

ED AHEAD, INC.

GRANT CRITERIA

Applicants must:

- Be a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing.
- Operate programs that directly serve children (grades Pre-K-12th).
- Use funds for educational projects or programs (not general operations).

Examples of Eligible Projects/Programs

- Literacy & Learning: Reading clubs, summer literacy camps, ESL tutoring.
- STEM Enrichment: Robotics workshops, math tutoring, environmental education projects.
- Arts Education: Art, music, theater, or dance programs with hands-on child participation.
- Social-Emotional Learning: Peer mentoring, anti-bullying workshops, resilience or mindfulness programs.
- Access & Inclusion: Educational support for children with disabilities, bilingual tutoring, homework help centers.
- Special Events: Science fairs, cultural field trips, educational festivals, guest educator workshops.

Examples of Ineligible Requests

- General operating expenses (e.g., rent, utilities, administrative salaries).
- Programs that serve only adults (e.g., teacher training, parent workshops).
- Activities without a clear educational component (e.g., sports leagues without curriculum).
- Scholarships or direct financial assistance to individuals.

Grant Amounts

- Awards will range from \$500–\$3000
- Funds must be used within 12 months of award notification.

Reporting Requirements

Recipients will be asked to provide:

- A brief report (1–2 pages) at the end of the funding period.
- Photos, testimonials, or measurable outcomes showing how children were directly served.

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Mini-Grant Evaluation Criteria & Rubric

Direct Service to Children

The project/program must provide direct educational experiences to children (not just resources for adults or organizations).

- ✓ Example: After-school literacy tutoring for grades K–5.
- ✗ Not Eligible: Teacher training workshop without child participation.

Educational Value

Project/Program should enhance academic, creative, or social-emotional learning.

- ✓ Example: STEM robotics camp, art workshops, bilingual tutoring.
- ✗ Not Eligible: Sports league without structured educational content.

Alignment with Mission

Activities should clearly align with Ed Ahead, Inc.'s mission of supporting children's education.

- ✓ Example: Homework help centers in underserved communities.
- ✗ Not Eligible: Adult workforce development program.

Impact & Reach

The project/program should have a measurable impact (number of children served, skills gained, outcomes).

- ✓ Example: 50 children gain grade-level reading fluency.
- ✗ Not Eligible: Vague outcomes ('kids will be inspired').

Feasibility & Use of Funds

The budget should be realistic, and the project/program should be achievable within the mini-grant size and timeline.

- ✓ Example: \$2,000 used to purchase robotics kits and run 6-week program.
- ✗ Not Eligible: \$2,000 requested to cover staff salaries with no program details.

Equity & Inclusion

Preference may be given to projects/programs serving underserved children (low-income, minority, rural, or special needs).

- ✓ Example: Free summer STEM camp for children from Title I schools.
- ✗ Not Eligible: Exclusive program with limited access.

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SCORING RUBRIC

Criteria	Points	Description
Direct Service to Children	0–4 pts	0 = no direct child involvement 4 = program fully engages children in learning
Educational Value	0–4 pts	0 = no clear educational outcomes 4 = strong academic/creative/social-emotional outcomes
Alignment with Mission	0–3 pts	0 = unrelated to mission 3 = strongly aligned with Ed Ahead's focus
Impact & Reach	0–4 pts	0 = unclear or minimal impact 4 = clear measurable outcomes and significant reach
Feasibility & Use of Funds	0–3 pts	0 = unrealistic or vague 3 = well-planned, achievable within budget/timeline
Equity & Inclusion (bonus)	0–2 pts	0 = little focus on equity 2 = strong commitment to underserved children

Maximum Score: 20 points

- ☐ 16–20 points → Strong candidate, high funding priority
 - ☐ 11–15 points → Moderate candidate, consider funding if budget allows
 - ☐ 6–10 points → Weak candidate, needs significant improvement
 - ☐ 0–5 points → Not eligible
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Organization: _____

Project/Program: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Total Points: _____ Receiving Grant: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Amount of Grant: \$ _____