving proposals that will reach an individual class, a school, a school district, a county, or both counties. Upon completion of the project, grantees will be required to share their materials with the *Long Island Index* so they can be made available to others via our website. Our goal is

to create a repository of ideas and materials that other educators and community organizations can re-use.

We are interested in receiving proposals for small and large initiatives. All grants are required to utilize some of the materials developed by the *Long Island Index* as part of their project. Preference will be given to those projects addressing themes and issues included in the *Index* reports over the past five years. All *Index* materials are available on our website, www.longislandindex.org.

Possible projects might include:

- Development of curriculum material to teach about Long Island's environmental issues
- Creation of an essay contest to challenge students to think about how to solve a key problem facing Long Island
- Design, implement and analyze a survey on a problem that concerns the student's community. Funding could include partnering with a professional survey company to conduct phone interviews.
- Working with a professional planner to develop ideas, designs and a proposal for the re-development of a section of the local downtown to better meet the needs of young people in the community.
- Development of a internet-based game similar to the Stock Market game used to teach students about investing in the stock market (see: www.smgww.org) or MetroJoe, a game developed in Chicago to educate citizens about their region (see: www.metrojoe.org).

Our goal is that these grants will encourage students to be more interested in understanding their communities and to become partners in helping to find solutions to the issues facing Long Island. Since many of Long Island's problems are complex and require in-depth knowledge and/or experience, grants that collaborate with companies, universities or organizations that can provide that type of expert help will be given priority.

Audience

We think the best audiences for these projects are high school and college students but we are open to receiving proposals for other age groups.

Who We Are

The *Long Island Index* is a project that gathers and publishes data on the Long Island region. The *Index* does not advocate specific policies. Instead, our goal is to be a catalyst for action, by engaging the community in thinking about our region and its future. Our operating principle is: "Good information presented in a neutral manner can move policy."

Specifically, the *Index* seeks to:

- Measure where we are and show trends over time
- Encourage regional thinking
- Compare our situation with other similar regions
- Increase awareness of issues and an understanding of their interrelatedness
- Inspire Long Islanders to work together in new ways to achieve shared goals

The governing board of the *Long Island Index* is the Advisory Committee, composed of leaders from Long Island's business, labor, academic and nonprofit sectors. The Rauch Foundation acts as the convener of the Advisory Committee and the financial underwriter of the project.

About the *Long Island Index* Reports

The *Long Island Index* reports have been published for the past five years. There are three major publications that we have developed to tell the story of Long Island.

- Annual INDICATOR reports that measure trends in our Economy, Communities, Health, Education, Environment, and Governance. Using graphs and straightforward explanations of why each indicator is important and how we are doing, the *Index* paints a picture of the overall health of the region.
- SURVEY reports based on telephone interviews conducted of approximately 1,000 Long Islanders on issues ranging from housing, the economy, taxes, government, education, etc.
- SPECIAL REPORTS conducted on a number of issues including governance models, Long Island's downtowns, and land use analyses.

All of these reports are available on our website, www.longislandindex.org.

Funding Categories

Multiple grants will be made in the "under \$5,000" category. A smaller number of grants will be made for proposals "over \$5,000" category.

Proposal Format

The proposal may follow any form, even a simple letter format, and should include the following elements.

- (1) Proposal cover sheet (see attached)
- (2) Proposal – up to five pages describing the following:
 - Background information about the organization or group requesting the funds
 - A statement about the objectives you hope to achieve through this grant, the students to be included in the project and a description of the project itself
 - A statement describing your background, training and ability to carry out this project

- A timeline to complete each of the key milestones in your project
 - A budget for the grant you are requesting
 - Explanation of whether this is a one-time effort or if you see the potential to create a repeatable program. If this is meant to be a repeatable program, what kind of future funding do you think would be required to maintain the program?
 - Description of the materials that would be available at the end of the project to include on the *Long Island Index* website
 - Include plans for a post-project assessment to be conducted by the project lead
- (3) Letter(s) of agreement from any organization with which you plan to collaborate on a program.
- (4) If you are a not-for-profit, please supply your 501(c)(3) letter (not your Exempt Organization Certification for Sales Tax) and your Board list. If you are an educational institution, please supply a letter (on official stationery) from your business office or other administrative head stating their willingness to act as the fiscal agent for the grant.

Timeline

All proposals must be received no later than **June 15, 2008**. Proposals should be typed. If you are mailing your proposal, please submit an original plus two copies. You may also email your proposal to us. See address below.

Questions

We will contact you if we need additional information. If you have any questions and wish to contact us, please use the following email address: rfp@longislandindex.org.

Mail Proposals To

Long Island Index Grant Proposal
Rauch Foundation
229 Seventh Street, Suite 306
Garden City, New York 11530

Or email your proposal to: rfp@longislandindex.org.

Additional copies of this RFP are available on our website, www.longislandindex.org.



**2008 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROPOSAL COVER SHEET**

Date _____

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Contact Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Hours you can be reached _____

Dollar amount requested _____

Brief Summary of Proposal (one paragraph):

Remember to include in your proposal: (1) Proposal cover sheet; (2) Proposal; (3) Letter(s) of agreement, if applicable; (4) Organization's 501(c)(3) letter or letter from business office.