

## MEET THE GRANTMAKERS

### *Funding for Youth & Education Programs*

June 8, 2009

**ORGANIZATION/FOUNDATION NAME:**

*The*  
**Robert**  
**Bowne**  
**Foundation**



**PANELIST NAME & TITLE:**

Lena O. Townsend, *Executive Director*

**ADDRESS:**

55 Water Street, New York, NY 10041

**INTERESTS:**

**(e.g., Fields of interest, areas funded, types of support or service, geographic region, exclusions, etc.)**

The **Robert Bowne Foundation** supports the development of quality programs that offer literacy education to children and youth of New York City, in the out-of-school hours, especially for those living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. We fund programmatic and managerial technical assistance, evaluation, and advocacy organizations that support our grantees as well as other organizations that provide youth services. We also provide small grants for library development.

The criteria for funding are as follows:

- The agency must serve youth (preschool to age 21).
- The agency must have 501(c)3 status and be located within one of the five boroughs of New York City. In rare instances, the Foundation will award a grant to an agency located outside the City if it serves New York City children.

The Foundation does not:

- Make grants to individuals, capital campaigns, or endowments;
- Support religious organizations, primary or secondary schools, colleges, or universities. An exception may be made when some aspect of the organization's work is an integral part of a program receiving funding from the Foundation or if the college or university is participating in a research project supported by The Foundation such as the Edmund A. Stanley, Jr. Research Grants; or
- Support in-school projects or projects following a traditional remedial model of instruction.

**Please note that we are not accepting proposals at this time.**

OVER

## **CONTRIBUTIONS/SERVICE SUMMARY:**

**(e.g., 2008 disbursements, average grant size or range, summary of technical assistance, etc.)**

In 2008 we made:

- 28 direct service grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$35,000. Most were \$30,000;
- 9 library development grants of \$3,000/each with the exception of one \$1,000 grant;
- 7 technical assistance grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$75,000. These include management and programmatic t.a., evaluation and resource development;
- 5 advocacy grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$35,000 to support advocacy at the local, state and national levels;
- 4 Edmund A. Stanley, Jr. Research Grants of \$10,000/each; and
- A grant to the National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOS) in the amount of \$408,741 for the Afterschool Matters initiative which includes but is not limited to the publications and fellowships.

## **PANELIST BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Lena Townsend is the Executive Director of the Robert Bowne Foundation. In that role, her responsibilities include grantmaking oversight in the area of literacy-based afterschool and youth programming. She previously served as Director of Community Initiatives at the Institute for Literacy Studies, Lehman College, City University of New York. She has extensive experience in developing and directing professional development projects for youth practitioners, adult educators, and teachers; and in evaluation methodology and literacy practices.

Lena received a B.S. from NYU's School of Education, an M.A. in Reading from Teachers College, Columbia University, and an M.P.A. in Not-for-Profit Management and Policy at NYU's Wagner School.

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