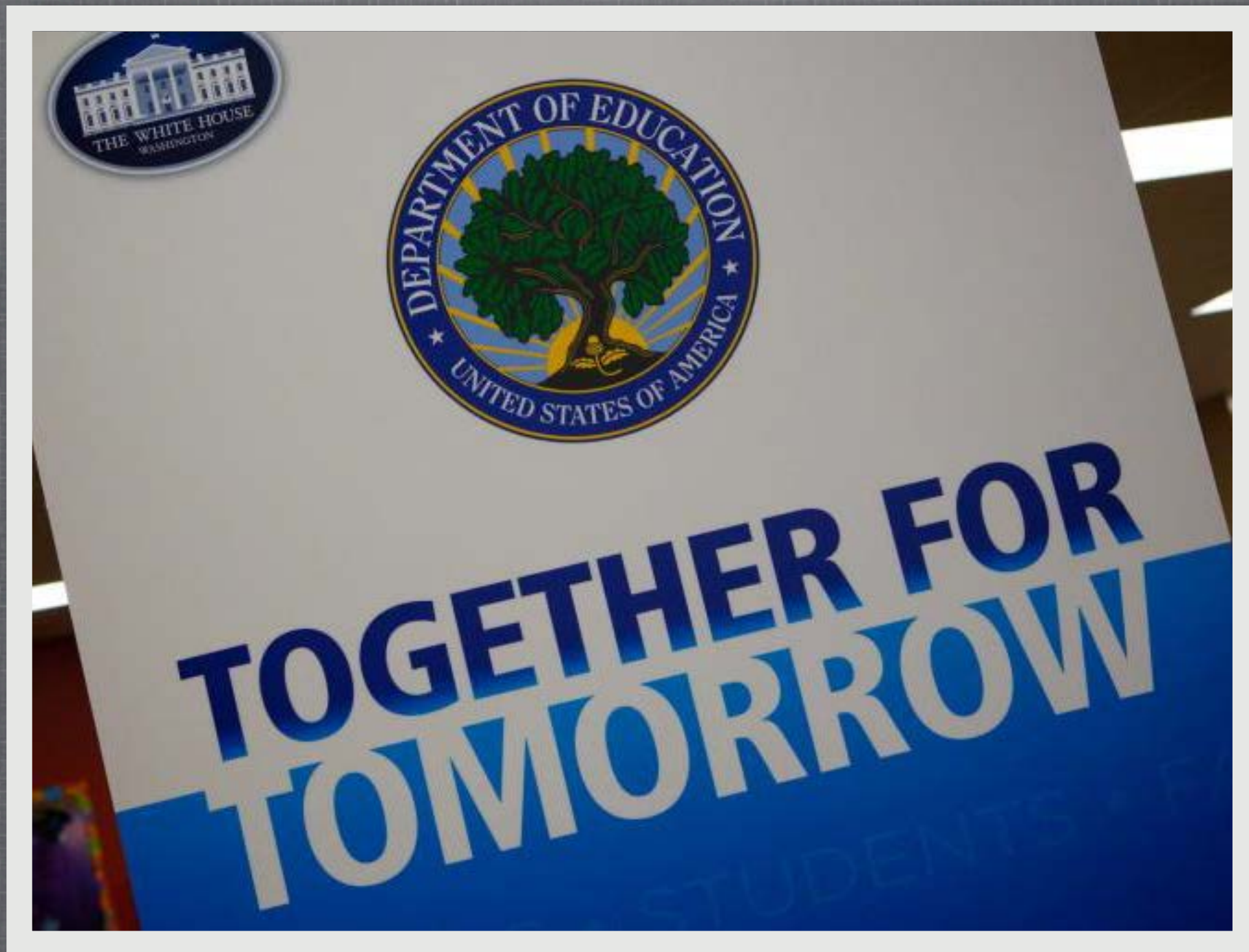


# Together for Tomorrow

## School Improvement Challenge





# Together for Tomorrow



*Corporation for*  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** 

# TFT Demonstration Sites

- Orlando, Florida
- New Orleans, Louisiana
- Memphis, Tennessee
- Denver and Center, Colorado
- New Haven, Connecticut
- Planning: Detroit, Michigan

# TFT Town Halls

- Orlando, Florida
- Memphis, Tennessee
- New Orleans, Louisiana
- Dubuque, Iowa
- Nashville, Tennessee
- Grand Rapids, Michigan
- New Haven, Connecticut
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Denver, Colorado
- Twin Cities, Minnesota



# TFT.challenge.gov

- The Together for Tomorrow School Improvement Challenge invites schools, national service programs, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations to work together to propel improvement of our lowest-performing schools.

# FOCUS of TFT

- Assist the neediest schools.  
(lowest 5% / Priority Schools)
- Invest in the capacity to work together.
- Align efforts to key student outcomes—Attendance, Behavior, Course performance, and College access (the ABCs).
- Celebrate and inspire community and family engagement in education.

# Applicant Categories

- Emerging - New initiatives, or existing initiatives that are proposing significant advancements to meet the goals of the Challenge
- Show case - Existing initiatives that are meeting the goals of the Challenge. Show case subcategories are
  - Showcase Local. Initiatives that are working on a community or regional level.
  - Showcase Multisite. National, state, or regional efforts with multiple operating sites. Local initiatives that are a component of multisite efforts should apply together as one challenge entry.



# Honor Roll

- 10 Emerging, 10 Show case Local, 10 Show case Multisite
- An invitation for up to two representatives from the organization to attend a TFT event in D.C.
- Inclusion in the Together for Tomorrow online learning network.
- National recognition



# Network Member

- All submissions meeting baseline standards
- Inclusion in the Together for Tomorrow online learning network.
- Recognition as a school-community partnership working to raise student achievement in our lowest-performing schools.

# TFT is not a new grant opportunity

- Together for Tomorrow is not a new federal grant program, but an approach to better coordinate existing resources and efforts.
- U.S. Department of Education: School Improvement Grants, Title I, Race To The Top, Promise Neighborhoods, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers.
- The opportunity for states to request flexibility from certain provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act also may open up additional opportunities for states and school districts to use resources to strengthen partnerships. (e.g. Supplemental Education Services)
- Corporation for National and Community Service: AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, Senior Corps, and the Social Innovation Fund.



# So why participate?

- Opportunity for national recognition of exemplary efforts already underway.
- A path to catalyze and strengthen partnerships to propel school improvement.

# Eligible Applicants

- Nonprofit organizations
- Schools
- School districts
- Institutions of higher education
- Other entities, including businesses and units of government, are encouraged to partner with eligible applicants on Together for Tomorrow Challenge submissions.



# Judging Criteria

- Eligibility review - Address all 4 ABCs
- Partner schools (20 points)
- Strengthening capacity (20 points)
- School and student needs (20 points)
- Service activities and community resources (20 points)
- Measuring and sustaining impact (10 points)
- Celebrating and inspiring engagement (10 points)

# Submission Requirements

- Full info at [TFT.challenge.gov](http://TFT.challenge.gov)
- Submit plan using TFT template by June 29.
- [http:// 1.usa.gov/ TFTtemplate](http://1.usa.gov/TFTtemplate)
- 10 pages maximum



# Partner Schools

- Each school only in one application. Encourage multiple schools in each application.
- Priority Schools - definition in TFT FAQ. Please contact your local or state school district to get the list for your community.
- If no Priority Schools in your community, partnerships with lowest-performing in your community (Network Member eligible only.)

# Other Partners

- Community-based organizations (both secular and faith-based)
- Higher education institutions
- National and community service programs
- Governmental entities
- Businesses
- Philanthropic organizations.



# Strengthening Capacity

- Describe the organizational structure that is responsible for implementing your TFT plan.
- Describe how your TFT plan will strengthen the capacity of school leadership teams to build and coordinate school-community partnerships.
- Describe the resources that will be leveraged to lead and coordinate the initiative, including funding from the Corporation for National and Community (AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Investment Fund, etc.) and the U.S. Department of Education (School Improvement Grants, Investing in Innovation, Race to the Top, Title I, etc.)

# School & Student Needs

	Targeted needs	Whole school needs
<b>Attendance</b>	<i>ex: Need special assistance to improve attendance of chronically absent students (absent 10% or more of days of school.)</i>	<i>ex: Need to make coming to school more welcoming for all of our students.</i>
<b>Behavior</b>	<i>ex: Need assistance for students that are in in-school suspension.</i>	<i>ex: Need incentives to provide to students for the positive behavior intervention system.</i>
<b>Course performance</b>	<i>ex: Need personalized academic assistance for the students that are 2 or more grade levels behind in reading.</i>	<i>ex: Need project-based learning opportunities in math and science that connect the classroom to real-world challenges.</i>
<b>College access</b>	<i>ex: Need help filling out the FAFSA for high school seniors and their families that have not yet completed it.</i>	<i>ex: Need all students to better understand the options for post-secondary education that are available in their own communities.</i>



# Service Activities & Community Resources

	Targeted services/resources	Whole school services/resources	Existing or planned?
<b>Attendance</b>	<i>ex: Home visits for chronically absent students (absent &gt; 10% days) to help families resolve issues that are impeding attendance.</i>	<i>ex: Greeting students as they arrive at school so the first thing they see is a friendly face with a positive welcome.</i>	
<b>Behavior</b>	<i>ex: Classroom coaches to assist teachers with conducting in-school suspension.</i>	<i>ex: Hosting an social event for all students that meet behavior goals during the month.</i>	
<b>Course performance</b>	<i>ex: Assisting with volunteers for afterschool and summer tutoring programs.</i>	<i>ex: Leading service projects that link water testing in community streams to the core science curriculum.</i>	
<b>College access</b>	<i>ex: Helping low-income families complete tax returns so they can apply for student financial aid.</i>	<i>ex: Organizing a college fair at the school.</i>	



# Measuring & Sustaining Impact

- Describe your plan to measure the effectiveness of your TFT initiative?
- Describe how your TFT initiative will develop and leverage resources to sustain high-quality school-community partnerships.

# Celebrating and Inspiring Engagement

- Describe how you will celebrate and publicize your TFT partnership efforts, and recognize the work of TFT Partners.
- Describe how your TFT initiative will help change the relationship between schools and community partners, creating an environment where community partners move from education outsiders to education insiders and education success is viewed as everyone's responsibility.



# Discussion

