**Ford Foundation**

**Application process:**

The Ford Foundation has shifted from accepting Letters of Inquiry for proposed projects to identifying what they want to fund (no open RFP’s).

“While the majority of our grants are identified by the foundation, we welcome proposals that fit within our lines of work. Each program has its own strategy and comprehensive selection process. We aim to be as clear as possible about our priorities, but we know that there are more worthy ideas, approaches, and organizations than we have the resources to fund.”

<https://www.fordfoundation.org/work/our-grants/grant-opportunities/>

**Foundation’s Mission**

“At Ford, we believe justice begins where inequality ends. We support organizations that address the underlying drivers of inequality and align with our programmatic work around the world. Every year, we award roughly 1,500 grants to institutions with transformative ideas and scalable solutions with the aim of achieving the greatest impact.”

Vertus aligns with the Ford Foundation’s mission above, in that is addresses the “underlying drivers of inequality” and has created an education model for young men of color to succeed in high school and beyond.

**Ford’s Programs**

Vertus Charter School does not fit into any of their published programs so it’s important to talk with Ursula Burns about getting a meeting with a program officer to consider learning more about Vertus.

I initially thought Vertus might fit into the Future of Workers program, but it does not: “And we do not fund workforce development and skill-building, or entrepreneurship training and financing.” <https://www.fordfoundation.org/work/challenging-inequality/future-of-work-ers/>