



**National Family Engagement Collaborative
Fellowship**

**APPLICATION
2016-17**

FLAMBOYAN FOUNDATION

Flamboyan Foundation envisions a day when children in Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico receive a world-class education. To make this vision a reality, Flamboyan brings strategic leadership and investment of time and money to solve some of the most deeply rooted educational challenges. We study the issues and work with our partners to develop creative solutions and put ideas into practice. We constantly learn from our experiences and adapt our work accordingly. The cornerstone of Flamboyan's approach is hands-on, purposeful collaboration with nonprofits, school districts, educators, government and community leaders who share our commitment to and focus on achieving ambitious academic and social outcomes for children.

In Washington, D.C., we are working to improve student outcomes by transforming the way families and educators work together. Research shows that family engagement accelerates student learning. However, districts, schools and teachers often do not know how to best partner with families and provide the information and support needed to help children succeed. We work with educators and other partners to learn about and adapt the most effective approaches to family engagement. We then build the capacity of teachers, school leaders and districts by providing the training, resources and tailored on-the-ground support to adopt these practices.

NATIONAL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATIVE FELLOWSHIP

Flamboyan Foundation is pleased to invite public school districts, charter operator networks, non-profit organizations and informally organized small teams to submit an application to participate in our inaugural **National Family Engagement Collaborative Fellowship**. The Fellowship seeks to build the capacity of change makers who are interested in leading the charge for effective educator-led family engagement in their communities. Fellows will participate in a professional learning community with colleagues from around the country to plan and share lessons learned about their family engagement work. Flamboyan Foundation will provide our fellows with resources in the form of exposure to family engagement practices, coaching, training, and professional development. Applicants are encouraged to apply in diverse collaborative teams, and Flamboyan Foundation will select up to five teams. Flamboyan will cover 75 percent of the cost of the twelve-month fellowship, and teams are expected to contribute the remaining \$4,000/team. Scholarships are available on a limited basis.

The fellowship will enable participants to achieve the following:

- *Build knowledge and skills, particularly around family engagement planning.* The fellowship is designed to build participants' knowledge of family engagement, strategic planning, equity, and design thinking.
- *Conduct in-depth analysis and contextualized planning.* Within the fellowship, participants will conduct a landscape assessment of their context to crystallize their understanding of the challenges and barriers within their current family engagement approaches. Subsequently and within their fellowship year, participants will design and implement short-cycle projects and pilots.
- *Develop a sustainable, organizational approach for family engagement practice.* Using the knowledge and capacity gained from the short-cycle projects and pilots, fellows will create a

long-term strategy for planning, implementation, and continuous improvement, with an eye toward balancing a bottom-up and top-down approach.

- *Join a network of family engagement practitioners.* Fellows will actively participate in a learning community--sharing best practices and informing their own practice in effective family engagement.

Collaborative Model

In order to deeply influence and impact the practice of family engagement in communities around the country, we strongly believe that a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach is essential. We encourage fellows to center their work within a specific district or charter organization, and we believe that this work will be enriched by having a diverse set of voices around the table.

We ask that you think strategically about the ideal team to lead family engagement efforts within your community, and we request that you submit an application for a team of three. In exceptional cases, we will consider applications from teams of different sizes. We recommend considering the following roles to build a well-rounded team:

- System-level district or charter administrator
- Family engagement specialist
- School board member
- Researcher from the higher education community
- Parent
- School Leader
- Teacher
- Non-Profit/Community Partner
- Union Leader
- Funder

Equity

Flamboyant Foundation believes that every child deserves an excellent education and that families and educators are partners and assets in supporting student success. In order to work towards our mission, Flamboyant is committed to partnering with all stakeholders who value and engage in equitable practices and opportunities for all students and families. We work with our partners to question and confront injustice, to envision a just and equitable future for every student and family and to work collaboratively to actualize this future. We reflect on our words and actions through open dialogue both internally and with external partners, even when it makes us uncomfortable, in order to produce new ways of influencing outcomes for children.

Flamboyant Foundation seeks to partner with those who are equally committed to achieving equity in education.

NATIONAL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COLLABORATIVE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016 BY 5:00PM EST

Submit completed application to Marcus Ware via email, fax, or hard copy. Include the following:

- Application Responses (One set of answers for the entire group)
- CV & One-Page Personal Statement of Interest (For each individual within the applying team) that answers the following questions:
 - Why are you interested in participating in moving family engagement work forward in your community?
 - What do you hope to get out of this experience?
 - What can you contribute, both to your team and to the fellowship overall?

Email: national@flamboyanfoundation.org

Fax: 202-478-0100

Flamboyan Foundation Office: 1730 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Please answer the following questions in 4 pages or less.

Question 1: Team

Who will be on your collaborative team? Have you ever worked together in the past, and if so, what were the results? Please address the following:

- Why are you applying with this team?
- Why is your combination of assets and diversity the right one to bring educator-led family engagement to your locale?
- What change efforts, if any, have you been a part of/led in the past?

Question 2: Commitment to family engagement

What do family engagement efforts currently look like in your community? Please detail the following:

- Why is family engagement one of the top issues you are prioritizing right now?
- What do you see as a family's role in their child's education?
- What would success with family engagement look like in your context?
- What are you hoping to learn from the fellowship to contribute to your vision of success?

Question 3: Capacity to plan, implement, and strategize

What would it take for there to be a successful family engagement program in your community?

Explain:

- What role would this team play in making this a reality?
- What are the enabling factors and potential barriers?
- Are the barriers surmountable? How?

- What role do you anticipate race and equity playing in your efforts?