

October 2009

Grant News 5 October 2009

GRANT NEWS

HIGHLIGHTED GRANTS

Service-Learning Mini-Grants for Ionia & Montcalm

The service-learning mini-grants will be available on the Ionia and Montcalm Intermediate School Districts' website beginning October 5th. Teachers in Ionia County will be able to apply for a State Farm service-learning grant. Teachers in Montcalm County will be able to apply for the Learn & Serve mini-grant. Please see applications for specific directions on applying.

What do Winning Proposals Have In Common?

By Gary Carnow

Here are ten of the common elements found in winning proposals:

1. **Winning proposals have clearly defined needs and describe how those needs were identified.** Winning proposals define programs to meet the identified needs.
2. **Winning proposals describe what kids and teachers will do.** Create a real-life scenario for the reader. Try to paint a picture with words. The reader must clearly make sense of what you intend to do.
3. **Winning proposals present the material in a logical manner.** Sections are clearly identified and a parallel structure is maintained. Each need has a stated objective, activity, and evaluation statement.
4. **Winning proposals are written in positive terms.** Some writers believe that if you describe how bleak a situation is, someone will throw money at you to solve your problems. This is not true. Funders hedge their bets by backing proposals that describe worthwhile programs that will meet identified needs and match the criteria set forth by the grant-maker.
5. **Winning proposals do not overuse educational jargon.** Terms that are known only to educators are clearly defined. For example, "cooperative learning" has different connotations in different parts of the country. Define what you mean. Will a non-educator understand your proposal?
6. **Winning proposals present detailed budgets that match the proposed program.** All bases must be covered. If you are going to purchase hardware, have you purchased software? If you are going to buy software, what specific programs do you intend to purchase? If you plan to offer training, how much, and at what cost?
7. **Winning proposals give something back.** Some projects develop a product. The process you go through can become a product. Funders want others to adopt and adapt what you've learned. Dissemination of information or knowledge to others may give your proposal the winning edge.
8. **Winning proposals follow all the guidelines specified in the Request for Proposal.** If a scoring rubric or evaluation checklist is given to you, read it and follow those directions!
9. **Winning proposals are professional looking.** They are word-processed and simply presented. They are not bound in fancy leather covers with 12 different typefaces. Instead, winning proposals are presented according to the directions in the Request for Proposal. Most grant-makers want a signed original and several copies. Sign all materials in blue ink. This way the original can be clearly distinguished from the copies.

Winning proposals are not too short or too long. They tend to be as long as necessary to answer each and every question in the Request for Proposal. As a rule of thumb, use the scoring guidelines to determine length. For example, let's say the grant-maker wants the finished proposal to be no longer than ten pages. How long do you make each section? The guidelines may suggest you include an abstract, needs, activities, expected outcomes, evaluation plan, and a budget. If the scoring guidelines weight the evaluation section to be 20 percent of the final score, take that to mean that 20 percent, or two of the ten pages, should be devoted to evaluation.

Gary A. Carnow, Ed.D., is the Director of Technology and Information Services for the Alhambra School District in the Los Angeles area. He specializes in instructional and administrative planning and uses of technology. Dr. Carnow is the recipient of the Marshall McLuhan Award in Global Communications for his work in training teachers to use technology

Learning & Leadership Grants

The NEA Foundation

These grants support public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education for one of the following two purposes: 1) Grants to individuals fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes or action research. 2) Grants to groups fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson study, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff new to an assignment. Applicants must be practicing U.S. public school teachers in grades K–12, public school education support professionals, or faculty and staff at public higher education institutions. Preference will be given to members of the National Education Association. The NEA Foundation encourages grant applications from teachers with less than seven years of experience in the profession, and education support professionals. Applicants: Mail the original and five (5) copies of your application to the address listed below. Please do not staple or bind your application. Applications that do not comply with the guidelines or that include materials not specifically requested by The NEA Foundation will not be reviewed. Applications sent by e-mail or fax, or incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Proposal Deadline: 10/15/2009

Website: http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/Learning&Leadership_Guidelines.htm

Excellence in Teaching Technology

The Foundation for Technology Education in Cooperation with Pitsco/Hearlihy & Company

The Foundation for Technology Education in cooperation with Pitsco/Hearlihy & Company proudly announces the \$2,000 Pitsco/Hearlihy/FTE Grant in honor of Tom and Mary Hearlihy. The grant is for a technology teacher at any grade level (K-12). Its purpose is to recognize and encourage the integration of a quality technology education program within the school curriculum. Criteria include: (1) evidence of an effective quality technology education program, (2) documented success in the integration of technology education with other academic subjects, and (3) plans for professional development via the anticipated grant.

Proposal Deadline: 12/01/2009

Website: <http://www.iteaconnect.org/Awards/granthearlihy.htm>

Professional Growth & Development

Michigan Education Association

The Michigan Education Association is committed to improving the quality of education for Michigan students in the state's public schools. As part of its continuing commitment to deliver quality professional development and improved professional practice for its members, MEA established a program to provide funding grants to members, local associations and local professional development committees. MEA's Professional Growth & Development (PG&D) Grant projects allow members to plan and implement conferences, workshops, research or other projects that address educational needs and professional practice.

Proposal Deadline: No Deadline

Website: <http://www.mea.org/awards/index.html>

H.O. West Foundation Educational Grants

The H.O. West Foundation

Giving primarily in areas of company operations in AZ, FL, MI, NC, NE, and PA to support organizations involved with arts and culture, education, health, human services, community development, and science and technology. Program areas include: Arts, Community Involvement/Volunteerism, Facilities/Maintenance, General Education, Health/PE, Math, Reading, Science/Environmental, Social Studies, Technology

Proposal Deadline: None

Website: <http://www.westpharma.com/na/en/about/Pages/CharitableGiving.aspx>

Exxon Corporation Educational Grants

Exxon Corporation Contributions Program

These grants are given to support education programs nationwide. Funding is directed at improving student learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (the STEM areas) and at the pre-college level and in higher education, and includes professional development. Program areas include: General Education, Health/PE, Math, Reading, Science/Environmental, Social Studies, Technology

Proposal Deadline: None

Website: http://www.exxonmobil.com/Corporate/community_ed.aspx

AIAA Classroom Educational Grants

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)

The purpose of AIAA grants is to assist educators in presenting mathematics, science, and technology principles to students (K-12) in an exciting, hands-on manner to develop our future aeronautics and aerospace engineers, scientists, pilots, and space explorers. Program areas include: Math, Science/Environmental, Technology

Proposal Deadline: None

Website: <http://www.aiaa.org/content.cfm?pageid=216>