



# Opportunity Grants & Sponsorships Program

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

## Program Announcement

STaR.OGP.2024 (replaces WVSR.IGP.2023)

## Proposal Deadline

Open from July 1, 2023 until June 2024 or funding is exhausted

## Eligibility

**Organization:** All West Virginia four-year colleges, universities, community and technical colleges, private and public K-12 schools, non-profit organizations that are tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3), or state, county, or city governmental agencies.

**Principal Investigator (PI) Eligibility:** Full-time college or university faculty, school principals, 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. Investigators who received awards in the prior two years are not eligible to apply for cost reimbursable grants; sponsorships are exempt from this condition.

## Award Information

**Type of Award:** Cost Reimbursable Grant or Sponsorship

**Anticipated Award Date:** Varies

**Award Period:** One year maximum

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 8-10

**Maximum Funding per Award:** \$5,000

**Anticipated Total Funding:** \$60,000

**Cost Share Requirement:** None

## Program Description

The purpose of the West Virginia Science, Technology and Research (STaR) Opportunity Grants & Sponsorships Program is to support STEM education, demonstrate the value of STEM in West Virginia, and/or support those in STEM careers.

Projects typically funded include, but are not limited to, camps or workshops for West Virginia residents, STEM

diversity and inclusion initiatives, out of state faculty/student travel to scientific conferences or for research purposes, and sponsorship of state-wide scientific or technical conferences or events. Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize STaR support as a supplement to other sources of funding. Sponsorships requests for conferences and/or events may be funded in advance of the event. Cost reimbursable grants are reimbursed after invoices for travel, supplies, etc. have been submitted to STaR.

Each proposal should be for a single purpose.

## 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](http://wvresearch.org) to register for an account.

**Project Summary:** Provide a one-page summary of your project if applying for a cost reimbursable grant. An event sponsorship should be in the form of a letter requesting that STaR sponsor an event/conference and should detail the benefits of sponsorship, as well as the amount requested.

**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 ending dates). This section is not required for sponsorships.

**Budget:** Show all estimated costs and cost contributions from your institution or other partners. A budget spreadsheet template can be downloaded from the [wvresearch.org](http://wvresearch.org) website. Vendor quotes are encouraged, if applicable. This section is not required for sponsorships.

**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:** Faculty salaries are excluded. General office equipment such as computers and printers, software, and general office supplies are not allowed. Materials, travel, meeting expenses and special equipment for outreach purposes are allowed but they must be specifically for the proposed project. Expenditures must be completed by the end of the grant award period. Receipts for the expenditures must be included with the awardee's invoice that is submitted to STaR for reimbursement. One time no cost extensions may be considered but are generally disallowed.

## Review and Award Procedures

The primary selection criteria will be the extent to which the request will improve undergraduate science and engineering education in West Virginia, or the professional development of faculty members. Star reserves the right to solicit additional information and make suggestions for modifications.

Notification of awards will be made to the submitting PI and submitting organization within 4 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 an uploaded report to STaR after the end of the award 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 (federal, private, or state), and overall success of the award. Please include photos as a separate upload with the report if possible. The report is due not later than 60 days following the grant award ending date.

## Contact Information

*For questions, please contact the program officer:*

### **Dr. Juliana Serafin, Senior Director**

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

### **Dr. Suzanne Strait, Associate Director**

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