



## Partners for Middle School STEM Library Cohort Call for Applications

The Urban Libraries Council and the Space Science Institute's National Center for Interactive Learning are partnering on the **Partners for Middle School STEM** project, funded in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The project is intended to catalyze the adoption of multi-sector partnerships and the development of pilot STEM projects led by public libraries to reach low-income middle school youth.

The Urban Libraries Council is seeking applications from public libraries interested in joining a learning cohort to explore strategies for building multi-sector partnerships to develop STEM learning pilots for low-income middle school youth (ages 10 – 13). Up to six library systems will be selected to participate in the learning cohort from January 2019 through May 2020.

Selected libraries will work with the Urban Libraries Council and National Center for Interactive Learning to build capacity in designing and implementing high-quality STEM programs, building multi-sector partnerships, assessing impact of programs and reaching underserved youth. Cohort libraries will receive:

- Program and partnership development support in the form of coaching sessions, webinars and in person meetings.
- Financial support of \$10,000 for pilot program development and funds for two team members to attending the convenings (including travel, hotel accommodations and on-site meals).
- Recognition as a select participant in a national initiative.

Library systems selected to participate in the STEM Partners library cohort will be expected to:

- Build multi-sector partnerships to support STEM pilot programs engaging under-served middle school youth.
- Prepare a written work plan to guide implementation of a new/refreshed STEM pilot program to reach low income middle school youth during the learning cohort time period.
- Actively participate in peer learning cohort activities including: attending two, two-day meetings (March 12-14, 2019 and January 2020), participating in online webinars and conference calls to explore project challenges, solutions and lessons learned.
- Work with the project evaluation consultant to assess library and partnership project development and outcomes and design a survey or group debriefing discussion for youth exploring the implementation and impact of the program.

All applications must be submitted [online](#) . The *call for applications will close on November 15 at midnight eastern time*. Application link: <https://www.research.net/r/STEMcohort>

Please contact Jennifer Blenkle, director of strategic initiatives, [jblenkle@urbanlibraries.org](mailto:jblenkle@urbanlibraries.org) or 202.750.8662 with any questions regarding the cohort or the application.

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