



The Rapides Foundation

Reconnecting Cenla Program Grant

June 16, 2022



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION



The **MISSION** of The Rapides Foundation is to improve the health status of Central Louisiana.

Our **VISION** is to positively impact Central Louisiana by deploying resources to improve key factors of health status.

Our Service Area



Focus Areas

Healthy People



Education



Healthy Communities





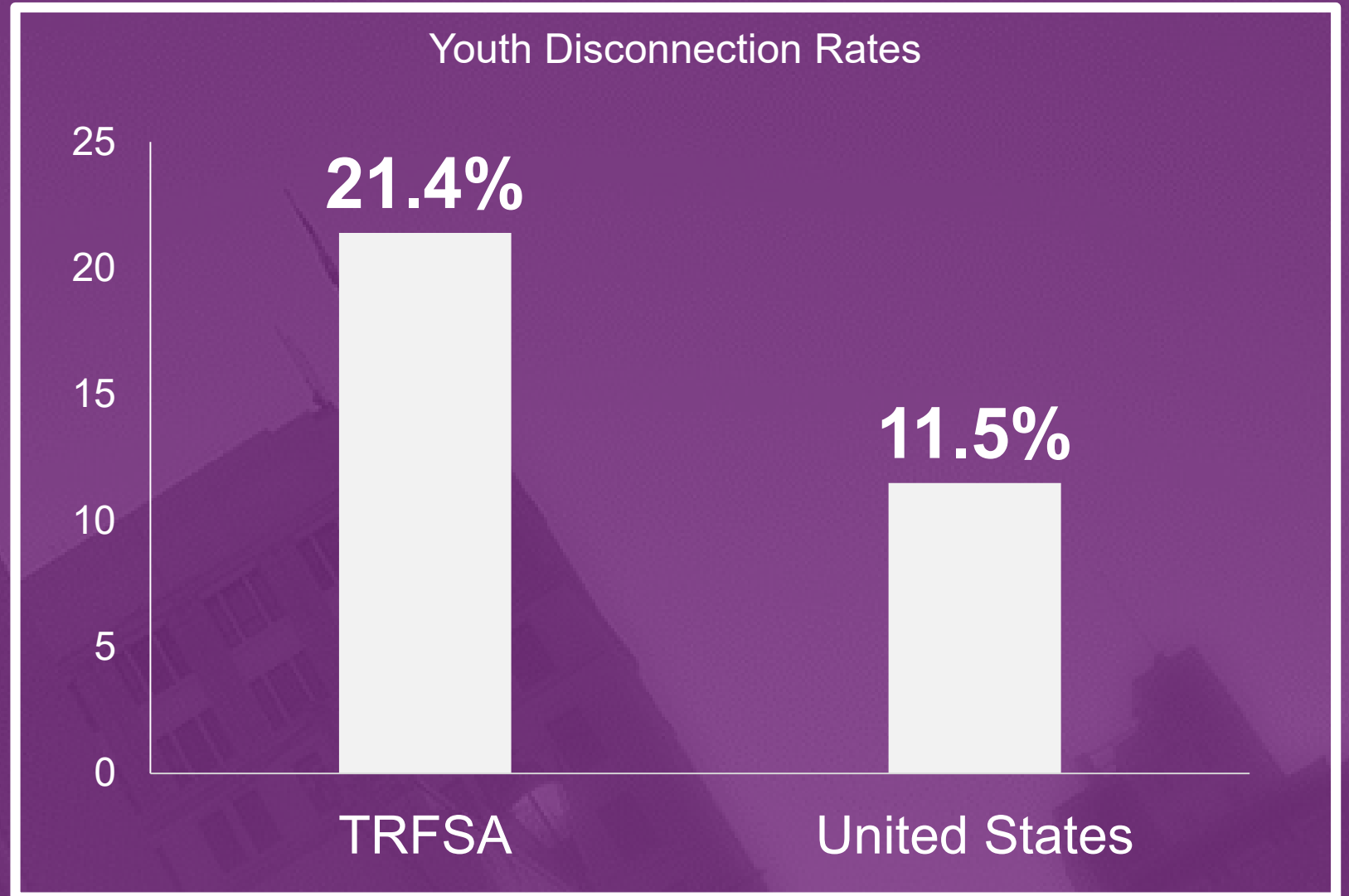
Disconnected Youth

- Disconnected Youth are individuals, between the ages of 16 and 24, who are neither in school nor employed.
- These formative years are a critical time for young people to develop skills, earn credentials and have experiences that will impact their future.
- Recent research has shown that young adults who experience disconnection have significantly lower incomes, are less likely to be employed, and have poorer health outcomes than their peers.

Measure of America Study

- Measure of America (MOA) is a project from the Social Science Research Council.
- Uses current data to create resources to understand well-being and opportunity in America.
- The Foundation partnered with MOA in 2019 to conduct a local assessment of youth disconnection within the Foundation's service area.

Disconnected Youth



Disconnected Youth

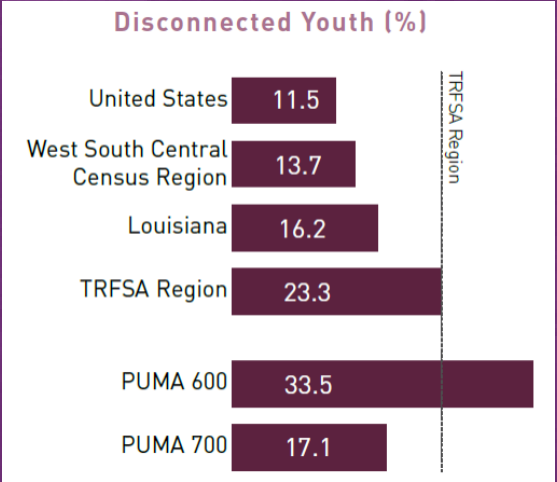
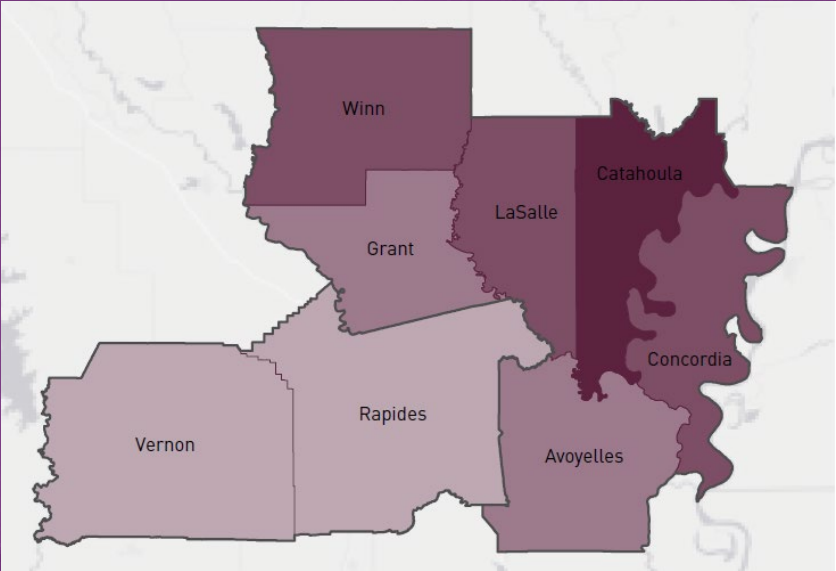
- Disconnected Youth are individuals, between the ages of 16 and 24, who are neither in school nor employed.

21.4% = 7,000
youth



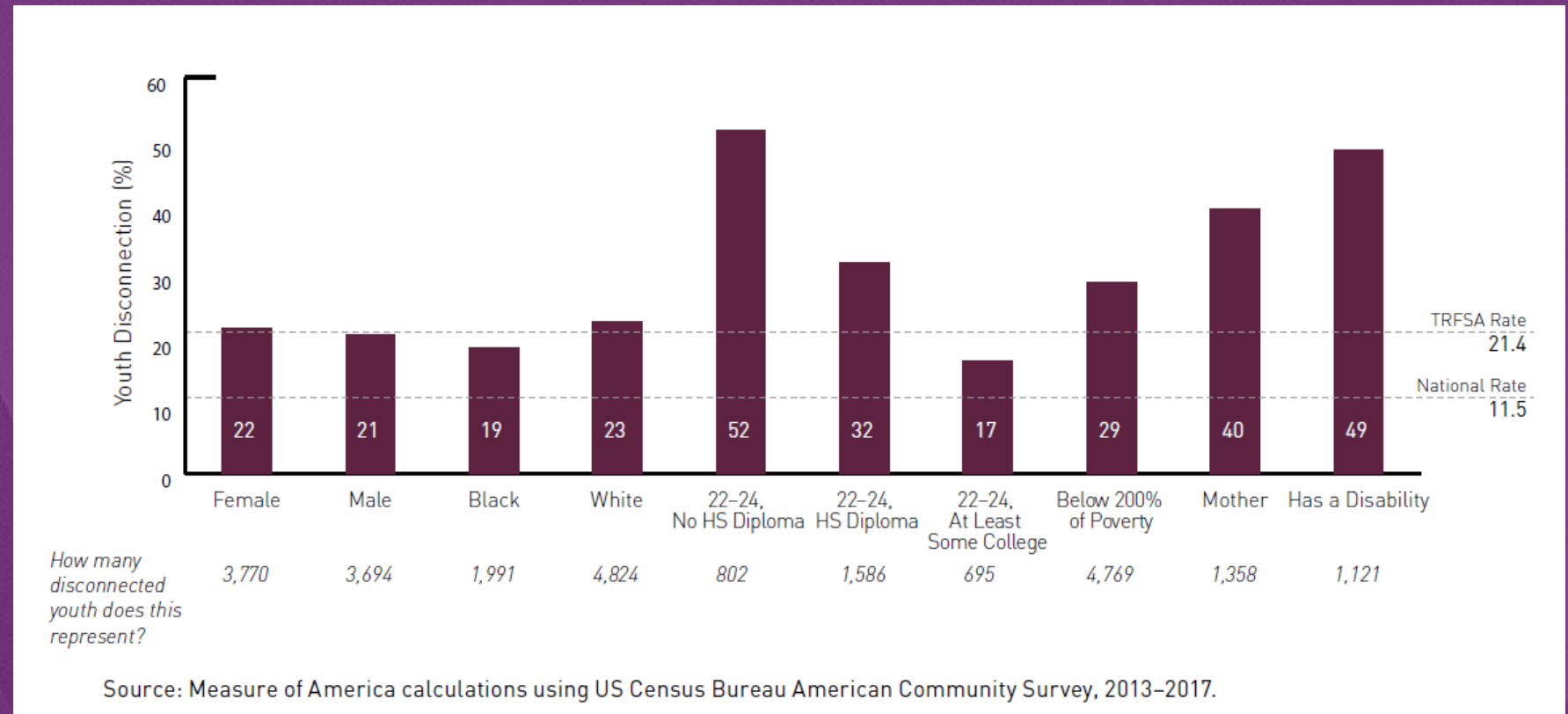
Measure of America Study

21.4%
of young adults
are considered
disconnected



		Youth Disconnection	
		(%)	(#)
Catahoula Parish	Rural	43.3	515
LaSalle Parish	Rural	36.8	645
Winn Parish	Rural	35.2	595
Concordia Parish	Town	32.9	775
Avoyelles Parish	Rural	30.6	1,370
Grant Parish	Small City	30.3	700
Rapides Parish	Small City	19.0	3,050
Vernon Parish	Town	17.9	1,540

Measure of America Study



Measure of America Study

- Who are most likely to be disconnected?
 - 22-24 year old's with NO high school diploma (52%).
 - Youth with disabilities (49%).
 - Youth who are mothers (40%).
 - Youth with ONLY a high school diploma (34.9%).
 - Youth who live below 200% of the poverty level (29%).
 - Youth who live in rural areas (27%).

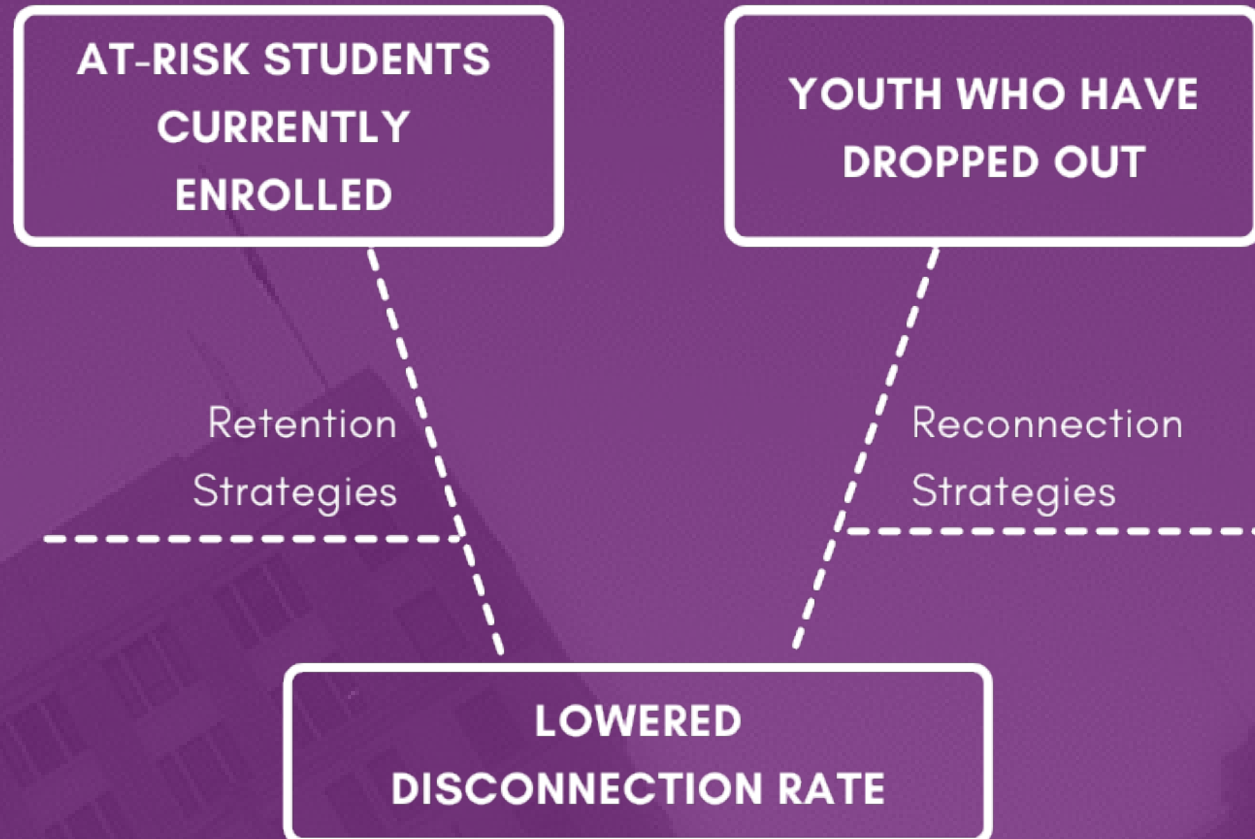


MOA Recommendations

- Continue to concentrate on high school graduation.
- Focus on what comes after high school.
- Focus on youth in more rural settings.
- Support youth in poverty.



Two Approaches





How to Reconnect Youth?

- Disconnected Youth face multiple barriers when seeking education and work opportunities.
- Targeted youth are often the most difficult population to recruit to programming.
- Successful models focus on building community capacity and partnerships.
- Each community has its own unique assets.
- Research shows that community-led action and placed-based strategies are effective.



Reconnecting Cenla Program Grant



Purpose for Request for Proposals

- Up to \$300,000 for up to a three-year period.
- To support local Anchor Organizations with the creation of community-based systems to recruit and navigate Opportunity Youth to education and/or employment opportunities.
- Anchor Organizations can be nonprofit, faith-based, governmental, or postsecondary organizations that have a significant presence, reputation and history within their community and the organizational capacity to implement community-wide partnerships.
- These systems will rely on partnerships with community organizations to recruit youth and address specific barriers that youth may face.



Community Example

Recruitment Partners



Recruitment/Referral Services

Anchor Organization

Navigation Services

Wrap Around Services



Education/Employment Partners



Purpose for Request for Proposals

- Each Anchor Organization will be responsible for the following activities:
 - Identifying a minimum of three community partner organizations to assist with recruiting and navigating youth to education and/or employment opportunities.
 - Coordinate local system activities.
 - Tracking outcomes for individuals served.
 - Participating in a regional working group to address disconnected youth.
 - Accepting technical assistance from consultants provided by The Foundation.

Purpose for Request for Proposals

- **Anchor Organizations:**

- Must be an eligible, nonprofit organization or governmental entity.
- Have a significant presence, reputation and history within their community.
- Have the organizational capacity to implement large-scale, community-wide partnerships.
- Are responsible for coordinating all activities within their local system.

- **Community Partner Organizations:**

- Can be a grassroots, faith-based, nonprofit or governmental entity.
- Have a direct line of communication to the communities they serve.
- Assist with recruitment of youth into the program.
- Provide services to meet the needs of youth within the program.



Youth Reconnection Network





Purpose for Request for Proposals

- Projects should tie grant funded activities directly back to recruiting and navigating disconnected youth to education and/or employment services.

Education Services:

- Local public school districts
- HiSet test providers.
- Alternative education programs.
- Credit or non-credit programs provided by accredited, nonprofit postsecondary institution.
- Programs provided by nonprofit organizations resulting in an industry-based credential.

Employment Services:

- Direct job placement with employers.
- Enrollment to local American Job Center site services.
- Enlistment into local military recruitment office.



Purpose for Request for Proposals

- Positive outcomes for participants should include, but are not limited to:
 - Earning a high school diploma or equivalent.
 - Earning relevant industry-based credentials.
 - Enrollment into a postsecondary institution or training program.
 - Enlistment into armed service branch.
 - Placement with a local employer.
- How are you planning on tracking participant outcomes and referrals?





Eligibility Requirements

- Eligible anchor organizations for this funding opportunity may include, but are not limited to: community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, not-for-profit postsecondary institutions, and governmental organizations.
- **Anchor Organizations applying for funding must meet all of the following requirements:**
 - Classified as a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization or a government entity.
 - Cannot be a private foundation under Section 509(a).
 - Must be an organization within The Rapides Foundation Service Area.



Funding Guidelines and Grant Term

- Up to \$300,000 for up to a three-year period is available.
- Grant term will be up to 36 months, beginning April 1, 2023, and ending March 31, 2026.
- May only submit one application as an Anchor Organization.
- Organizations may be listed as a community partner in multiple applications.
- Two-stage grant process.

Funding Guidelines and Grant Term

- Allowable expenditures:

- Staff time.
- Recruitment activities.
- Contract services.
- Coaching/counseling/mentoring activities.
- Educational/career awareness activities.
- Advocacy/community education.
- Participant tracking software.
- Communications and marketing.
- *Participant support services (limited to 10% of grant funds):
 - Transportation, child or dependent care, work-related attire/tools, tuition and fees, books or academic supplies, social supports, tests/certification fees.
 - Assistance must be directed to service providers and cannot be given directly to individuals. Assistance funds must be clearly explained.





Funding Guidelines and Grant Term

- Non-allowable expenditures:

- Supplanting existing resources.
- Lobbying or political programs or events.
- Biomedical, clinical or educational research.
- Direct support to individuals or endowments.
- Individuals, including patient assistance funds.
- Social events or fundraising efforts.
- Projects outside of the Foundation's service area.
- Direct funding for medical or social services already funded through existing third-party reimbursement sources.
- Operating expenses not used for significantly expanding the services of ongoing programs.
- Vans or other vehicles.

*Please refer to RFP for full details on allowable and non-allowable expenditures.

Submission Guidelines

- Two stage proposal:
 - Letter of Intent (LOI) due: August 9, 2022.
 - Notification of accepted LOIs: September 30, 2022.
 - Full Proposal due: January 13, 2023.
 - Notification of selected proposals: March 3, 2023.
- Only applicants with an accepted Letter of Intent will be eligible to submit a full proposal.
- Prospective applicants are encouraged to schedule a call or meeting with Foundation Staff to discuss alignment and feasibility of their project.
- LOIs should be limited to two to four pages and will only be accepted through the Foundation's online portal.

*Proposals must be fully submitted by 1:00 p.m. on January 13, 2023.



Questions?





Submission Process



Reconnecting Cenla Program Grant

The Reconnecting Cenla Program Grant funding opportunity is open and consists of a two-stage submission process. The deadline for Letter of Intent submissions is 1 p.m. CT on Tuesday, August 9, 2022. An invitation to submit a Full Proposal is required to participate in the second stage of the submission process. Invited applicants will receive an invitation via email from The Rapides Foundation Program Staff by 5 p.m. CT on Friday, September 30, 2022. Full Proposal submissions will be due no later than 1 p.m. CT on Friday, January 13, 2023, and are only open to invited applicants.

Purpose

The purpose of the Reconnecting Cenla Program Grant is to support local anchor organizations with the creation of community-based systems to identify, recruit and navigate Disconnected Youth to education and/or employment opportunities. Disconnected Youth (also referred to as Opportunity Youth) are young adults ages 16 to 24 who are neither in school nor working.

In recognizing that there is no "one size fits all" approach, the Foundation will rely on funded anchor organizations to build their local community-based system. These systems will also heavily rely on partner organizations to address specific barriers that disconnected youth face when reengaging to education and/or employment services.

Each anchor organization will be responsible for the following activities:

- 1) Identifying a minimum of three community partner organizations (including, but not limited to, community-based, faith-based, social service providers and governmental organizations) to assist with identifying, recruiting and navigating disconnected youth to education and/or employment services.
- 2) Coordinate the local system activities to reengage youth to education and employment opportunities.
- 3) Tracking outcomes for individuals served.
- 4) Participating in the regional youth network.
- 5) Accepting technical assistance from consultants provided by the Foundation.

Grant Awards

The Reconnecting Cenla Program Grant provides grant awards up to \$300,000. The grant term will be up to 36 months, beginning April 1, 2023, and ending March 31, 2026. The Foundation will consider only one application per organization. An agency may be listed as a partner organization in multiple applications, but may only submit one application as an anchor organization.

All funded projects must be offered in The Rapides Foundation's nine-parish service area. Applicants are encouraged to partner with other organizations. Applicants should thoroughly review the Request for Proposals and other key documents included in the Key Materials section (in right column) to see full details, application process and proposal requirements.

Eligibility Requirements

Anchor organizations are organizations that have a significant presence, reputation and history within their community and the organizational capacity to implement community-wide partnerships. Eligible anchor organizations for this funding opportunity may include, but are not limited to: community-based organizations; faith-based organizations; not-for-profit postsecondary institutions; and governmental organizations.

Primary applicants (anchor organization or grant fiscal agent) must meet all of the following requirements:

- Classified as a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code or a governmental entity.

Informational Webinar

An Informational Webinar about this grant opportunity will be held at 2:00 p.m. CT on Thursday, June 16, 2022. To register for the webinar, click the button below.

[REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#)

Submit a Letter of Intent

Letter of Intent submission deadline: Tuesday, August 9, 2022, no later than 1:00 p.m. CT.

All LOIs must be submitted using the online submission process.

**Please note: the LOI must be fully submitted by the deadline, therefore, you must begin uploading the completed proposal prior to that time. It is suggested you allow a minimum of three (3) hours for the upload process.*

[Start a New Application](#)[Web](#)[Return to my Application](#)[Web](#)

Key Materials

Please review thoroughly before applying.

[Reconnecting Cenla Program Grant RFP](#)[PDF](#)[Project Budget Worksheet](#)[XLSX](#)[Budget Narrative description](#)[PDF](#)[Reconnecting Cenla LOI Signature Page](#)[PDF](#)[2019 Assessment of Youth Disconnection](#)[PDF](#)



THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

[Contact Us](#) | [Exit](#)

Please Sign In

- If you have an existing account, please log in using your E-mail Address and Password.
- If you have never logged on to this site, you must create an account. Use the "[New Applicant?](#)" link found below.
- For technical assistance or logon assistance with the application process, please contact Courtney Keys, Programs Assistant, at 318-443-3394 or Courtney@rapidesfoundation.org.

E-mail

[New Applicant?](#)

Password

[Forgot Password?](#)

Login





Eligibility Quiz

Is your tax status current and in good standing with the IRS?

Yes ▼

Please select the option that best represents your organization:

Organization which is tax exempt under IRS Section 501(c)(3) and is not a private foundation as described under Section 509(a) ▼


Will the proposed project serve one or more of the following nine parishes: Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon, Winn?

Yes ▼

Submit





 THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

[Contact Us](#) | [Exit](#)

1 Page 1

2 Page 2

3 Page 3

4 Page 4

5 Page 5

6 Review My Application

Introduction

Printer Friendly Version

E-mail Draft

Required before final submission

Economic Development Initiative
Reconnecting Cenla Program Grant

Letter of Intent Deadline: Tuesday, August 9, 2022; 1:00p.m. CT.
Full Proposal Deadline: Friday, January 13, 2023; 1:00 p.m. CT

Introduction

The mission of The Rapides Foundation is to improve the health status of Central Louisiana. The Rapides Foundation focuses its work in three strategic areas:

- Healthy People, to improve access to healthcare and to promote healthy behaviors;
- Education, to increase the level of educational attainment and achievement as the primary path to improved economic, social, and health status; and
- Healthy Communities, to improve economic opportunity and family income, and enhance civic and community opportunities for more effective leaders and organizations.

In 2019, the Foundation expanded the scope of its programs to address Disconnected Youth in Central Louisiana. Disconnected Youth (also referred to as Opportunity Youth) are young adults ages 16 to 24 who are neither in school nor working. Through this Request for Proposals (RFP), The Rapides Foundation seeks to fund eligible organizations to create or expand programs and partnerships for reconnecting disconnected youth to education and employment opportunities across the nine-parish service area: Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon, and Winn. Grants will be awarded up to \$300,000 for up to a three-year period.

The goal of this funding opportunity is to support a mix of urban and rural community anchor organizations throughout the Foundation's nine-parish service area to develop local coordinated systems to recruit and navigate disconnected youth to education and/or employment opportunities.

Background

33



1Page 1

2Page 2

3Page 3

4Page 4

5Page 5

6Review My Application

Organization Information

Printer Friendly Version | E-mail Draft

Required before final submission

General Information

Organization Name

Rapides Foundation

Legal Name, if different

Rapides Foundation

Street Address or PO Box

1101 4th St.Suite 300

City

Alexandria

State

LA

Zip Code

71301

Phone

3184433394

Fax

Web Address

Enter address following http://www.

Organization Classification

Please select the classifications that best describe your organization as a whole:

Geographical Area Served

Central Louisiana

- Select One -

- Select One -

- Select One -

- Select One -

Organization Type

Nonprofit Public Charity 501(c)(3)

Save & Finish Later

Next

34

35

36



Attachments

Choose File

No file chosen

Upload

LOI

Choose File

No file chosen

Upload

Project Budget Worksheet and Narrative

Choose File

No file chosen

Upload

990 Report or Audit

Audited financial statements, most recent internal financial statement and current operating budget. If audited financial statements are not available, a prior year financial statement certified by a governing board officer should be provided. Include the information for each fiscal agent or project partner

Choose File

No file chosen

Upload

Application Signature Page

Choose File

No file chosen

Upload

501(c)(3) IRS Determination Letter

Save & Finish Later

Review & Submit



Questions?



Thank You!