A Central Ohio Community Challenge

Seeking Innovative, STEM-Integrated, Informal Education Programming in Central Ohio

Request for Proposals and Guidelines for Submission

Proposals Due June 25, 2025

New Application

BATTELLE

Introduction

Innovation is about bringing new or different ideas, processes and methods to life, resulting in fresh outcomes. Battelle was founded on this core principle, driven by Gordon Battelle's vision of creating a pioneering research institution that rapidly transforms scientific discoveries into practical solutions. Established in 1929, Battelle's forward-thinking approach laid the foundation for an institution where researchers tackle ambitious ideas and develop technologies to solve real-world challenges. Our mission of advancing science and technology for the betterment of society remains a guiding principle today.

At Battelle, our teams leverage science and technology to address critical challenges. Operating globally from technology centers and national laboratories, we excel in research and development, design and manufacturing, and provide critical services to government and commercial clients. Based in Columbus, Ohio since our founding, Battelle consistently delivers groundbreaking solutions to pressing issues. Our expertise and innovation drive advancements in healthcare, environment, infrastructure and national security, impacting communities and industries worldwide.

Battelle is a trusted partner for many states in providing carefully curated STEM and workforce development programming. We leverage our deep STEM networks as incubators for educators who seek to implement the best in STEM education practices. By using decades of experience in executing some of the most challenging STEM education projects, we've helped launch schools, state networks and more.

Creating more equitable and accessible opportunities for hands-on learning is one way Battelle continues to do the greatest good. Instead of viewing "STEM" as four separate subjects, we see it universally as "Strategies That Engage Minds™." STEM education empowers students to learn by doing, investigating concepts rather than memorizing facts. The critical thinking and collaboration central to STEM apply across all subject areas. Creative disciplines like art, music, and theater engage students with STEM in novel ways.

We also value informal and out-of-classroom learning. Research confirms that museums, libraries, zoos, and summer camps are key drivers in raising student achievement. Integrating out-of-classroom learning into our education strategy naturally extends our decades-long, multimillion-dollar commitment to Central Ohio's creative community.

In keeping with both our strategic emphasis on innovative, interdisciplinary learning and our history of charitable giving, Battelle offers this competitive grant program. We challenge the Central Ohio community to develop or expand innovative, creative STEM education programs with high potential for scalability.

Program Objectives

This is a competitive grant program seeking proposals for new, K-12 STEM education programming from Central Ohio's informal learning community. Central Ohio is defined as Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, and Union counties. Funding is available to pilot innovative, creative STEM education programming. To be considered, proposals must meet the following criteria:

1. Proposed program must be new, different and/or in early stages of a pilot phase within the organization.

2. Advance the development of STEM skills in students during out-of-school time (e.g., before/after school, weekends, seasonal breaks).

3. Align to one of the following areas of focus:

   a. Career Readiness (e.g., mentorship and internship programs, career exploration, industry connections, etc.)

   b. Student Success (e.g., academic tutoring and support, integrating social-emotional learning into STEM, fostering persistence and engagement, etc.)

We are seeking proposals that have the potential to raise the collective interest, engagement, and achievement of students in Central Ohio.

Program Guidelines

Proposals may be submitted by a single organization or by consortiums of organizations. Organizations must be tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3).

This request for proposals does not set a minimum or maximum award amount. The award will be a one-time grant and, if funded, will have an opportunity to apply for a continued funding during a subsequent grant cycle. Continued funding grants will be awarded for no more than two years for a single project or program.

Proposals will be reviewed through a process established by Battelle. Battelle reserves the right to solicit additional information and to make suggestions for modifications including partnering between proposals.

Grantees will be required to complete online impact reports and share progress of the program.

Preparation of Proposal

Summary

Provide the title of the proposed program, start and end dates (cannot start later than June 2026), and a summarized statement of the proposed program. It should not be an abstract of the proposal but rather a self-contained description of the activity that would result if the proposal were funded. (250-character limit)

Proposal Narrative

Battelle requests clear, concise, complete, carefully written proposals that meet all guidelines. The proposal narrative should contain the following items:

A. **Program Description:** Provide a clear description of how the program will be implemented and its innovative approach to STEM education. Program descriptions must include details about the content and method(s) of delivery to support informal, out-of-classroom learning. (4,000-character limit)

B. **Innovation:** Describe how this program is innovative and/or different from what already is being offered. Explain why it might be exciting and fun for students in the community. (1,500-character limit)

C. **Timeline and Location:** Provide a detailed description of the program's timeline from development to implementation. Descriptions must include the program's schedule, frequency, and location. An optional supporting Gantt chart that illustrates your program timeline and schedule can be uploaded in the Attachments section. (2,500-character limit)

D. **Goals and Evaluation:** Describe the programmatic outcomes that will determine whether your program is successful or not. Identify at least two measurable goals (qualitative or quantitative) and how each goal will be evaluated to measure success. (1,500-character limit)

E. **Success Tracking:** Identify at least two measurable goals (qualitative or quantitative) and how the goal will be evaluated to measure success.

F. **Collaborating Organizations:** Please list the organizations you are collaborating with on this program. A signed Letter of Support from each collaborating organization listed must be provided.

Participant Information

Describe the intended program participants. Include a detailed explanation of the organization's experience working with this group, and the recruitment plan to maximize participation. (4,000-character limit)

Funding Information

Provide the requested funding amount and a detailed description of the budget for the program. If applicable, include the participation fee for this program, specify the amount and explain how the fee will be used. Details should be clear, and well organized. A completed budget template

that outlines the costs described will be requested in the Attachments section. (2,500-character limit)

Attachments

A. **Budget Template:** Upload a complete budget template (provided in the application portal) that clearly outlines all direct and indirect costs of the program.

B. **Additional Attachments:** Applicants may include additional information to enhance their proposal. Information may include sample curriculum or educational materials, examples of previous programming and/or data. The information should not exceed 5 pages in a single PDF and must be referenced within the proposal narrative. The Gantt chart and budget template attachments are not to be included in this section.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Reviewers will score the applications and base scoring decisions and funding recommendations on the evaluation criteria in the table below. Proposals must address all evaluation criteria.

A. **Program Description:** The proposal clearly and thoroughly describes program implementation, content, and delivery methods that support innovative, informal STEM learning.

B. **Innovation:** The proposal demonstrates a unique and engaging approach that distinguishes the program from existing offerings and excites students.

C. **Timeline and Location:** The proposal provides a detailed, feasible timeline and schedule, including frequency and location.

D. **Goals and Evaluation:** The proposal identifies goals and evaluation methods that align with program objectives.

E. **Success Tracking:** The proposal specifies at least two measurable goals and describes practical evaluation methods for each.

F. **Collaborating Organizations:** The proposal lists all collaborating organizations and includes signed Letters of Support from each.

G. **Participant Information:** The proposal clearly describes the intended program participants, details the organization's relevant experience with this group, and outlines a comprehensive recruitment plan to maximize participation.

H. **Budget:** The proposal provides a clear, well-organized funding request and detailed budget description, including any participation fee, its amount, and an explanation of how the fee will be used, with all costs aligned to the completed budget template.

Proposal Submission Requirements and Deadlines

Date	Activity
May 28, 2025	Open Request for Proposals Submit proposal and necessary documents here: https://www.cybergrants.com/battelle/stemgranteligibility
June 10, 2025 | 11:00a – 12:00p June 16, 2025 | 9:30 – 10:30a	Technical Assistance Office Hours June 10 Teams Link; June 16 Teams Link
June 25, 2025 by 11:59 p.m.	Request for Proposals Closes
August 2025	Awards Announced

Application Process

Final proposals must be submitted online. Applicants are required to complete an eligibility quiz before accessing the application. An Application Preview Document is available on the homepage to assist with preparation. Late or incomplete proposals will not be accepted.

Submit your final proposal online at https://www.cybergrants.com/battelle/stemgranteligibility

Notice of Award

The Grant Manager Contact listed in the proposal will be notified via email once the final award decisions are made.

Reporting Requirements

Awarded grantees are expected to complete an annual Student Impact Report for the duration of the program. The reporting period and schedule are outlined in the table below.

Program Reporting Period	Report Opens	Report Due
October 1 – September 30	July 31	August 14

Contact Information

Please send all RFP-related questions to philanthropy@battelle.org

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It can be done