



## Call for Proposals

### AMP Grants: Amplifying, Disseminating, and Increasing the Public Reach of Research and Practice Supported by Bringing Theory to Practice

For questions or further information, contact Todd Rosendahl, Program Coordinator ([todd@bttop.org](mailto:todd@bttop.org)).

#### Overview

Bringing Theory to Practice (BT2P) is pleased to announce the renewal of AMP Grants, a funding opportunity for faculty, staff, and programs in non-profit colleges, universities, and consortia. AMP Grants provide between \$500 and \$2000 to support activities that **amplify, disseminate, and increase the public reach of research and practice** that BT2P has supported. As detailed below, these awards may be used to support a range of activities, including:

- virtual or campus-to-campus consulting visits
- multi-institutional convenings
- presentations, reports, and publications that extend the reach of BT2P-supported work beyond traditional academic conferences and journals
- public writing, digital and media products, and other work that bring BT2P-supported work to broader publics.

BT2P's mission is grounded in three commitments. We believe that undergraduate education should be holistic and transformative, nurturing active and integrative learning, personal well-being, preparation for meaningful work, and democratic citizenship. We believe that "educating the whole student" must include students of all backgrounds, interests, and educational settings. And we believe that the first two commitments require significant change in higher education. BT2P works to advance this mission through innovative practice, research, advocacy, and institutional change.

Since 2003, Bringing Theory to Practice has given grants, held convenings, and produced publications in support of these goals. We've funded approximately 600 projects at some 400 institutions. The result has been a trove of innovative practice and research distributed throughout our network. AMP Grants are intended to increase the visibility and public influence of that work.

#### Who and What are Eligible for Funding?

AMP Grants are available to faculty, staff, and programs from any academic institution (or academic association or consortium) that has received previous grant support from BT2P. Applicants may propose collaborative activities (for instance, campus visits, convenings, joint presentations, and

publication or media projects) that include academic institutions and other organizations that were not past grantees, but they must include at least one institution whose work was supported in the past by Bringing Theory to Practice.

Grant proposals should build off of the results, implications, or themes of BT2P-supported work, but they do not have to directly amplify or disseminate the prior grant project itself. A grant might be used, for instance, to fund a research report or online essay about a program that was germinated out of a BT2P dialogue grant. Moreover, the Principal Investigators and proposed participants in AMP Grants do not have to be those who led the earlier BT2P-supported work. The aim of these grants is to support the ongoing, evolving relevance and significance of work catalyzed by Bringing Theory to Practice.

### **Fundable Activities**

AMP Grants are intended to support a variety of activities. Below are several categories of potential support; we also invite proposals for other forms of publicity and dissemination. Funding guidelines for these activities are detailed below.

**Campus visits and convenings:** Consulting visits, campus exchange visits, and multi-institutional convenings—either virtual or physical, as health guidelines permit—offer important opportunities to disseminate innovative practices, programs, and research. Some examples might include (but are not limited to):

- a consultation by a campus team that has developed a well-being curriculum to a university interested in strengthening its supports for student thriving
- a convening of adult-serving colleges or programs seeking to develop “high-impact practices” designed for working adults
- an exchange of virtual or physical visits among institutions seeking to integrate community-based research into capstone projects or pre-professional practice.

**Presentations and reports about research and innovative practice:** AMP Grants can be used to support presentations and reports that extend the reach of innovative work beyond traditional disciplinary circles and scholarly publications. Examples might include (but are not limited to):

- invited talks for high-visibility webinars or public speaker series
- expert presentations at policy meetings or task forces
- design and publication of research reports for broad public dissemination

**Public and high-visibility writing:** AMP Grants may be used as honoraria for writing that exposes wider audiences to innovative projects and research that BT2P has supported. Grants may also fund honoraria for essays, op-eds, and public writing that advance the values of holistic, engaged learning, equity, and positive change to which BT2P is committed. Examples might include (but aren’t limited to):

- an essay in the national higher-ed press that presents best practices for linking student well-being with preparation for work

- an article in a public-affairs magazine or website that demonstrates the effect of BT2P-supported innovations on student outcomes
- an op-ed column drawing on BT2P projects to argue for (or against) policies in areas like financial aid, transfer, or student political participation.

**Media and digital products:** AMP Grants may contribute to funding media and digital products that publicize BT2P-supported work or advance public discussion of the values and issues underlying that work. Examples might include (but aren't limited to):

- design of a website that presents BT2P-supported projects
- production of video diaries or “op-docs” that publicize exemplary programs
- launch of a story-telling platform that lifts up student voices on issues such as well-being, equity, or the purposes of higher education.

### **Funding Guidelines**

Different categories of work are eligible for different levels of grant funding:

- Proposals for virtual consulting visits, physical consulting visits (as health guidelines permit), or high-visibility presentations may receive up to **\$1000** for travel and event expenses.
- Proposals for multi-institution virtual convenings may receive up to **\$1000**.
- Proposals for the preparation of research or best-practice reports may receive up to **\$2000** for design, publication, and dissemination expenses.
- Proposals for public writing or high-visibility presentations will be eligible for an honorarium grant of **\$500** (in addition to honoraria offered by the publication or event host). Half of the honorarium grant will be awarded immediately as a “commission award” and half awarded upon publication.

With the exception of honorarium awards for public writing—which entail no institutional match—all AMP Grants require a 1:1 matching commitment from the proposing institution(s). That match may come as cash support (for instance, stipends for research assistants or the purchase of project-related equipment) or as in-kind support (such as a dedicated fraction of a participant's salary). The grantee may make the match fully as cash, fully as in-kind or any combination of them. In-kind matches must be itemized in the project budget. It is not BT2P's policy to fund general overhead and indirect costs, and we do not accept the institution's general waiving of indirect cost rates as the fulfillment of an in-kind match.

If the proposal involves more than one institutional partner, the matching contributions (both monetary and in-kind) may be shared unequally by the partners or fully borne by one partner. The proposal budget should clearly describe the source of matching contributions.

### **Award Criteria**

Criteria for awarding grants include:

- the capacity of the proposed activities to extend, disseminate, or amplify the projects, research, or issues that BT2P has supported

- the significance of the work that the proposed activities will amplify or discuss
- the public reach or scale of the proposed activities
- the feasibility of accomplishing the proposed activities within the budget and timeframe of the proposal
- the likelihood of proposed writings, presentations, and reports to be completed and published or presented.

The purpose of AMP Grants is to extend the public reach of innovative work and research that Bringing Theory to Practice has supported, not to publicize BT2P itself. Nonetheless we will ask grantees to appropriately note BT2P's support.

### **Time Frame**

AMP Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis. Proposals may be submitted at any time, and applicants can generally expect a response within three weeks of submission. But we will not begin awarding AMP Grants until November 1, 2020. Although the timeline for grant-supported activities can be somewhat flexible, depending on the project, we expect activities funded by AMP Grants to be completed by September, 2022.

### **Proposal Format**

AMP Grant proposals should be submitted electronically as a single, merged PDF attachment to [info@bttop.org](mailto:info@bttop.org) with the subject line "AMP Grant Proposal." Proposals should include:

- an **information sheet** listing key participants and institutions, as well as contact information for the Principal Investigator (PI). The information sheet should also include the title and a brief description (no more than 100 words) of the original BT2P grant(s) on which the proposal is grounded.
- a **proposal narrative of no more than 3 pages**, describing the proposed activities or writings. It should discuss why the proposed activities or writings represent a valuable way to amplify, disseminate, or extend the reach of the original work. Proposals for public writing, reports, or presentations should be as explicit as possible about the venues, publications, or audiences they hope to reach.
- a **project budget**, including sources of matching contributions and categories of expenditure.
- **CVs or relevant biographical information** about participants.

### **Grant Reporting**

The PI's of AMP Grants will be expected to submit:

- a grant report describing the activities accomplished and assessing or reflecting on their impact
- a budget report (except for honorarium grants for writing projects)
- all writings, reports, presentations, event materials, and other resources produced through the grant.