

**Achievement First
Clear Fund Grant Application – General Information
Round Two – October 15, 2007**

I. General information.

A. Mission statement.

The mission of Achievement First is to deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all of America's children. We believe that all children, regardless of race or economic status, can succeed if they have access to a great education. Achievement First schools exist to provide all of our students with the academic and character skills they need to excel in top colleges, succeed in a competitive world, and serve as the next generation of leaders in their communities.

B. Number of paid full-time staff, number of paid part-time staff, number of volunteers.

Achievement First Central employs approximately 36 people between the New York and Connecticut offices. The twelve Achievement First academies in New York and Connecticut employ approximately 135 additional full-time staff. The Saturday tutoring program in New York requires 46 paid part-time staff, and 54 work on the program in Connecticut.

C. Your organization's relationships — both formal and informal — with other organizations working to meet the same needs or providing similar services. Please explain how you differ from these other agencies.

As we are always working to refine our systems of practices across the organization, we continue to operate in the start-up phase. As such, Achievement First has actively built relationships to ensure that we will meet the awesome goals that we have set for our venture and for this funding period, more particularly. AF has partnered and maintained a close relationship with KIPP and Uncommon Schools. We frequently share curricula and best practices with these other great charter school management organizations which mutually benefit our respective efforts and goals. Importantly, Achievement First, KIPP and Uncommon are collaborating on three significant projects including: a teacher university to support the recruitment and development of new teachers; the creation of a high school that will serve the students in the coming years; and the development of additional pipelines that will attract new teachers to teach in high-performing charter schools. This summer Achievement First launched a teaching fellowship program that focuses on recruiting college juniors and exposing them to Achievement First, KIPP and Uncommon.

Furthermore, we have built a strong relationship with New Schools Venture Fund (NSVF). NSVF is a venture philanthropy firm working to transform public education through powerful ideas and passionate entrepreneurs so that all children, in particular underserved children, will have the opportunity to succeed in the 21st century. NSVF has been a significant supporter of our replication project in New York. It has already contributed significant funds to our start-up process for our schools and the growth of Achievement First.

Another relationship that we have cultivated is with our authorizer, the New York City Department of Education Office of Portfolio Development (DOE). In addition to authorization, DOE is also assisting us in identifying temporary facilities for the Achievement First Brooklyn schools and may possibly aid us in our student recruitment efforts.

AF has also built a strong relationship with Teach for America, New Leaders for New Schools, and the New York City Center for Charter School Excellence (NYCCSE). Additionally, as a collaborative partner in the charter movement, we have provided countless support to emerging school leaders in hopes that we can work to establish relationships and build connections that will improve charter school performance overall. It is our goal that we will continue building these relationships thereby supporting our mission to close the achievement gap.

II. Attachments.

Attached please find the following attachments for your review:

- A. Most recent financial statement, audited if available.
- B. Organization-wide operating expense budgets for the current and most recent fiscal year.
- C. List of foundation and corporate supporters and all other sources of income, with amounts, for your current and most recent fiscal year.
- D. List of your Board of Directors, with their affiliations.
- E. Copy of your most recent IRS letter indicating your agency's tax exempt status, or, if not available, an explanation.
- F. One-paragraph resumes of key staff, including qualifications.
- G. Most recent annual report, if available.