



State Senator Velmanette Montgomery

*25th New York Senatorial District*

Ranking Member, Children & Families

## ***New York State Department of Education issues RFP for My Brother's Keeper Initiative Grants!***

### ***Family and Community Engagement Program:***

The purpose of the Family and Community Engagement Program is to increase the academic achievement and college and career readiness of boys and young men of color and to develop and sustain effective relationships with families toward the goal of success for all students. **SED will award \$6 million** in grants for school districts, community-based organizations, and other groups to improve family engagement efforts in local communities.

These efforts could include parent advocacy, incorporating the use of mentors to improve student achievement, or creating outreach material in home languages so families can learn how to enhance school success for their children, beginning at the earliest ages, through high school and beyond.

**Applications must be received on or before August 25, 2016.**

The RFP for the grants is available at:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/comcontracts/16-013-fcep/>.

Details on New York's MBK Initiative can be found here:

<http://www.nysed.gov/nysmbk> .



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## **NYS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

### **My Brothers' Keeper Initiative**

## **Improving Outcomes for Boys and Young Men of Color**

The 2016-2017 enacted budget includes \$20 million to support Family and Community engagement activities with a specific focus on advancing the Board of Regents Improving Outcomes for Boys and Young Men of Color's Work Group. Furthermore, there are several investments in the budget that will play a critical role in enhancing this work such as investments including, but not limited to Community Schools, Advanced Placement courses, Higher Education Opportunity Programs and Liberty Partnerships Program. The \$20 million in funding will be used in the following manner:

**Establish the Office of Family and Community Engagement (\$2 m)** - The Office will be responsible to create a statewide policy with best practices and guidance for school districts related to providing families, community-based organizations, and local associations with necessary information about the Pre K-20 educational process.

**Family and Community Engagement Grants (\$6 m)** - This grant program is designed to: offer a Parent Advocate and advocacy services; disseminate concrete information & tools necessary for effective family and community engagement strategies; deliver development & training opportunities for families & community leaders designed to engage, build and sustain positive & productive relationships with school and district personnel; provide family outreach material in the "home" language; and build family knowledge on specific strategies to enhance school success P – 12.

**Teacher Opportunity Corps (\$3 m)** - The additional State funding will support new programs as well as the expansion of existing programs to target efforts to recruit and retain teachers of color and provide supplemental financial assistance to participants. This funding will:

- Support new programs and the expansion of existing programs as well as create pathways for school personnel to become teachers in areas with high concentrations of disadvantaged people; and
- Target efforts to recruit and retain teachers of color and provide supplemental financial assistance to participants.

**Incentivize school districts to accept President Obama's *My Brother's Keeper Challenge* (\$7 m)** -

This is a new grant opportunity to incentivize and support school districts to accept the My Brother's Keeper Challenge and implement a coherent cradle-to-college strategy aimed at improving the life outcomes for boys and young men of color. Through a Request for Proposals process, the Department would fund up to 70 grants to school districts to address one or more of the following:

- Entering school ready to learn;
- Reading at grade level by third grade;
- Graduating from high school ready for college & career;
- Completing postsecondary education or training;
- Entering the workforce successfully with middle skills jobs;
- Reducing violence and providing a second chance.

**School Models that Improve Outcomes for Boys and Young Men of Color (\$2 m)** - This new grant program will fund the expansion and development of exemplary school models and practices that demonstrate cultural and linguistic responsiveness to the needs of boys and young men of color. Grants will be awarded to replicate identified exemplary school practices and systems that improve school outcomes.

**For more information on Grant Opportunities and MBK in NYS,  
visit [www.nysed.gov/NYSMBK](http://www.nysed.gov/NYSMBK)  
E-mail: [NYSMBK@NYSED.gov](mailto:NYSMBK@NYSED.gov)**