

APPROVED

AUGUST 10, 2021

Item #C-12
August 10, 2021

**GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM
HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED MALE INITIATIVE**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: In the Fiscal Year 2022 budget the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) received an appropriation of \$1,033,700 to fund the Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative, an initiative of Grow Your Own Illinois. The program goal is to help address the severe shortage of male elementary and secondary school teachers, which is the most acute for minority males.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education grant the Executive Director the authority to enter into an agreement with Grow Your Own-Illinois for the \$1,033,700 appropriation from the State Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency Fund, for the purpose of funding their Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**GROW YOUR OWN TEACHER PROGRAM
HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED MALE INITIATIVE**

The Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative (GYO) is designed to recruit and prepare parent and community leaders and para-educators statewide to become effective teachers 1) in hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students, and 2) in hard-to-staff teaching positions in schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income students. A study by the Center for America Progress found that “students of color are more likely to progress academically when taught by teachers of color who share similar cultural experiences while serving as role model.” The program is operated through Grow Your Own-Illinois. They operate programs in the Chicago area and several in other parts of the state and during fiscal year 2021 they also contracted with Southern Illinois University and Eastern Illinois University to reach those rural service areas.

The fiscal year 2022 IBHE budget included a \$1,033,700 appropriation to fund the Grow Your Own-Illinois Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative GYO-Illinois. See: [Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative — Grow Your Own Teachers](#).

The funding comes from the State Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency Fund. These funds originate from Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This federal program will require additional reporting.

The Disadvantaged Male Initiative focuses on helping recruit, mentor and retain males of color in classrooms. As noted previously, there is a shortage of teachers of color, relative to the proportion of students of color in elementary and secondary education. The proportion of males of color is particularly low. This initiative is currently focused in Chicago and Lake County.

Recommendation

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants the Executive Director the authority to enter into an agreement with Grow Your Own Illinois for \$1,033,700 for the Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative.