

Central Ohio STEM Grant

A Central Ohio Community Challenge

Seeking Creative, STEM-Integrated,
Informal Education Programming

Request for Proposals and Guidelines for Submission

Proposals Due March 26, 2024

Continued Funding Application

Introduction

Every day, the people of Battelle apply science and technology to solve the problems that matter the most. At major technology centers and national laboratories throughout the world, Battelle conducts research and development, designs and manufactures products, and delivers critical services for government and commercial customers. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, since its founding in 1929, Battelle serves the national security, health and life sciences, and energy and environmental industries.

Battelle's founder, Gordon Battelle, believed that innovative science could and should benefit society at large. For years, we have given back through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. More than simply awarding grants, we have become leaders in STEM education, helping to shape innovative approaches to learning across the country. This effort started in 2006, when Battelle founded Metro Early College High School, Ohio's first STEM high school. We manage three STEM networks: the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN), Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) and our national network, STEMx. Through the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) alone, Battelle impacts more than 158,000 students across the state in more than 319 schools and training centers. We recognize that STEM education in schools is only part of the picture. The Central Ohio STEM Grant program helps us fill the gaps in our approach, both in subject and setting.

In 2019, Battelle set an ambitious goal to reach 1 million students by 2025. And in the 2022 fiscal year, we reached 1.4 million students through philanthropy and education efforts at both Battelle and the national laboratories Battelle manages—a full three years ahead of schedule.

Creating more equitable and accessible opportunities for students to experience hands-on science, technology, education and math learning is one way Battelle continues to do the greatest good.

Instead of thinking of “STEM” as four subjects, we see it more universally as “Strategies That Engage Minds™.” STEM education lets students learn by doing, investigating concepts rather than memorizing facts. STEM's central tenets of critical thinking and collaboration are applicable across all subject areas. Creative disciplines such as art, music, and theater have the potential to engage students with STEM in novel and unique ways.

Informal and out-of-classroom learning is also important to us. From museums to libraries and zoos to summer camps, sites for such informal learning are recognized as key drivers in raising student achievement, research confirms. Integrating out-of-classroom learning into Battelle's education strategy is a natural extension of our decades-long, multimillion-dollar commitment to sustain and expand the creative community in Central Ohio.

In keeping with both our strategic emphasis on innovative, interdisciplinary learning and our history of charitable giving, Battelle is excited to continue this competitive grant program. We hope to challenge the Central Ohio community to pilot the development or expansion of innovative, creative STEM education programs with high potential for scalability. Battelle is requesting proposals for cutting-edge programming that provides creative informal learning opportunities, particularly to underserved students.

Program Objectives

This is a competitive grant program seeking proposals for 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 the development or expansion of innovative, creative STEM-education programming. To be considered, proposals must meet the following criteria:

1. Increase opportunities for engaging students — particularly those who might otherwise not have the opportunities — to participate in STEM programming.
2. Integrate STEM subjects in out-of-school — summer, evenings, weekends — time.
3. Demonstrate potential for sustainability.

This request for proposals is intentionally flexible. We do not want to limit the creativity of the submissions. Ultimately, we are looking for proposals that have the potential to raise the collective interest, engagement, or achievement of students in Central Ohio and can be scaled or replicated in the local community and beyond.

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. Historically, this grant program awards between \$10,000 and \$80,000 per grant. 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 three years for a single project.

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, which include diversity metrics of the learners participating in the proposed program.

Preparation of Proposal

Summary of Previous Program

Provide a summary of your previously awarded proposal. This should include program description, participant data, lessons learned, and results with metrics to support. (2,500-character limit)

Summary

Provide the title of the proposed program, start and end dates (must not start later than June 2025), 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. (500-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. (2,500-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. (4,000-character limit)
- D. **Goals and Evaluation:** Describe the programmatic outcomes that will determine whether your program is successful or not. (2,500-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. **Scale and Sustainability:** If the program is successful, explain plans to continue or expand beyond the initial phase of funding. (2,500-character limit)
- G. **Collaborating Organizations:** Please list the organizations you are collaborating with on this program. A Letter of Support from each collaborating organization listed must be provided.
- H. **Grant Manager:** Provide the contact information for the individual responsible for managing the grant.

Participant Information

Battelle wishes to gain a deeper understanding of who this program will impact. Applicants will be asked to specify the type of participants of the program (educators and/or students) and the number of participants this program will impact.

Provide a detailed description of the program participants, including demographic and geographic information, as well as the recruitment plan. Explain your organization's experience with the program participants, and its commitment to diverse and inclusive participation within the program. (4,000-character limit)

Demographic Information

Provide demographic information on the anticipated learners of the proposed program in the following areas: community type, race/ethnicity, gender, and grade level. This data will be entered in the application and requested in future impact reports to reflect actual participation.

Funding Information

Provide the requested funding amount and a detailed description of the budget for your program. Details should be clear, well organized, and easy to understand. A completed budget template that outlines the described costs will be requested in the Attachments section. (2,500-character limit)

Attachments

- A. **Budget Template:** Upload a complete [budget template](#) that clearly outlines all direct and indirect costs of the program.
- B. **Gantt Chart:** Upload a completed [Gantt chart](#) to clearly illustrate your project timeline and schedule. (optional)
- C. **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.

Criteria
A. Summary of Previous Program <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal includes details on previously funded program. <p><i>Low: Proposal does not include complete summary of previously funded program.</i></p> <p><i>High: Proposal provides extensive detail about previously funded program including description, participant information, results and lessons learned.</i></p>
B. Program <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Program integrates creative disciplines with STEM subjects. <p><i>Low: Proposed concept does not appear to integrate additional creative disciplines (art, music, theater, cooking, language, etc.) with STEM.</i></p>

High: Proposed concept appears to be a multi-disciplinary approach that integrates one or more creative disciplines (art, music, theater, cooking, language, etc.) with STEM.

2. Proposal describes an innovative education program.

Low: Proposed concept does not appear to inspire or engage students in a new way.

High: Proposed concept is intriguing and has the potential to engage students in a new way.

3. Program utilizes out-of-classroom time and space for learning.

Low: Proposed concept largely takes place inside a traditional classroom as part of a normal or typical school day.

High: Proposed concept largely takes place outside a classroom before or after the school day, on weekends or during the summer.

4. Proposal describes what will determine the program to be successful with defined goals for success and a strategy for collecting metrics.

Low: Proposed concept lacks goals/metrics and sufficient mechanisms to achieve meaningful outputs and impactful outcomes.

High: Proposed concept has identified ambitious and robust measurements of success to achieve meaningful outputs and impactful outcomes.

5. Proposal describes a plan for continuance and ongoing impact after funding period of performance.

Low: Proposed concept will make an impact only for the initially funded period.

High: Proposed concept is for one-time start-up costs only, and strategies for making an impact without additional Battelle funding are described.

C. Participant Information

1. Proposal provides a detailed description of participants with a focus on expanding access.

Low: Proposed concept does not provide a detailed description of participants.

High: Proposed concept provides a detailed description of participants with a strong focus on expanding access.

2. Proposal describes a recruitment plan for program participants with a commitment to diverse and inclusive participation.

Low: Proposed concept does not provide a clear plan on how to recruit program participants and lacks evidence of diverse and inclusive participation.

High: Proposed concept provides a clear plan on how program participants will be recruited and demonstrates a commitment to diverse and inclusive participation.

3. Proposal describes experience with the targeted population of participants.

Low: Proposed concept does not have experience with the targeted population of participants.

High: Proposed concept provides a detailed description of experience with the targeted population of participants.

D. Demographic Information

1. Demographic inputs support proposed participant information.

Low: Demographic data conflicts with proposed participant information.

High: Demographic data supports proposed participant information; program serves additional student populations and promotes equity.

E. Budget

1. Budget reflects the program in a clear, well-organized, and realistic manner.

Low: Proposal does not include an appropriate budget.

High: Budget reflects the program in a clear, well-organized, and realistic manner.

Proposal Submission Requirements and Deadlines

Date	Activity
February 6, 2024	Open Request for Proposals Submit proposal and necessary documents here: https://www.cybergrants.com/battelle/centralohiostemgrant
February 15 – March 7, 2024	Open Office Hours Sign up here for a 15-minute meeting with Leslie Vesha, Philanthropy Manager, to discuss your idea or application.
March 26, 2024 By 11:59 p.m.	Request for Proposals Closes
May 2024	Awards Announced

Final Proposal

The final proposal must be submitted online here:

<https://www.cybergrants.com/battelle/centralohiostemgrant>

The CyberGrants portal allows for applications to be started and saved to be completed later. An [Application Preview Document](#) has been created to show the questions that will be asked.

Late or incomplete proposals will not be accepted.

Notice of Award

Once the final award decisions are made, the point of contact listed on the proposal will be notified via email.

Reporting Requirements

Awarded grantees are expected to complete an annual Student Impact Report. 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. Battelle will circulate the questions to the appropriate party and, if necessary, maintain an ongoing Frequently Asked Questions page on our [website](#).

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It can be done