



**LEAP into Science: Cultivating a National Network in Informal Science & Literacy**  
**A Broad Implementation Proposal to the National Science Foundation**  
**(Advancing Informal STEM Learning)**

**Overview & Background**

The Franklin Institute and National Girls Collaborative Project are partnering in a 3-year proposal to the National Science Foundation to nationally scale a program called Leap into Science, which combines hands-on science activities and children's books through partnerships between museums, libraries, and community-based organizations. The program began in Philadelphia through a partnership between The Franklin Institute and the Free Library of Philadelphia, as a way to engage children and families in underserved neighborhoods in science and literacy. In 2011, the program expanded to 10 additional cities across the US to pilot the use of the program resources in diverse locations and populations. Each expansion site consists of multiple institutional partners, including museums, libraries, out-of-school time programs, universities, public television, etc. To date, the program has reached over 85,000 children and adults across the US.

**Our Goals & Model**

The goals of this proposed project are to establish a national infrastructure for engaging museums, libraries, and community-based organizations in science and literacy, and to reach more underserved children and families across the US, primarily targeting urban and rural areas. Our model for national scale-up includes creating **state leadership teams**, consisting of three members representing relevant fields within the state: 1) Museum partner, 2) Library partner, and 3) NGCP state collaborative partner.

As a team, state leaders would be expected to:

- Participate in a 3-day in-person conference in Philadelphia, PA to learn about the program philosophy, facilitation techniques, curriculum resources, training resources, and materials.
- Lead 4 trainings per year for informal educators from museums, libraries, and community-based organizations in your state on how to lead Leap workshops and host a community Leap event with local partners.
- Provide ongoing support for informal educators after training.
- Attend annual community Leap events, hosted by informal educators.

Benefits include:

- Access to high-quality evidence-based science & literacy curriculum and training.
- Stipend for participation, travel, meals, lodging, and materials.
- National community of practice supporting outreach in science & literacy, and partnerships with museums, libraries, and community-based organizations.

Thank you for your consideration,

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