

Central Ohio STEM Grant

A Central Ohio Community Challenge

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

Request for Proposals and Guidelines for Submission

Proposals Due March 24, 2026

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 competitive grant program invites proposals for innovative, high-quality K-12 STEM education initiatives from organizations in Central Ohio serving students outside the classroom. Funding is available to pilot or enhance programs that actively engage students, strengthen core competencies, and build essential skillsets to raise the collective interest, participation, and achievement of Central Ohio students. To be considered, proposed programs must meet the following criteria:

1. Program must be new, different and/or in a pilot phase within the organization.
2. Advance the development of STEM skills for students during out-of-school time (e.g., before/after school, weekends, seasonal breaks).
3. Align to one or a combination of the following areas of focus:
 - a. Career-Connected Learning (e.g., mentorship and internship programs, career exploration, industry partnerships)
 - b. Math Skills or Artificial Intelligence (e.g., strengthen math skills, data and logical reasoning, age-appropriate AI concepts, and responsible technology use)
 - c. Student Success (e.g., academic tutoring and support, integrated social-emotional learning, fostering persistence and engagement)

Program Guidelines

Proposals may be submitted by a single organization or by consortia of organizations. Organizations must be tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3) and located in Central Ohio, defined as Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, and Pickaway counties.

Each application must include a copy of the organization's IRS Determination Letter and Form W-9. Only one application is permitted per applicant. The maximum funding request per application is \$75,000; requests exceeding this amount will not be considered. Awards will be issued as one-time grants, with no guarantee of future funding.

Organizations may apply for continued funding in subsequent grant cycles only if all previously funded grant activities have been completed and all required impact reports have been submitted and approved. Continued funding for any single program is limited to a maximum of two award cycles (two years).

Proposals will be reviewed through a process established by Battelle. Battelle reserves the right to request additional information and to recommend modifications to proposals.

Proposed programs must begin no later than June 2027 and conclude by August 14, 2027. Grantees are required to submit online Student Impact Reports detailing the use of grant funds, program activities, outcomes achieved, and participants served.

Preparation of Proposal

Summary

Provide the program title, start and end dates, area(s) of focus, and specify whether the proposal requests new or continued funding.

For continued funding, include a summary of the previously funded program, including program and participant details, lessons learned, and results with supporting metrics. (1,000-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 Statement:** Provide 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. (500-character limit)
- B. **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 delivery method(s). (2,000-character limit)
- C. **Innovation:** Describe how the program is innovative or distinct from current offerings. Indicate whether the program is already implemented and explain how Battelle's funding will support its expansion, enhancement, or further development. (1,000-character limit)
- D. **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. (1,500-character limit)
- E. **Goals and Evaluation:** Describe the programmatic outcomes that will determine whether your program is successful. Identify at least two measurable goals (qualitative or quantitative) and how each goal will be evaluated. (1,500-character limit)
- F. **Collaborating Organizations:** 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

Specify the number of educators and students the program will serve, as well as the community type and grade levels of the participants.

Describe the intended program participants and include a detailed explanation of the organization's experience working with this group. (1,500-character limit)

Describe the recruitment plan to maximize program participation. (1,000-character limit)

Funding Information

The maximum amount that can be requested is \$75,000; requests exceeding this amount will not be considered.

- A. Provide a clear, well-organized explanation of how the requested funding amount will be utilized, including how the proposed expenses support the objectives and activities of the program. (1,500-character limit)
- B. Budget Attachment: Upload a completed budget (an Excel file template is provided in the application portal) that itemizes all direct and indirect costs and expenses associated with the proposed program.
- C. If applicable, include the participation fee for this program; specify the amount and explain how the fee will be used. (500-character limit)

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria below.

- A. **Program Description:** The proposal provides a clear and comprehensive description of program implementation, content, and delivery methods that promote high-quality, innovative informal STEM learning experiences.
- B. **Innovation:** The proposal demonstrates a unique, engaging approach that distinguishes the program from existing offerings, excites students, and enhances student growth and achievement.
- C. **Timeline and Location:** The proposal presents a clear, detailed, and feasible timeline and schedule that specifies the frequency, duration, and location of all program activities, ensuring effective and organized implementation.
- D. **Goals and Evaluation:** The proposal clearly defines measurable goals and outlines evaluation methods that are closely aligned with the program objectives, ensuring effective assessment of outcomes and continuous improvement.
- E. **Collaborating Organizations:** The proposal identifies all collaborating organizations and includes signed Letters of Support from each organization to confirm their commitment and involvement.
- F. **Participant Information:** The proposal clearly describes the intended program participants, demonstrates the organization's relevant experience, and outlines a recruitment plan to maximize participation. The anticipated student impact is both maximized and reasonable in relation to the program's scope and available resources.
- G. **Budget:** The requested funding amount is appropriate for the program's scope and student impact, with a clear, well-organized budget description. All costs align with the completed budget template. If a participation fee is included, the amount and its intended use are specified.

Submission Requirements and Deadlines

Date	Activity
February 17, 2026	Open Request for Proposals Submit proposal and necessary documents here: https://www.cybergrants.com/battelle/stemgranteligibility
Feb 25 & March 4 1:00p – 4:00p Feb 26 & March 5 9:30a – 12:00p	Office Hours: Sign Up Here to schedule a 15-minute meeting with Leslie Vesha, Battelle Philanthropy Manager
March 24, 2026 by 11:59 p.m.	Request for Proposals Closes
May 2026	Awards Announced and Funds Disbursed

Application Process

Final proposals must be submitted online. Applicants are required to complete an eligibility quiz before accessing the application. Late or incomplete proposals will not be accepted.

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

Notice of Award

The applicant 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 funded program. The reporting period and schedule are outlined in the table below.

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

Contact Information

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

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It can be done