



USAID Opportunity 2.0 Higher Education Community of Practice (HECoP) Steering Group Recruitment & Application

About the USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program

The USAID Opportunity 2.0 (O2), a program by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the Education Development Center (EDC), strengthens systems in the Philippines to provide second-chance opportunities to Filipino out-of-school youth across 15 cities to lead them towards gainful employment, entrepreneurship, or further education and training. Included in this vision of improving opportunities for Filipino OSYs is the critical role of higher education institutions (HEIs). O2 works with higher education institutions in a variety of ways, which includes conducting OSY-relevant research, guiding OSYs to pursue further education and training, facilitating capacity strengthening activities to OSY-serving leaders and stakeholders, extending their own resources to the wider communities, and developing cutting-edge innovations such as OSY database systems. Through the HECoP, O2 will work with HEIs to conduct research on OSYs, facilitate pathways for ALS graduates and other youth to enter into higher education, and provide recommendations to OSY programming and policy development from the lens of academia.

The Higher Education Community of Practice for Out of School Youth

The HECoP for OSY and Lifelong Learning will bring together Philippine higher education institutions (HEIs) to advance research and thought leadership that will directly impact the programs, services, and opportunities provided to Filipino OSYs. The HECoP will support research, professional development opportunities, and public policy advocacy to support OSY and lifelong learning.

Through the development of tools, evidence, resources, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities, the HECoP will enhance members' capacity to act and support OSY transition to meaningful learning and earning opportunities. The HECoP will also be supported to establish global linkages with U.S. HEIs and researchers, and with the [USAID Higher Education Learning Network](#).



HECoP Steering Group Purpose and Role

The HECoP Steering Group (SG) will steer the community of practice by creating a strategic vision and means of collaboration among members. More specifically, the HECoP SG members are expected to:

- Refine and articulate the overall goals and objectives of the HECoP
- Design events and activities that elevates the contributions of the higher education sector to OSY development to the national level, and which expands the Community's impact and presence to the broader Philippine higher education sector
- Develop analyses and opinions on OSY programming that significantly contributes to the broader HECoP objectives
- Facilitate meaningful engagement among HECoP members that supports peer learning, networking, and coaching
- Represent the diverse voices and perspectives of the HECoP membership on the SG through the presence of various institutional types and regions of the Philippines
- Work with other SG members and others from diverse stakeholder groups, including from U.S. higher education institutions
- Participate and perform the SG work in a respectful and timely fashion, and adhere to the established ways of working

Service Length and Time Commitment

HECoP Steering Group members and its elected co-chairs are requested to dedicate a **full one year of voluntary work**, with possibility of extension based on the collective decision of the HECoP. Time commitment is envisioned to be at least **one day per month**, which includes monthly virtual meetings. Also, given availability of funds, HECoP SG Members may attend up to two additional in-person meetings that will take place from October 2023 – September 2024.

To assist the HECoP SG members to establish the community, Opportunity 2.0 will convene the SG members for a face-to-face workshop to identify ways of working together and co-develop an initial workplan. The HECoP is expected to commence its work by October 2023.



Steering Group Composition

The HECoP SG will have at least 15 members, representing each of the 15 Opportunity 2.0 sites, who will be sourced through a call for membership applications. Each member may have an alternate to ensure full attendance for all meetings.

The Steering Group will include:

- Higher education teaching or non-teaching personnel from each of the 15 Opportunity 2.0 sites
- A representative from the Opportunity 2.0 program to help facilitate the HECoP work

From time to time, external experts from government, industry, or the youth sector may also be consulted and invited to the HECoP meetings to act as resource persons for the Community. These invitations will be coursed through the identified O2 representative who will first act as Secretariat to the HECoP.

Our selection criteria and process are designed to identify SG representatives who are:

- represent diverse institutional types, including public private colleges and universities; and represent various sectors in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and capacities
- technical experts in higher education programming for youth development, OSY research, and OSY-related evidence use
- at a decision-making level in their institutions
- committed to collaboration and collective impact

Preference will be given to institutions who are part of Opportunity 2.0 Youth Development Alliances (either as formal YDA Members or as Collaborative Partners of the YDAs)

Steering Group Application Process

The Opportunity 2.0 staff will employ the below process for recruitment HECoP members:

1. **September 1, 2023** - Application Deadline
2. **Mid-September 2023** - The USAID Opportunity 2.0 Team will select members according to the composition criteria above. Shortlisted candidates will also be requested to participate in an informal interview.
3. **End of September 2023** - All applicants will be notified by email of the selection decision
4. **October 2023** - Public announcement of the selected HECoP SG Members



For more information, please contact:

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