



STEM Skills Today  Workforce Tomorrow

STEMLink In-School Grant Questions & Answers Posted June 23, 2014

Q: Are grant monies given up front or on a reimbursable basis?

A: These grants are given on a reimbursable basis.

Q: Can you fund student and faculty salaries?

A: Yes staff salaries are an allowable cost.

Q: Are overhead and indirect costs allowed?

A: Yes, we allow up to 10% of the federally approved rate of the organization. The remaining amount can be claimed as matching funds.

Q: Can the funds cover stipends for internships?

A: Yes, for a work experience or internship that supports training, applicants will need to describe how the work experience or internship is connected to and supports the education and training activities included in the grant. Fair Labor Standards Act must also be followed.

Q: Is it a disadvantage to apply for both the in school and after school grant or should you focus on one?

A: No, they are separate review processes and one does not affect the other.

Q: Are transportations costs for fieldtrips allowed?

A: Yes, transportation costs are allowable.

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum funding amount?

A: No, funding is based on program needs.

Q: Would robotics equipment be considered electronic equipment? If no- could up to \$5000 be used for robotics equipment?

A: Yes, any single component that is more than \$5,000.00 with the useful life of longer than one year is considered equipment. Equipment and/or educational technologies that will contribute to the implementation or expansion of STEM activities are allowable expenses.

Q: We are applying as a school district, do we have to have a location set in order to apply, or can part of the grant process be selecting a school?

A: You may still apply as the district without a school identified. However, we will want to have it identified prior to contracting if approved.

Q: When I submit the grant, do I email the abstract, technical proposal, letter from the school administration, budget attachment B, and 7 support letters all as separate documents?

A: They may be scanned in and submitted as one or as separate documents.

Q: Does an abstract need to be submitted prior to the final proposal?

A: No, it should be submitted along with the technical proposal prior to or on June 27, 2014.

Q: If we are asking for a number of items, should we prioritize them in order of importance? We would rather receive some funding than no funding at all, would identifying this help?

A: Yes, prioritize your programs/items in your proposal. The executive committee has the ability to fully or partially fund the grant applications.

Q: Would it be acceptable for non-profits to be the LEA encompassing two of our Community Schools?

A: The STEMLink in-school RFG is for Public School Districts, Schools and Charter schools to incorporate STEM Programs and/or Activities in the classroom during school hours.

The STEMLink after-school RFG is open beyond that to Non-Profits for before school, after school, weekend or summer programs.

Q: I understand the funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis. I also understand that funds can be used for curriculum development and teacher stipends. How will this be done? Who is expected to pay the curriculum developers and the teacher stipends initially? To be reimbursed, someone must pay initially. Who is expected to pay initially?

A: The applicant would be responsible to pay all expenses initially and submit invoices to be reimbursed.

Q: Concerning employers and institutions of higher education, do I need to simply identify them or do I need letters of support from them, indicating their willingness to work with me?

A: Their roles would be identified in the proposal. Letters of support are optional but could be helpful.

Q: What is an articulation agreement?

A: Articulation agreements are usually between secondary schools and post-secondary schools or between community colleges and universities to show course articulation for college credit.

Q: The application refers to "funds being leveraged" and says that matching funds are not required. What does leveraging funds mean?

A: Matching funds are not required. However, additional funds spent toward the project that are not paid for out of the grant can be used or considered as leveraged. Projects that leverage their own funds in addition to the grant are strongly encouraged.

Q: What is the difference between cash and an in-kind match?

A: A cash matches are funds that are being paid out by other sources to support the proposed project. (e.g. teacher salaries, funds for equipment not being paid for by the grant etc.) In-kind matches are time being donated to volunteer, guest speakers, equipment donations etc.

Q: Can multiple programs, supplies or activities be applied for in the same grant or do we need to submit separate proposals for each one?

A: Multiple programs, activities and supplies may be put into one grant proposal. Please specify in the budget narrative how much is needed for each program and associated activities/supplies etc.