

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).

- ✓ Eligible 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.

- ✓ Eligible 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.

- ✓ Eligible 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).

- ✓ Eligible 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.

- ✓ Eligible 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).

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

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Additional Eligible Project Examples

This reference sheet is provided to help applicants understand what types of projects qualify as direct education opportunities for children. Projects must provide measurable educational benefits to children and align with the mission of the granting organization.

1. Academic Enrichment Programs

- - STEM workshops (robotics, coding, science experiments)
- - Reading/literacy initiatives (book clubs, tutoring, bilingual reading)
- - Math skill-building camps
- - Writing and storytelling workshops

2. Arts & Cultural Education

- - Music lessons (instrument instruction, choir programs)
- - Theatre and performance arts workshops
- - Visual arts classes (painting, sculpture, digital art)
- - Cultural heritage education programs

3. College & Career Readiness

- - Career exploration programs for middle schoolers
- - Mentoring programs pairing students with professionals
- - Financial literacy workshops for kids and teens

4. Special Needs Education Support

- - Sensory-friendly learning materials
- - Therapeutic art or music sessions
- - Assistive technology training for students with disabilities

5. After-School and Summer Learning

- - Homework help centers
- - Summer learning camps to prevent 'learning loss'
- - Educational field trips with pre- and post-trip lessons

6. Technology Access & Digital Learning

- - Lending programs for laptops, tablets, or hotspots
- - Digital skills training (safe internet use, coding, digital art)
- - Virtual tutoring programs

7. Health & Wellness Education

- - Nutrition and cooking classes for kids
- - Mental health education workshops
- - Physical education programs (yoga, dance, sports clinics with educational focus)

Key Criteria for Selecting Projects

- - Clear educational content (not just recreation or childcare)
- - Specific, measurable learning outcomes
- - Direct involvement of children as learners
- - Documented instructional plan (lesson plans, curriculum, or workshop outline)
- - Alignment with the granting organization's mission to enhance children's education

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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

Organization: _____

Project/Program: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Total Points: _____ Receiving Grant: ☐ YES ☐ NO

Amount of Grant: \$ _____