**KYOSA Summer of STEM Mini-Grants**

**Introduction and Purpose of Mini-Grants**

The Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance (KYOSA), in partnership with the Million Girls Moonshot initiative, will fund mini-grants to help support summer programs in their efforts to engage more students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Programs will need to form collaborative partnerships with STEM partners and institutions in Kentucky in an effort to engage underrepresented student populations (female, students of color, students experiencing poverty, students living in rural communities, students with special needs) during the summer months. Program activities will vary in each community, based on local needs, but will have a clear focus on improving children’s engagement with STEM. Examples of project activities could include holding community STEM events or competitions, increasing accessibility to high-quality learning materials and activity equipment for summer programs, organizing community STEM programming with partner institutions, purchasing research-based curriculum and hosting STEM events for families.

The overarching project goals of this funding opportunity are to

* Build support among diverse stakeholders committed to increasing access and opportunities to quality Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programming in local communities during the summer months.
* Enhance current STEM summer programming through program development and resource distribution.
* Raise local awareness about the importance of STEM summer programs for underrepresented student populations.

**Funding Range**

Projects for this mini-grant will be eligible for up to $2,000 during the grant period (June - August 2023). The number of projects funded will vary depending on project budgets and the amount of available funds.

**Match**

Match is not required. However, we strongly encourage every applicant to make some contribution to the project, as preference will be given to applicants who have match. Only cash match can be included on the budget form, but in your narrative, you can describe other non-cash contributions to the project, such as donated materials and volunteer time.

If you are requesting funding for a project that you have already put cash towards, please include that on your project budget form. For example, if you purchased a curriculum but did not have the funds for materials to implement it, you could count as match the amount you paid for the curriculum. Application reviewers may request to see financial documentation of any already-purchased materials that you are contributing as a cash match.

**Funding Priorities**

The goal of the Summer of STEM mini-grant program is to promote quality STEM summer programming that engages underrepresented student populations. Programs will also focus on increasing access to STEM summer activities in underserved areas. Applicants should clearly describe how this funding will help community members and organizations build lasting connections with and provide continued support to local STEM summer programs. Applicants should also discuss how their project will serve underrepresented students populations not currently participating in quality STEM summer programs and activities.

**Eligibility**

The make-up of the programs that participate in this project will vary. We encourage each STEM summer program to have a diverse mix of project stakeholders, especially project beneficiaries such as youth and families. In addition to parents and caregivers, others serving in STEM summer programs may include representatives of schools, faith-based organizations, childcare, local government leaders, public libraries, extension offices, businesses, health departments/medical providers, law enforcement, judicial, and nonprofit organizations who support children and families in STEM summer settings.

Applicants will be encouraged to develop needs-focused projects and events outside of school walls that engage the entire community in the process. STEM summer programs may represent a neighborhood, city, county or multi-county area.

**Requirements and Limitations**

* Grant funds cannot be used for construction, to support salaries, or for administrative and other indirect costs.
* Grantees are required to complete all forms prior to the start of the grant and attend technical assistance meetings as needed.
* Grantees will be required to submit a final program progress report.

**Deadline**

Applications are due by 5 pm EST on April 24, 2023, with notification on or around May 1, 2023. All grant activities must be completed between June 1, 2023, and August 31, 2023. Submit completed applications via the online grant application:

**Application Instructions**

1. **Applicant Information**

For this section, please indicate the amount requested, the neighborhood/city/county/counties served, and the contact information of the applicant and fiscal agent (if applicable).

The person who is listed as the contact is considered the point person for the project and will be responsible for reporting and other grant related activities.

1. **Summer Program Information (Character Limit: 5000)**

In this section, please give us some information about your Summer Program. We want to know about the make-up of the program and the work you do to support as well as engage children and youth. In your narrative, please answer the following questions with as much detail as possible.

* How long has your Summer Program been in existence?
* Do you have a mission statement? If so, what is it?
* Describe your Summer Program’s service area and target population.
* Describe the makeup of your program. How many active students do you have and who do they represent in the community? If your program has been recently formed or has been inactive, how do you plan to recruit a diverse group of project stakeholders and students?
* How often does your Summer Program meet?
* Please describe the work your program does and any major accomplishments that your program has achieved.
1. **Proposed Summer of STEM Project and Area of Focus (Character Limit: 5000)**

Ideally, we are looking to fund programs that target underrepresented student population who do not currently have access to quality STEM summer programming. Additionally, we are looking to fund summer programming that builds more sustainable community connections and supports for new and existing programs. The programming can take place either on or off school property. Projects for this grant must address STEM.

In your narrative, please address the following questions:

* What Summer of STEM programming is your program proposing? Is there a particular gap or need in your community? How was the need or gap identified?
* Who will be the beneficiaries of the Summer of STEM activities? What ages or grade levels?
* What community partners and/or STEM partners and institutions in Kentucky will the Summer of STEM program engage in implementing the proposed programming?
* What does the Summer of STEM project hope to accomplish with this funding?
* Describe how the Summer of STEM project will build broad-based support from parents, families, and businesses and promote community involvement in STEM program activities.
1. **Performance Measures (Character Limit: 2500)**

In this section, we want to know how you plan to measure the impact of your proposed activities. Please think of ways to capture both quantitative and qualitative data. One measure that will be required is the number of children and families who benefit from the proposed project activities. KYOSA will work further with successful applicants on how to best measure success for your proposed project activities. Below are some questions to help guide your thinking:

* Proposed number of children who will participate?
* Proposed percentage of children who qualify for free and/or reduced priced lunch?
* Proposed percentage of children who are girls/non-binary?
* Proposed percentage of children participating who are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color)?
* Proposed percentage of children participating who are from rural communities?
* Proposed percentage of children participating who are English Learners?
* Proposed number of adults who will participate, including staff and family members?
* What activities and resources are they receiving that they weren’t before?
* How much more knowledgeable will children and families be after your proposed project?
* Will there be any changes in attitudes or behaviors after your proposed project?

If you are tracking any type of growth or changes in attitudes or behaviors, a baseline assessment will need to be established. Pre and post surveys may need to be administered to capture the baseline and growth.

1. **Sustainability (Character Limit: 2500)**

For this section, we want to know how your activities will be maintained and built upon to serve the community after the three month timeline. Please address the following questions in your narrative, making sure to include specific examples:

* What long-term plans or goals does this project help advance or accomplish?
* How do you plan to keep the momentum going in regard to STEM participation?
* How will you stay engaged with KYOSA following the completion of the grant?
1. **Project Budget (Character Limit: 10000)**

For this section, please provide an explanation or rationale for each line item that is on the Excel budget form “KYOSA Mini-Grant Budget and Timeline.” Match is not a requirement, but an applicant will receive a higher score in the budget section if a **cash** match is provided. In the narrative, please provide as much detail as possible for each line item. If you are providing matching funds, please explain the source.

**Questions? Need More Information?**

Please submit questions in writing to kyosa@savechildren.org with subject line “KYOSA Mini-Grant Query.”