



Leap into Science National Network

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What makes a strong state leadership team?

A Leap into Science state leadership team is comprised of **2-3 people representing different organizations** who collectively meet the following expectations:

- Complementary Expertise in:
 - Science (STEM)
 - Literacy
 - Out-of-school time programming
- Commitment to and capacity for statewide outreach
- Access to informal educators who serve rural and urban communities across the state
- Capacity to lead trainings for informal educators and support program implementation

Each state leadership team will look different, and bring unique combinations of partner organizations that reflect the unique needs and makeup of each state. We encourage a combination of organizations including museums, library systems, afterschool networks, and others to apply together. The TFI/NGCP teams are excited to work with applicants on developing strong proposals.

Can more than three people apply to be on a state leadership team?

If a state team wishes to include more than three people who collectively meet the expectations outlined above, that is acceptable. However, **funding will only be provided for up to 3 people per state** to attend the Leap National Institute in March in Philadelphia, and receive a stipend for time and travel involved in the project. Additional state leaders will be expected to attend all in-person and virtual meetings, but will be responsible for their own expenses related to time and travel.

Can more than one state leadership team participate from one state?

No. We are only accepting one state leadership team from each state. We will work to connect all those who are interested so that we can reach everyone within a state with these resources.

What resources will a state leadership team receive?

Each **state team** will receive:

- Curriculum guides and training kits of materials for leading trainings
- Curriculum guides and materials kits for participating educators (up to 45 kits per year, total of 135 kits over 3 years)
- Reimbursement for travel and lodging for up to three leadership team members to attend the National Leadership Institute in Philadelphia on March 25-27, 2018
- Annual stipend of **up to \$3900 per state team** (total up to \$11,700 for 3-year participation). State teams will be able to decide how these funds are allocated to cover team members' time and travel to lead trainings in your state.
- Monthly professional development and technical assistance from TFI and NGCP



What are the expectations of the state leadership team?

EVERY state leader on the team will:

- Participate in the National Leadership Institute in Philadelphia, PA from March 25-27, 2018.
- Recruit informal educators from select rural and urban areas in your state in which to offer training and programming (3 new locations each year).
- Attend monthly project community webinars with other state leaders, led by TFI and NGCP.
- Observe two or more Leap into Science youth or family programs happening in your state.
- Contribute to project evaluation and research efforts through participation in surveys and interviews, as well as recruiting participating educators and families in your state.

AT LEAST ONE state leader on the team will:

- Schedule, plan, and lead in-person trainings for a minimum of 60 new educators per year. Each training should be a minimum of 4 hours.
- Lead quarterly community calls with participating educators in your state for programmatic support.

What if there aren't any urban areas within a state?

We have a high priority to reach rural areas. You can still have a strong application while focusing your reach primarily on rural areas.

Do the organizations need to connect in order to apply?

Yes. Each state leadership team must submit one application together. If multiple people inquire and/or submit applications, we will work to connect you and to strengthen your application together.

What types of organizations should connect and apply?

We are looking for organizations who have different sets of expertise to team up in order to disseminate the program through your state. Examples include, but are not limited to: state or regional library systems, museums, science and technology centers, afterschool organizations or programs, and more.

What is the age range of participants of the project?

The workshops are designed for children ages 3-10 years old and their caregivers/families.

What does a kit look like?

Each state leadership team will receive a master kit to host their trainings, which includes curriculum guides, training guides, workshop supplies, and children's books. Each organization whose informal educators are trained will receive one kit to use with youth and families. Each state is limited to 45 kits per year. Each kit is made up of mostly reusable materials so they can be used multiple times.

How many educators does a state leader team need to train?

Each year, state leaders are expected to provide in-person training for approximately 60-90 new informal educators from urban and rural areas in your state. Informal educators include museum staff, library staff, afterschool staff, camp counselors, and other adults who lead out-of-school time programming for youth and families. This could be in the form of three separate trainings in different regions, or 1-2 larger trainings that may happen in conjunction with a state conference or other event, etc. We prefer that two educators from a common organization attend the training together and share



a kit, to maximize sustainability and support during implementation of the program. Note: we ask that trainer do not train others to become trainers in their state. Those interested in becoming trainers should attend the National Leadership Institute in Philadelphia on March 25-27, 2018. Trainers should also only train educators within their state.

What should an educator training look like?

In-person training should be at least 4-hours long, and provide opportunities for hands-on exploration of the workshop activities, and thoughtful discussion and modeling of facilitation strategies.

What are educators expected to do after participating in the in-person training?

After participating in the in-person training, each educator is expected to lead 4 workshops using the curriculum and materials kit over the next project year. In the subsequent project years, educators will receive online training and digital curriculum guides from The Franklin Institute in the new science themes to offer new workshops for youth and families. Kits will not be provided after their first in-person training, so educators will need to purchase their own books and materials. However, the materials are very simple and accessible, to keep costs low for assembling one's own kit.

What is the Leap National Network project timeline?

Cohort 1	
Applications Due	December 11, 2017
5 State Leadership Teams Announced	January 10, 2018
Kickoff Webinar	Jan/Feb TBD
National Leadership Institute	March 25-27, 2018 Philadelphia, PA
State Leader Community Calls	Monthly TBD
Lead Trainings	April – September 2018
Informal Educators Lead Workshops	Summer 2018 – Spring 2019
National Leap into Science Day Events	Spring 2019
Evaluation activities	Ongoing
Research Case Study Sites selected	Summer 2019

How do I submit an application?

Visit the [Leap into Science webpage](#) to download and complete the application. Teams will also need to submit a resume and letter of reference for each state leader who will be responsible for training. Applications are due **December 11, 2017** via email to Casi Herrera via email at cherrera@ngcproject.org.

Who is the best person to contact with questions?

Casi Herrera from NGCP at cherrera@ngcproject.org and Tara Cox at tcx@fi.edu from TFI are the best people to contact with questions.