

2027 Battelle Central Ohio STEM Grant

Battelle Central Ohio STEM Grant: Request for Proposals

Seeking Innovative STEM and Applied Workforce
Readiness Programs for Central Ohio Youth

Proposals Due October 23, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET

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Executive Summary

Innovation is about bringing new ideas, processes, and methods to life, resulting in meaningful outcomes. Battelle was founded on this principle in 1929 and remains guided by its mission to advance science and technology for the betterment of society. From our headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, Battelle works across research, development, and technology fields to address critical challenges in health, security, infrastructure, energy, and the environment.

Battelle is also a longstanding leader in STEM education and workforce development. Through decades of investment in schools, educators, and community organizations, we have helped expand access to innovative learning experiences that inspire curiosity, build confidence, and connect students to future opportunities. We believe STEM is more than a collection of subjects. It is a powerful approach to learning that develops critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. Informal learning environments such as after-school programs, camps, libraries, and community-based organizations play an important role in that development.

As technology and artificial intelligence continue to reshape the future of work, young people need opportunities to build both strong STEM foundations and the durable skills employers value most. Battelle's recent *Applied Workforce Outlook*™ research highlights growing demand for individuals who can think critically, adapt to change, communicate effectively, and apply STEM knowledge in real-world settings. These findings reinforce the importance of hands-on learning experiences that help students build confidence, develop future-ready skills, and explore pathways to education and careers. Additional information on workforce trends and skill demands is provided in Appendix A.

In keeping with our commitment to innovation, education, and community impact, Battelle offers this competitive grant program to support new and creative STEM learning opportunities for Central Ohio youth. We seek programs that spark interest in STEM while helping students develop the skills, experiences, and confidence needed to thrive in an increasingly technology-enabled world.

1. Program Objectives

This competitive grant program invites proposals for innovative, high-quality K-12 STEM education initiatives that engage students in meaningful learning experiences outside the classroom. Funding is available to pilot, expand, or enhance programs that strengthen STEM knowledge, build applied skills, and help students develop the confidence and experiences needed for future education, career exploration, and workforce readiness. Previously funded programs may request continued funding as described in Section 2.1.2.

To be considered, proposed programs must meet the following criteria:

- Be a new, expanded, enhanced, or pilot program.
- Serve K-12 students within one or more of the following Central Ohio counties: Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, and Pickaway.
- Advance STEM learning and skill development during out-of-school time (e.g., before or after school, weekends, and seasonal breaks).
- Provide students with engaging, hands-on STEM learning opportunities that build applied skills and support future education, career exploration, and workforce readiness.
- Align to one or more of the following areas of focus:
 - **Career-Connected Learning:** Examples may include mentorship and internship programs, career exploration, industry partnerships, work-based learning experiences, STEM career exposure, and other opportunities that help students connect learning to future pathways.
 - **Math Skills or Artificial Intelligence:** Examples may include strengthening math skills, data and logical reasoning, age-appropriate AI concepts, responsible technology use, computational thinking, and other experiences that help students understand and navigate emerging technologies.
 - **Student Success:** Examples may include academic tutoring and support, integrated social-emotional learning, fostering persistence and engagement, and activities that build confidence, problem-solving abilities, communication skills, and collaboration.

2. Program Guidelines

2.1 Eligibility and Funding

Applications may be submitted by a single organization or by a consortium led by an eligible organization. In consortium applications, the lead applicant must meet all eligibility requirements, submit the application, and serve as the grant recipient. Eligible organizations must be tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and located in Central Ohio, defined as Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, and Pickaway counties.

Organizations may submit only one application per funding cycle. Each application must include a copy of the organization's IRS Determination Letter, Form W-9, and Battelle's Certification of Non-Discrimination, completed and signed by an authorized representative.

Funding requests may not exceed \$75,000 per application. Requests exceeding this amount will not be considered. Awards are issued as one-time grants and do not imply or guarantee future funding.

2.2 Continued Funding

Organizations may request continued funding for a previously funded program that demonstrates measurable progress and impact. To be eligible, organizations must have completed all prior grant-funded activities and submitted all required reports.

A program may receive funding for a maximum of two grant cycles. Continued funding is not guaranteed and all requests are subject to competitive review.

2.3 Period of Performance

Grant-funded activities and expenditures must occur between January 1, 2027, and May 31, 2028. The period of performance establishes the allowable timeframe for grant-funded work and is not the required duration of the program.

3. Preparation of Proposal

3.1 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)

3.2 Proposal Narrative

Proposals must be clear, complete, and responsive to the following requirements:

1. **Program Statement:** Provide a concise, self-contained description of the program that would be implemented if the proposal were funded. (500-character limit)

Evaluation Status: Required, not scored. This section is intended to provide reviewers with a concise overview of the proposed program.

2. **Program Description:** Provide a clear description of how the program will be implemented, including its content and delivery method(s). (2,000-character limit)

Evaluation Focus: Program Design and Implementation.

3. **Innovation and Impact:** Describe how the program is innovative or distinct from current offerings. Explain how the proposed approach will engage students in meaningful STEM learning experiences and develop applied skills that support future education, career exploration, and workforce readiness. If the program is already implemented, describe how Battelle's funding will support its expansion, enhancement, or further development. (1,500-character limit)

Evaluation Focus: Innovation, student impact, and connection to future pathways.

4. **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. (1,000-character limit)

Evaluation Focus: Feasibility and readiness for implementation.

5. **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)

Evaluation Focus: Strength of outcomes, measurable goals, and evaluation approach.

6. **Collaborating Organizations:** If applicable, list organizations that will serve as formal partners in implementing the proposed program. For each organization listed, upload a signed Letter of Support describing its role in the program.

Evaluation Focus: Strength and relevance of partnerships.

3.3 Participant Information

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

Describe the students to be served and the organization's experience working with this population. (1,500-character limit)

Describe the recruitment plan to maximize participation and ensure students can meaningfully engage in the proposed learning experience. (1,000-character limit)

3.4 Funding Information

Specify the amount requested, up to \$75,000.

1. Provide a clear, well-organized explanation of how the requested funding amount will be utilized; explain how the proposed expenses support the objectives, activities, and anticipated outcomes of the program. (1,500-character limit)
2. 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.
3. If applicable, include the participation fee for this program; specify the amount and explain how the fee will be used. (500-character limit)

4. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria below.

1. **Program Description:** The proposal provides a clear and comprehensive description of program implementation, content, and delivery methods that support high-quality informal STEM learning experiences.
2. **Innovation and Impact:** The proposal demonstrates an innovative and engaging approach that strengthens STEM learning, enhances student growth and achievement, and supports the development of applied skills that prepare students for future education, career exploration, and workforce readiness.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **Collaborating Organizations:** The proposal identifies all collaborating organizations and includes signed Letters of Support from each organization to confirm their commitment and involvement.
6. **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 meaningful and reasonable in relation to the program's scope and available resources.
7. **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.

5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

Date	Activity
September 17, 2026	Request for Proposals Opens
October 1, 6, and 8, 2026	Office Hours: Sign Up Here to schedule a 15-minute meeting with Leslie Vesha, Philanthropy Manager
October 23, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET	Request for Proposals Closes
December 2026	Award decisions announced
January 2027	Grant funds distributed to awardees

Application Process

Applicants must complete an eligibility quiz to access the online application. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Complete and submit your application online at:

[Battelle Central Ohio STEM Grant application portal](#)

Notice of Award

Applicants will be notified by email when final award decisions are made.

Reporting Requirements

Awarded grantees are required to submit Student Impact Reports through Battelle's online reporting system. Reports must describe program activities, participant engagement, use of grant funds, and outcomes achieved.

Program Activity Period	Report Opens	Report Due
Award Date – September 30, 2027	July 14, 2027	August 14, 2027
October 1, 2027 – May 31, 2028	July 14, 2028	August 14, 2028

Contact Information

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

Appendix A

Battelle Applied Workforce Outlook™

Additional information on workforce trends and applied skills is available in the *Battelle Applied Workforce Outlook™*.

Access the full report: [Battelle Applied Workforce Outlook™](#)