Science & Technology FY23 Grant Guidelines

The Funding Opportunity

San Diego Foundation is proud to announce $750,000 in total funding for the Science & Technology Program FY23 grant. We envision a San Diego where the young adults of today have the opportunity to become Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) leaders of tomorrow. The Science & Technology Program grant will focus on the preparation of a skilled, equitable workforce in subject areas that are specific to the needs of the San Diego region.

Background

The San Diego economy is at an important tipping point that will impact the future of the entire region. As the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the Brookings Institution outlined in *"Future of Growth in San Diego: The Economic Case for Inclusion and Building San Diego's Talent Pipeline,"* San Diego has grown to become an innovation powerhouse. Despite this great potential, not all San Diegans are benefitting from the advances of the innovation economy. The San Diego region needs more highly skilled workers to maintain its competitive edge. Inclusive economic growth involves the entire region in a vision for prosperity.

The future workforce continues to face systemic barriers resulting in lower degree completion rates and unequal access to high-paying jobs. By focusing on youth and young adults, we have the opportunity to strengthen the workforce of the near future. Not all students have the opportunity to explore and pursue STEM-related fields that lead to innovation economy jobs and a robust, diverse talent pool for local businesses. An opportunity lies in strengthening the San Diego talent pool by investing in Black, Latinx and other historically underrepresented students. For example, data tells us our region's fastest-growing and therefore highest potential student population, Latinx students, is facing the greatest barriers in completing post-secondary education. An opportunity exists to engage young people in the future local talent pipeline.

San Diego is not alone. The same challenges exist nationally as organizations struggle to fill STEM-related vacancies reserved for early professionals. The National Science Foundation defines women, persons with disabilities, and Black, Hispanic, American Indian and Alaska Native communities, as underrepresented in science and engineering. To address this disparity and ensure our region remains competitive, the Science & Technology Program is focused on building and expanding pathways to success for all San Diegans.

According to the EDC, pandemic-related disruptions have further exacerbated economic disparities threatening San Diego's competitiveness and resilience. To remain competitive, San Diego's small businesses will now require an additional 100,000 new quality jobs by 2030, double the previous estimate. One of the main challenges is attracting and retaining skilled talent for our region's thriving innovation cluster – a main driver of growth in San Diego.

Grant Goal

The Science & Technology Program supports efforts to create and expand a pipeline connecting young adults to college and career opportunities. The goal of the Science & Technology Program grant is to increase the number of historically underrepresented, high-potential students in the STEM career pipeline by providing opportunities for stipend-supported internships in advanced technical and scientific fields.

The purpose of the program, which guides the funding and makes it possible, requires that 85% of a grant award is given to students in the form of stipends that are paid directly to the program participants. These funds are not intended to cover the cost of classes, tuition, scholarships or other fees paid to the program or institution. The other 15% of a grant award can be utilized for program operational costs and/or supplies.

Strategies

The following are strategies to achieve the goal of the Science & Technology Program FY23 grant. Applicants will be asked to:

- Increase opportunities for historically underrepresented, low-income youth and young adults to work within academic/research institutions while receiving career training and stipend support.

- Engage historically underrepresented youth and young adults in STEM career readiness and stipend-supported internships that move students into advanced scientific or technical career opportunity pathways.

- Strengthen relationships between academic STEM programs or nonprofit educational providers and the local STEM business sector to increase internships and research opportunities, resulting in stipend-supported placements at local STEM businesses for youth/young adults.

Grant Eligibility

We seek well-established projects that:

- Will utilize these funds (85% or more) for student stipends

- Administer programs that directly support youth/young adults at no cost to them

- Serve students historically underrepresented in STEM fields. The National Science Foundation defines women, persons with disabilities, and Black, Hispanic, American Indian and Alaska Native communities, as underrepresented in science and engineering.

- Enhance collaboration between academic institutions and the STEM business sector (e.g., biotechnology, technology, scientific research, engineering, medical) to connect students with paid internships that facilitate local STEM career pathways

- Conduct robust outreach, training and real-world STEM experiences that engage historically underrepresented students to pursue college and career opportunities in STEM fields

- Have demonstrated experience conducting relevant programs

- Have the ability to process and distribute stipends according to California labor laws

Applicant organizations must:

- Be located and provide services in San Diego County
- Have 501(c)(3) status (or a fiscal sponsor)
- Be able to complete projects within an 18-month timeline
- Be able to offer stipends to participants

Important Dates

- November 2022: Application opens
- December 2022: Application closes
- January 2023: Application review
- February 2023: Notifications sent

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the deadline?

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. PST, Friday, December 16, 2022.

How do we apply?

Applications must be submitted online via MySDF. You must first register at MySDF to set up your account or click on the "Register or Continue Application" button below.

How much can we request?

San Diego Foundation will accept requests up to $75,000 per application.

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for the Science & Technology Program FY23 grant, organizations must have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and provide services in San Diego County. An organization may serve as a fiscal sponsor for a charitable organization that does not have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status if a cooperative relationship between the two can be clearly demonstrated. The fiscal sponsor must be willing to administer the grant if awarded. San Diego Foundation will not fund endowments, existing obligations/debt, scholarships or projects that promote religious or political doctrines. Please see Grant Eligibility section.

Can previous grant recipients apply?

Yes, organizations who previously received funding from San Diego Foundation are eligible to apply for the Science & Technology Program FY23 grant. Please see Grant Eligibility section.

What is the grant period?

Projects must be implemented within 18 months of grant approval.

What is the application review process?

All applications submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by a grant committee comprised of San Diego Foundation staff and volunteers with background and expertise in STEM education, research and workforce development. The review committee will evaluate applications based on the proposed project alignment with Science & Technology Program goals, organizational capacity and leadership, budget and potential to leverage additional resources. The review committee adheres to a strict conflict of interest policy and other internal controls to ensure that grant funding is distributed in a methodical and objective manner, based on the merits of each application.

What is the grant award range?

The Science & Technology Program FY23 grant awards are expected to range from $25,000 – $75,000.

What amount of the award is expected to support student stipends?

Organizations are required to utilize 85% or more of San Diego Foundation funds for direct student stipends. The remaining 15% of funds can be utilized for operational costs or program supplies (e.g., materials and books). Funding is not intended to support scholarships, tuition or program fees.

What age-range are the students expected to represent?

In previous grant cycles, these funds have primarily supported college-aged students and in some cases pre-college (high school) students. Interns must be hired in accordance with California labor laws.

Who is considered low-income?

A low-income community means there is a median family income of less than 50 percent of the area median income. A moderate-income community means that the median family income is at least 50 percent and less than 80 percent of the area median income. The area median income (AMI) in San Diego County is $106,900.

What is considered an eligible STEM Program?

Eligible programs must connect with and engage historically underrepresented youth and young adults in STEM career readiness and stipend-supported internships that move students into advanced scientific or technical career opportunity pathways. STEM fields include biotechnology, technology, scientific research, engineering, medical, blue economy, green economy and related areas.

When will applicants be notified?

Applicants are expected to be notified in February 2023.

What other funding opportunities are available at San Diego Foundation?

Open grant programs are listed on San Diego Foundation's "Apply for a Grant" page.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Due to high volume, we will only be able to answer questions about the application during our optional virtual Q&A webinar at 11:00 a.m. PST, Thursday, November 17, 2022. Please register here.

What if I have any additional questions or encounter any technical issues with my application?

Please contact communityimpact@sdfoundation.org.

Where can I learn more about San Diego Foundation?

San Diego Foundation inspires enduring philanthropy and enables community solutions to improve the quality of life in our region. Our strategic priorities include advancing racial and social justice, fostering equity of opportunity, building resilient communities, and delivering world-class philanthropy to realize our vision of just, equitable and resilient communities. For more than 47 years, SDF and its donors have granted more than $1.4 billion to support nonprofit organizations strengthening our community. Learn more at SDFoundation.org.