Robotics Teams and STEM Internships Competitive Grant

Request for Proposals - SFY 2024-2025

Questions & Answers

Updated 10.9.23

**Question 1:** Would an applicant for the Robotics Teams/STEM Internships funds have to provide all three services/components to be eligible to receive a grant under the RFP?

* Support Minnesota high school robotics teams,
* Prepare youth for careers in STEM fields, and
* Create internships for Minnesota high school students to work at private companies in STEM fields, including the payment of student stipends.

**Answer:** The proposed project should include all three components. The applicant organization can set up partnerships with other organizations or subgrantees to provide the required project elements. See the Collaboration Section of the RFP for details on how to include/describe partnerships in the proposal.

**Question 2:** Could a nonprofit that provides STEM internships apply for just the internship funding and list a partner that will operate the robotics team portion of the funding?

**Answer:** The applicant would need to be the organization that has demonstrated effectiveness and capacity with supporting Minnesota high school robotics teams. They could then partner with another organization that has experience and capacity operating STEM internship programs. Please refer to the RFP language below:

Applicants must have demonstrated effectiveness and capacity with supporting Minnesota high school robotics teams. Applicants or identified project partners must have experience and capacity creating internships for Minnesota high school students to work at private companies in STEM fields. If proposed activities are not provided directly, applicants must identify the organizations they will partner with that will be providing key program elements.

Partnerships are highly encouraged. Applicants are required to include a letter of support from each agency or partner with which they will be engaging in order to provide the services set forth in the proposal. Include all partnerships in the Partnership Chart (Attachment 1c), including any subgrantees (organizations, institutions, businesses or any other entities) and the proposed amount of compensation from this grant.

**Question 3**: Can a school cooperative be an eligible applicant? Can they be a subgrantee?

**Answer:** Please see the Eligibility section of the RFP (page 2). It includes that colleges and universities, and local education institutions are eligible applicants. These organizations can be subgrantees and would need to be listed in the Partnership Chart (Attachment 1c).

**Question 4**: Can a subgrantee be from a government organization (such as a City?)

**Answer:** Yes. Please refer to the Collaboration section of the RFP for instructions on including subgrantees in your proposal (page 3).

**Question 5**: Will funds for this project go directly to the primary applicant or can some of the funds go directly to the subgrantees?

**Answer:** The primary applicant would be the fiscal agent with whom the grant agreement will be executed. Funds may be sub-granted by that grantee to project partners. All partner organizations that will contribute to the proposed project must be listed in the Partnership Chart (Attachment 1c). If a project partner is compensated from the grant, the total amount of compensation from the grant to that partner must be listed on the Partnership Chart.

**Question 6:** Can the portion of the grant regarding "preparing youth for STEM fields" be in the Attachment 1b Work Plan along with the internships?

**Answer:** No, it should be in the Attachment 1a Work Plan and align with the Attachment 2a budget. The activities are divided this way to allow for tracking the award and grant expenditures specific to the internship portion of the project, as a subset of the appropriation is designated specifically for this purpose.

**Question 7:** Can the student be paid wages instead of a stipend?

**Answer:** Yes, the student can be paid a wage. This should be included under the Participant Wages/Fringe cost category.

**Question 8:** Can the private companies pay the high school students themselves (instead of using money from this grant for the internship stipend/wages)?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question 9:** Can you clarify the June 30, 2028 date? The Project End Date is listed as June 30, 2025. Does this mean that funds can still be reimbursed for this grant after June 30, 2025 and until June 30, 2028? Or does all activity related to this grant stop on June 30, 2025?

**Answer:** This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2028. However, contracts cannot be set up with an end date later than June 30, 2025. If grants are not fully expended by that time, then contracts can be extended, but not beyond June 30, 2028.

**Question 10:** For the Partnership Chart on Attachment 1c, does this include all the businesses that will be hosting students for internships?

**Answer:** Include all the committed partners for the project. Additional partners and businesses hosting internships can be added during the grant, as those partnerships are confirmed.