

GRANT NEWS

HIGHLIGHTED GRANTS

Grant Name: Inspired Visual Learning Awards

Funded by: Inspiration Software

Description: The 2008-2009 Inspired Visual Learning Awards will recognize 15 educators and their students who are creatively using visual learning in their classrooms.

Program Areas: General Education, Math, Reading, Science/Environment, Social Studies, Technology

Proposal Deadline: 2/27/09

Average Amount: \$2,500.00

Website: <http://cf.inspiration.com/vlawards>

Grant Name: Travelers Charitable Foundations Education

Funded by: Travelers Charitable Foundation

Description: We fund educational initiatives that: Prepare young people for academic learning through age-appropriate, structured, academic preparatory activities; Strengthen youth academic skills as well as programs that address barriers to learning; Prepare youth for learning and enable them to attend post-secondary programs.

Program Areas: Arts, Community Involvement/ Volunteerism, Family Services, Math, Reading, Safe/ Drug Free Schools, Science/Environment, Social Studies

Proposal Deadline: 2/15/09

Average Amount: \$500.00 - \$100,000.00

Website: <http://www.travelers.com/corporate-info/about/community/education.aspx>

STUDENT AWARDS

Bezos Scholars Program

Deadline: February 15, 2009

Web Site: <http://www.bezosfamilyfoundation.org/scholars/>

The Bezos Scholars Program brings together 12 of the country's top high school juniors to meet one another and engage in seminars and meetings with international leaders, thinkers, and creative artists at the annual Aspen Ideas Festival.

Neighborhood Excellence Student Leaders Awards

Deadline: February 20, 2009

Web Site: http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation/index.cfm?template=fd_studentleaders

As part of the Student Leaders program, students will participate in an eight-week internship and experience first-hand how they can help shape their communities now and in the future.

Girls Going Places Entrepreneurship Award Program

Deadline: February 27, 2009

Source: The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America

Web Site: http://www.guardianlife.com/womens_channel/girls_going_places/girls_going_places.html

Guardian awards prizes to 15 girls who demonstrate budding entrepreneurship, are taking the first steps toward financial independence, and are making a difference in their schools and communities.

Heinz Ketchup Creativity Contest 2008-2009

Deadline: February 28, 2009

Web Site: <http://www.ketchupcreativity.com/about.aspx>

This artistic and educational program allows students to put their love of ketchup and creativity to the test for a chance to have their art printed on nearly 19.5 million Heinz ketchup packets.

Grant Writing Tips

- o Use declarative rather than conditional verbs. Avoid the words *if*, *could*, and *might*. Instead, boldly declare that the gift *will* create a positive outcome.
- o Shorter is better. Keep your prose tight and the details condensed. Never exceed the recommended page length or fiddle with margins to squeeze in more words. Foundation officers are buried in paperwork, so make your proposal an easy read.
- o Proofread! Spelling and grammar errors do not convey a positive image.
- o Document the “need” or “problem” on multiple levels. If space allows, provide a recent national statistic with the source identified by name or title and date. Next, provide a statistic related to your geographic region or town. Finally, summarize internal data to show how many participants are helped or services are provided by your organization.
- o Find out which foundations have given grants in your region similar to your planned proposal. Talk to those who got funded and ask for advice and ideally copies of their successful grants.

Observations in Grant Funding

Here are a few things to think about when choosing a project for grant funding:

- o Cultural Heritage funding is high.
- o Education, Health and Human Services are all at a very high level for grant funding.
- o International Affairs and the Environment have shown the largest gains in funding
- o The number of grants awarded is continually increasing; don’t be afraid to apply and apply frequently.
- o International Affairs and the Environment are two areas that have gained the most in funding
- o Keep an eye on what the economy does to grant funding.

Available Resources

For more available grants in all educational categories, check out the following websites:

www.grantwrangler.com/

www.grantsalert.com

www.fundsnet.com

www.educationworld.com/a_admin/archives/grants.shtml

<http://megs.mde.state.mi.us/megsweb/grantsavailable.aspx>

www.technologygrantnews.com/grant-index-by-type/educational-technology-grants.html

www.teacherscount.org/teacher/grants.shtml

www.grants.gov

www.publiceducation.org/newsblastgrants.asp