

Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation



Learning Initiatives for Educators (L.I.F.E. Grants)

Teacher Grants – The purpose of these grants are to provide opportunities for teachers and schools to provide further educational opportunities for students, enhance the professional development of teachers, and to involve students in community service activities.

Eligibility – Classroom teachers of Grades K through 12 in all public, private, and parochial schools that are New York State licensed and certified located within Ulster County and the Windham-Ashland-Jewett & Hunter-Tannersville School Districts in Greene County are eligible to apply.

Types of Grants –

1. General Grants
 - a. Field Trips
 - b. Speakers / Seminars
 - c. Tutoring / Mentoring Programs
 - d. Learning Initiatives for Students
2. Professional Development for Teachers
3. Community Service Grants

Grant Amounts – Approved amounts will be awarded **up to \$1,000** per grant.

Grant Eligibility – All grant applications should be practical and realistic. Individual teachers may submit more than one application, but no teacher will receive more than one grant in any given year. If a teacher receives a L.I.F.E. Grant for two (2) consecutive years, they are not eligible to receive a grant in the third year. They would then be eligible to apply again in the fourth year. The proposal should be for a project / program which is not normally covered by your school's budget. Funding should be sought from the school or district first. If those sources are depleted or unavailable, the teacher / school may request money from this fund.

Field Trips

- Field trip must be tied to specific educational criteria.
- Field trip should occur during the regular academic year and generally during school hours.
- Summer programs and after-school programs are not eligible.
- Grant funds may be used to cover:
 - Admissions
 - Help defray the cost of students who do not have the ability to pay.
 - Transportation
- The proposed field trip should be reasonable and appropriate.

Speakers / Seminars

- Content of seminar should be educational or provide life-skills for students (ie, anti-bias initiatives, tolerance and diversity, dispute resolution, etc.)
- Seminar should occur during regular academic year and generally during school hours.
- Grant funds may be used for cost of speaker / seminar presenter.
- Speaker / Seminar should be reasonable and appropriate.

Tutoring / Mentoring Programs

- Program should match a student – student or an adult – student whereby the tutored student will receive educational benefit.
- Program should occur during regular academic year.
- The proposed program should be reasonable and appropriate.

Learning Initiatives for Students

- Program should provide educational or life-skills benefits to students.
- Program should demonstrate clear objectives and projected outcomes.
- Program should occur during the regular academic school year.
- Grant funds may be used to cover program costs, materials, or professional services.
- The proposed program should be reasonable and appropriate.

Professional Development of Teachers

- Grant should be used to provide teacher with personal and professional development directly related to classroom performance.
- Grant should not be utilized to fulfill Masters Program requirements.

Community Service Grants

- Project should involve students in community service.
- Eligible projects will be those involving senior citizens, hospice, day care, disadvantaged populations, community beautification projects, etc.
- Projects should occur during the regular academic school year.
- The proposed project should be reasonable and appropriate.

Ineligible Projects – There are a number of projects which these funds are NOT intended to support. These include:

- Purchasing equipment or books to be used by students as part of their regular instructional program;
- Painting or otherwise remodeling classrooms or offices in the schools;
- Paying college tuition for courses required for a new certificate or advanced degree;
- Travel proposals which do not have a clear relationship to classroom activity; and
- Teacher in-service activities that are generally part of your school's budget.

Application Procedures –

- Applications for these grants must be submitted to the Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation using the [LIFE Grant application form](#).
- Grant requests should be for the 2012/2013 academic school year.
- Applications must be received by April 9, 2012 and should be mailed to:
Ulster Savings Charitable Foundation
Attn: Learning Initiatives for Educators Grant Program
180 Schwenk Drive
Kingston, NY 12401
- Grant Awards will be announced by May 11, 2012.

Review and Selection Process – All applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. This will be a “blind” selections process.

Selections will be made on the basis of the relative quality of the proposals. Among the criteria considered in evaluating the proposal are:

- Educational impact proposed activity will have on the students;
- Potential for proposed activity to enhance the personal and professional development of the teacher;
- Whether or not the proposal is practical and realistic, as well as creative.

Final Report – If a proposal receives funding, it must be completed by March 31, 2013. Within 30 days following completion of the activity, a report must be submitted to the Foundation, which should describe how the activity has enriched the life of the students and the teacher. It should also account for how the funds were expended. Unused funds should be returned to the Foundation.

If a recipient leaves employment with the employing district or private or parochial school before completion of the approved activity, funds not spent should be returned to the foundation. When a grant has been awarded for an activity to be carried out in the classroom or for a field trip, the school may request permission from the Foundation for another teacher to carry out the activity as it was approved. Capital items purchased become the property of the school after the project is completed.

Recognition of Recipients of Grants – The Foundation will arrange for a recognition event honoring all teachers selected to receive a grant. Local media will be informed of this project and given the names of the teachers selected to receive grants. The Foundation may also utilize other promotional materials and media to publicize the program and the grant recipients.

Questions – Please direct any questions to Amy Chalmers, L.I.F.E. Grant Committee Chair at 845-338-6322 ext 3925 or achalmers@ulstersavings.com.