

ECMC Foundation Soft Skills Digital Library

Across professional fields, employers agree soft skills are increasingly important to employee mobility and success in the workforce. Yet most academic and career training programs focus on technical skills and fail to incorporate essential soft skills, which can limit a student's ability to enter the workforce and be successful on the job.

In 2015, in an effort to promote the education community's incorporation of soft skills into their curriculum and instruction, ECMC Foundation supported research to create a digital library of soft skills resources. The Soft Skills Digital Library is a collection of soft skill programs, initiatives, websites, books, curriculums, and other sources collected by the ECMC Foundation.

The Soft Skills Digital Library is found on the ECMC Foundation website here:
<http://www.ecmcfoundation.org/evaluation-research/soft-skills-library.html>

Request

ECMC Foundation is looking for a permanent home for the Soft Skills Digital Library and will provide funding to one selected organization to take over this exciting project. In order to support a smooth transition to the selected organization, the ECMC Foundation is ready and willing to commit three years of funding to support the transfer of information, staffing, and technological needs to make this an even more valuable resource for the education field.

Requirements

In order to be considered for this opportunity, interested organizations must submit a Letter of Interest to the ECMC Foundation by July 31, 2017 using the guiding questions below. The Letter of Interest should outline the organization's three year goals for the library, keeping in mind that the selected organization will be asked to permanently take over the Soft Skills Digital Library with a commitment to host, maintain, and update the Library in the future.

All submitted Letters of Interest will be considered for this opportunity and one organization will be selected to take on the Soft Skills Digital Library. The selected organization will be contacted no later than August 4, 2017 and asked to submit a full grant proposal (including a more concrete action plan and budget) to the ECMC Foundation by September 1, 2017.

Eligibility + Selection Criteria

Any nonprofit organization with a commitment to education is eligible to submit a Letter of Interest. A small team from the Foundation will evaluate all submitted Letters of Interest. The team will select the organization with the strongest mission alignment and plan to improve and disseminate the information provided in the library.

Process + Timeline

Letter of Interest Deadline	July 31, 2017
Winner Announced	August 04, 2017
Full Proposal Deadline	September 01, 2017
Funding Notification	November 01, 2017

Contact

Questions may be directed to Kathy Wasilewski (KWasilewski@ecmc.org). All final Letters of Interest must be submitted to her by email no later than 5:00 PM (PT) on July 31, 2017.

Soft Skills Digital Library Letter of Interest Guiding Questions

Please prepare a brief (up to three page) Letter of Interest addressing the following questions.

Organization

What is your organization's commitment to K-12, postsecondary education, and workforce development? How does the Soft Skills Digital Library fit into your mission, vision, and goals?

Program Summary

What ideas do you have to improve the Soft Skills Digital Library? What changes might you make to the fields, content, and display to make the library more informative and user-friendly? What search engine optimization (SEO) technics would you utilize to increase traffic to the library?

Program Timeline and Action Plan

What actions will you take over the course of the three year grant period to maintain, update, and disseminate the content in the Soft Skills Digital Library?

Measurements of Success

How will you evaluate the library's success and what metrics will you use to measure successful implementation and effectiveness?

Budget Narrative

What funds are needed for staff time, technology tools, and marketing materials (among other costs) to maintain, update, and disseminate the content in the Soft Skills Digital Library over the course of the three year grant period?