

Project Title: Urban Alliance High School Internship Program Scaling and Expansion

Type of Grant: Validation

Absolute Priority: 3 – Implementing Comprehensive High School Reform and Redesign

Competitive Preference Priorities: 1 – Improving cost effectiveness and productivity; 2 – Broad adoption of effective practices; 3 – Novice applicants

Project Description: The Urban Alliance Foundation, Inc.'s (UA) High School Internship Program (HSIP) targets low-income high school seniors for intensive support that combines professional, paid internships; daily mentoring from an adult professional; case management by a dedicated UA staff member; weekly trainings focused on college and career skills; and alumni support. The HSIP's unique comprehensive approach is effective at helping at-risk youth succeed: 100% of participants graduate high school and 86% of last year's participants enrolled in post-secondary education, compared with 63% of high school graduates nationwide.

Project objectives and outcomes: UA requests an i3 award of \$12 million over 5 years to: 1) bring the HSIP to scale in its current regions—Washington, DC; Baltimore; Chicago; and Northern Virginia, 2) expand the HSIP model to an additional region, 3) conduct a second randomized controlled trial to add to existing knowledge about the HSIP and 4) document and share learnings on closing the college- and career-readiness gap for low-income and minority youth. Anticipated outcomes include: 100% graduate high school on time; 80% enroll in college; 85% remain connected one year post-program (college/career path job).

Special Project Features: In expanding the HSIP, UA will recruit new STEM job partners and grow its dual-enrollment program, in which youth earn high school and college credit simultaneously.

Partners & Students Served: UA will partner with the LEAs in DC, Baltimore, Chicago, Alexandria and Arlington, VA and one new site, as well as more than 265 corporate sponsors, to provide the HSIP to 3,480 youth.