STEM Education Grants

We support high-quality educational programming by schools and nonprofit organizations that enable access to knowledge and information and empower students and teachers in communities around the nation, with a focus on furthering STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) education. Priority is given to programs that take place during the school day, but also includes after school and summer programs, technical training programs, and academic programs that enrich or supplement school programs.

The in-school educational programs we support target grades K-12 and under-served students (50%+ students qualify for free/reduced lunch) and take place during the school day. The after school and summer programs we support include those offered by youth development organizations that take place outside of the regular school day and provide students in grades K-12 with opportunities to enhance their skills and interests through exposure to STEM fields.

We accept applications from organizations serving Bayer communities during two periods annually. Eligible communities are listed on the grant program webpage. The first period (the majority of funding) opens January 1 and closes February 28 at 11:59:59pm Central Time (CT) with funding decisions made in May/June. The second period (typically only open in our larger communities) opens July 1 and closes August 31 at 11:59:59pm CT with funding decisions made in November/December.

Eligibility

What types of organizations are eligible to apply for grants in this funding program?

- Organizations who hold a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status and have been operating as such for a minimum of two years
    - To insure roles/responsibilities/commitments are established, all nonprofits working in schools must upload a completed Partnership Agreement (example included in application)
- Organizations who are units of government under Section 170(c)(1), such as public schools, libraries, villages and municipalities
    - Individual schools must apply through their School District office (we fund districts, not individual schools), unless private or independent as noted
    - Private or independent schools may apply for this program, provided that admission is open to all students in a given community, and at least 50 percent of the students served by the school qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch
- The nonprofit must be experienced and reputable; Bayer Fund does not work with start-up organizations
- **The nonprofit must be financially sound. For grant requests more than $10,000, proof of most current financial audit is required as follows**:
    - A charitable organization with annual revenue of $500,000 or above must submit an audited financial statement prepared by an independent audit firm.
    - A charitable organization with annual revenue less than $500,000 and at least $100,000 must submit a financial statement that is reviewed or audited by an independent audit firm.
    - A charitable organization with annual revenue less than $100,000 must have a compilation, review, or audit of its financial statements prepared by an independent audit firm.

- Organizations must be located within approximately 55 miles of an eligible Bayer community and the program must serve where a Bayer site is located.

Do I need an invitation code to apply?

Yes, all applicants must be invited to apply for a grant from Bayer Fund. We prefer to have a conversation with grant seekers, and/or have information on the program being requested for funding prior to an application being completed. If we are unable to support your program, we would rather tell you upfront so that your valuable time can be spent serving the community rather than writing an application that we cannot fund. Invitation codes can be requested from the Bayer site in your community or through the Contact Us page of this site.

What will Bayer Fund not fund?
- Endowments
- Debt retirements
- Political, labor and fraternal organizations
- Consumer or governmental lobbying or advocacy
- Veterans' organizations classified as 501(c)(4) *(if classified as 501(c)(3) are eligible)*
- Benefits, dinners, advertisements (sponsorships)
- Religious organizations for religious purposes
- Trade or business associations
- Grants for individual aid or personal support
- Activities that directly support marketing programs
- Projects in which Bayer Fund or Bayer has a financial interest, or from which either one could derive a financial benefit
- Organizations that could purchase, dispense or prescribe Bayer products or their affiliated foundations (e.g., hospitals, medical schools, health care providers, pharmacies)
- Patient assistant fund or requests that provide financial assistance to patients, or medical treatment or therapy-related supplies for patients
- Bayer Fund will not support programs that focus on or are limited to specific types of cancer (e.g. prostate cancer) or a particular form of cardiovascular disease. The program must be open to patients and families dealing with any type of cancer or cardiovascular disease.
- Organizations that do not comply with our Non-Discrimination Policy
- As a programmatic foundation, Bayer Fund does not fund infrastructure costs of organizations

Program Information

What kinds of K-12 programs does Bayer Fund support?

Bayer Fund supports programs that are focused on:
- Curriculum Improvement in Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Math (STEM)
- Innovative Uses of Technology to Enhance STEM (or STEAM) Learning or Instruction
- Equipment or Materials to Enhance STEM Learning or Instruction
- Professional Development for Teachers or School Leaders to Enhance STEM Learning or Instruction
- Enrichment Programming to Enhance STEM Learning (such as reading/comprehension)
- Agriculture training programs for students that take place during the school day
- Providing students with opportunities to enhance skills and interest through exposure to STEM fields

Must the program we are applying for be a new program or can it be an existing program?
You can apply for either a new program OR an existing program. If it is an existing program, please describe current successes as well as how you were able to fund the program in the past and why you need funding from Bayer Fund at this time. If it is a new program, provide evidence as to why you think this project will be successful and its impact.

Can I apply for a grant to fund a program that has already started? When must my program start and when is it expected to be completed?
All funding requests and budgets must be for program activities and expenses that start after funding decisions are made. Grant seekers applying for grants in the first cycle should have a project start date no earlier than June 1, and those applying during the second cycle should have a project start date no earlier than December 1. All programs must be completed within one year of the start date, except in limited situations where longer term programs have been agreed upon.

What is the average grant award in the US?
Grant award amounts vary, depending on the size of the community, the type of programming, and the reach/impact of the organization. **Bayer Fund typically will not support grants that are larger than 25% of your organization's operating budget.**

Can we apply for a multi-year grant?
We rarely fund multi-year grants. If the success of your program depends on a timeline of greater than one year, you should discuss this with your Bayer Fund contact.

Can our organization apply for more than one grant in the same funding cycle or year?
Given the great need and our limited resources, it is highly unlikely that Bayer Fund will fund two applications from the same organization in the same year. This should be discussed with your Bayer Fund contact before submitting.

In terms of the scope of project, is there a number of people you'd like to see served?
No, there is no set or minimum number of individuals that must be served by a program, but impact and coverage is an important factor in funding decisions. Please be as accurate as possible in your estimations of the number of adults and children who will be impacted or involved in the program.

Will funding decisions be based on the financial need of the community being served or strictly on the merit of the proposed program?
Decisions will be based on a combination of financial need in the community, the merit of the proposed program, and the projected educational outcomes.

Will Bayer Fund grants cover overhead costs?
As a programmatic foundation, Bayer Fund does not fund infrastructure costs of organizations. Expenses should be incremental to the organization driven by the program. Expenses should be the result of, and driven by, the program. On top of the direct cost of the program, Bayer Fund will allow organizations to include up to an additional 20% to cover a portion of the overhead/infrastructure costs. (Example: For incremental costs of $50,000 for a program, an organization can ask for $60,000).

Will Bayer Fund grants cover program evaluation?

Yes, provided that the costs are necessary to measure impact of the program and is incremental to the organization. We support evidence-based programs.

Can funds be used for staff salaries?
Yes. Bayer Fund grants can be used to pay for staff salaries, but they must be incremental and/or clearly related to the request and, given the one-year grant period, rationale for longer-term support of the position should be clearly noted in the proposal. Note that salaries for existing staff not directly tied to the program should be captured as part of the 20% overhead costs noted previously.

Application Submission Information

How do I apply for a Bayer Fund Grant?
All applications must be completed online by accessing the link through this website.

What is the deadline for grant applications?
Organizations can view and familiarize themselves with the sample grant application any time throughout the year posted on our Grant Programs page. Annually there are two cycles to apply. The first cycle begins on January 1 and ends at 11:59:59pm CT on February 28. The second cycle begins on July 1 and ends at 11:59:59pm CT on August 31.

How do I submit an application?
1. Log into the application with your login information and the invitation code using the link on this website and click the "Start a New Application" link located at the bottom of the Welcome page.
2. Within each section of the application click the "Save and Proceed" button at the bottom of each page until you're at the end of the application.
3. After you have completed all sections of the application, you are brought to the "Review Your Application" page. (You cannot proceed to this page until you have completed all required fields on each page.)
4. Click the "Submit" button. Once submitted you can no longer make any changes. If you have questions, click the "Need Support" button at the bottom of each page. You can also email questions to GRANTquestions@bayer.com.

What additional information will I need to submit with my grant application?
All grant applicants are expected to upload the following documents, as applicable:
- **Most Recent Audited Financial Statements** (see requirements noted above). **Project Goals, Obj and Outcomes Worksheet**
- **Project Budget Worksheet** must be used and each worksheet requires a Program Revenue and Program Expenses tab be completed. The Program Revenue tab asks for the revenue sources that will fund the program and the Program Expenses tab asks for a full description of expenses associated with the project.
    > *NOTE: If request includes coverage of existing infrastructure as overhead costs, please list as a single line entitled "Overhead Allocation".*

- **Partnership Agreements** (also known as Memorandum of Understanding)
    - All nonprofit organizations that offer services in schools must upload a completed Partnership Agreement between the nonprofit and the school which outlines the roles and responsibilities of both parties for implementation and timeline. If the organization submitting the proposal is a school district, no Partnership Agreement is required.
    - All nonprofits sharing responsibility for implementation of the project with another organization must upload a completed Partnership Agreement between the nonprofit and the other implementing organization which outlines the roles and responsibilities of both parties for implementation and timeline.

Why are audited financial statements required?
Audited financial statements are verification by an independent accounting firm that an organization's financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, and provide reasonable assurance that the statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the US. Bayer Fund only supports experienced and reputable organizations.

Post Submission Information

When and how will we be notified if we will be receiving a grant?
Grant decisions will be communicated by email. Notifications will be sent by June 1 for the first cycle and by December 1 for the second cycle.

Is there someone I can talk to about my proposal?
You should talk to the Bayer Fund representative in your local community. They are your point of contact if you have questions about your proposal. Bayer Fund does offer information teleconferences several times throughout the year, and we encourage you to take advantage of those sessions to learn more and to ask questions. Check the Bayer Fund website at for times, dates and registration information. Other questions can be directed to the Bayer Fund team at GRANTquestions@bayer.com.

What do reviewers look for in applications?
To learn more about how grant proposals are scored, and for tips on how to write a compelling application, check out the information on the Guidelines and Resources page of our website. All proposals should include the following:

Project Description
- Clear and measurable project goals
- Clear project details, including the specific activities and timelines
  Project Participants
- Clear description of who will benefit from the proposed project, including numbers of participants
- Clear description of why the target population is in need of the proposed project or services

Project Impact
- Clear and measurable project goals
- Clear description of how the project's progress will be assessed, and what indicators will be used to determine impact
- Clear description of how the project's activities and impact may continue beyond the life of the grant

Project Budget
- Clear description of how the grant will be used, including clear calculations and relevant cost explanations; specific details on how Bayer Fund dollars would be used must be included

If our application is not selected for funding, will Bayer Fund provide feedback?

Due to the large volume of submitted applications and the small Bayer Fund staff, we are unable to provide feedback on individual applications.

Can I make changes to my project after it is funded?

All changes to the project or budget must be submitted and approved by Bayer Fund in writing. Prospective changes should not alter the original intent of the grant funded by Bayer Fund. ***Request for changes can be sent to* GRANTquestions@bayer.com.**

What are the specific reporting requirements?

Grantees receiving awards will receive a Bayer Fund Notification email or a Bayer Fund Grant Agreement that outlines terms and conditions of our grant, and also includes reporting requirements and payment terms. Most grantees will be asked to report once a year to Bayer Fund. For a sample interim impact report, click here. For a sample final impact report, click here. If the grant is being paid out in multiple payments, subsequent payments will be made contingent upon completion of online impact reports on program goals and financial reports of program expenditures. Grantees must expend at least 70% of the initial funds to receive subsequent payment.