Opportunity Grants Program

For the improvement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in West Virginia

Program Announcement	Proposal Deadline
Opportunity FY '23 (07/1/22-06/30/23)	Open from July 1, 2022 until June 2023 or funding is exhausted

Eligibility

Organization: All four-year colleges and universities in West Virginia, West Virginia Community and Technical colleges, West Virginia private and public K-12 schools, non-profit organizations that are tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3) or a governmental agency.

Principal Investigator (PI) Eligibility: Full-time faculty from four-year colleges and universities in West Virginia and/or West Virginia Community and Technical Colleges, principals from West Virginia private and public K-12 schools, directors of non-profit organizations or agency heads of a governmental agency.

Limit on Proposals: No institution, organization or agency may submit more than one proposal per year; exceptions may apply when an organization is acting as a fiscal agent for another organization.

Award Information

Type of Award: Cost Reimbursable*

Anticipated Award Date: Varies

Award Period: One year maximum

Estimated Number of Awards: 8-10

Maximum Funding per Award: $5,000

Anticipated Total Funding: $40,000

Cost Share Requirement: None

Some exceptions may be allowed

Program Description

The Opportunity Grants Program is adminstered by STaR Division: Science, Technology and Research (STaR) at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission). The purpose of these grants is to support STEM education and/or demonstrate the value of STEM in West Virginia, build STEM research capacity, and/or support those in STEM careers.

Projects we typically fund include, but are not limited to, camps or workshops for West Virginia residents, STEM diversity and inclusion initiatives, travel to national or international scientific conferences, and sponsorship of state-wide scientific or technical conferences. Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize STaR support as a supplement to other sources of funding.

Each proposal should be for a single purpose; multi project proposals will be declined.

No institution may submit more than one proposal in one year. Investigators who received an award in the prior year are not eligible to apply.

Application

Competition for funds is strong, and STaR receives far more proposals than can be supported. Proposals must be submitted via the Grant Opportunity (GO!) system. Visit wvresearch.org to register for an account.

Project Summary: Provide a one-page summary of your project.

Project Description: To be considered, proposals must describe activities for engaging students or citizens of the state — particularly those who might otherwise not have these opportunities — to participate in STEM programming. Alternatively, the proposal must make the case for improving the professional development of the faculty member or student. Proposals should not exceed 800 words and must include a project performance period (anticipated start and end dates).

Budget: Show all estimated costs and cost contributions from your institution or other partners. A budget spreadsheet template can be downloaded from the GO! system. Vendor quotes are encouraged, if applicable.

Note: If requesting sponsorship for an event, please include the various levels of sponsorships available.

Cost Sharing: No cost sharing is required. However, STaR will consider the positive impact of leveraging internal and external support in the overall consideration of each proposal.

Indirect Cost Limitations: Overhead costs are not allowed.

Other Budgetary Limitations: Equipment purchases, and faculty salaries are not eligible for reimbursement. Purchases, projects and travel must be completed within one year of the award. One time no cost extensions may be considered but are generally disallowed.

Review and Award Procedures

The primary selection procedures will be the extent to which the request will improve science and engineering education in West Virginia, or the professional development of the faculty member through a process established by STaR. STaR reserves the right to solicit additional information, to make suggestions for modifications including collaborating with other organizations for funding of the project. Notification of awards will be made to the submitting PI and submitting organization within four weeks of receipt of the proposal. PIs whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible.

Reporting Requirements

All recipients of STaR funding are required to provide a written report to STaR after the end of the grant period. Recipients are expected to summarize the impact and outcomes of the award, final expenditures, significant insights, numbers of students served, secondary or advanced proposals to other programs other federal, private, or state programs, and overall success of the award. The report is due no later than 60 days following the grant ending date.

Contact Information

For questions, please contact the program officer:

For registration assistance or help using the GO! system, please contact:

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