



Opportunity Grants & Sponsorships Program

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

Program Announcement

STaR.OGP.2027 (replaces WVSR.IGP.2026)

Proposal Deadline

Open from July 1, 2026 until June 2027 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.

Award Information

Type of Award: Cost Reimbursable Grant or Sponsorship

Anticipated Award Date: Varies

Award Period: One year maximum

Estimated Number of Awards: Up to 8

Maximum Funding per Award: \$5,000

Anticipated Total Funding: Up to \$40,000

Cost Share Requirement: None

Important Information and Revision Notes

- Provided clarity on distinction between Opportunity Grants and Sponsorships
- Invited proposals supporting statewide initiatives via a "Statewide Sponsorship" track
- Specified that Statewide Sponsorships are exempt from eligibility requirements

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 we typically fund include, but are not limited to: camps or workshops for West Virginia residents, increasing STEM participation initiatives, out of state travel to scientific conferences or for research purposes, and sponsorship of state-wide scientific or technical events. Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize STaR support as a supplement to other sources of funding.

The Opportunity Grants & Sponsorships Program contains three tracks: 1) the Opportunity Grants track, 2) Sponsorships track, and 3) Statewide Initiatives track.

Opportunity Grant: Funded projects typically support activities such:

- Hosting camps or workshops for West Virginia residents (multi-day or multi-week)
- Increasing STEM participation initiatives
- Out-of-state travel to scientific conferences directly related to research, STEM education, and professional development opportunities

Sponsorships: Funded projects typically support activities (day-long or short-term) such as:

- Scientific or technical events
- Professional or career development events
- STEM education events

In the review process, the Review Committee will determine which of these two tracks are appropriate for a given proposal.

Statewide Initiatives: This track is intended for proposals submitted by one organization on behalf of a coordinated statewide initiative that engages partners across West Virginia to advance STEM education, research, workforce development, and innovation.

The Statewide Initiatives track is exempt from the limited submission requirement and PI eligibility policy because these proposals are submitted by a single organization to coordinate activities that benefit multiple institutions and communities throughout West Virginia. Proposals submitted to this track do not count toward an organization's limited submission eligibility. To indicate that a proposal is intended for this track, include the prefix "STATEWIDE" in the title of the proposal.

Each proposal should be for a single purpose.

No institution may submit more than one (1) proposal in one year. Investigators who received awards in the prior two years are not eligible to apply.

Important Dates

The program opens and will accept proposals beginning July 1. Proposals will be reviewed on October 1. If funding remains available following the September review, a second review cycle will occur on December 1. If funding remains available after the December 1 review, proposals will be reviewed on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted.

An exception may be made for early review of proposals submitted between July 1 and July 15 when proposed activities require a funding decision prior to September 1. Early review requests will be considered on a case by case basis and are not guaranteed.

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 request 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 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).

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 website. Vendor quotes are encouraged, if applicable.

Note if requesting a sponsorship for an event, please include the various levels of sponsorships available and the benefits to the sponsor in the form of a letter. A formal budget is not required if various sponsors are contributing to the event. The amount funded will be determined by STaR.

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.

Justification for Expedited Review: For proposals submitted between July 1 to July 15, include a justification for expedited review.

Review and Award Criteria

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 a written 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. The report is due not later than 60 days following the grant ending date.

Contact Information

For questions, please contact the program officer:

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

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