



The Foundation for Fresno Unified Students

Grant-Making Guidance Policy

Purpose

The purpose of these grant-making guidelines is to provide a clear and structured framework for evaluating and awarding grants that align with the mission, vision, and strategic priorities of The Foundation for Fresno Unified Students.

Applying for Funding

Before applying for a grant, please review these guidelines to ensure your program or project aligns with our criteria.

General Guidelines:

Alignment with Cornerstones – The project must align with at least one of the Foundation’s cornerstones:

- **Learn:** Supporting district initiatives.
- **Innovate:** Supporting Foundation initiatives.
- **Amplify:** Supporting individual student goals, particularly focusing on post-secondary education.

Alignment with Fresno Unified School District – Projects must align with the goals established by the Board of Trustees for the school district.

Passthrough Granting – The Foundation is also open to serving as a passthrough entity where funds are not necessarily provided by the Foundation but can be granted using the Foundation’s 501(c)(3) status. This allows the Foundation to choose to facilitate projects that benefit Fresno Unified students in collaboration with other funding sources, ensuring that students are served through a broader range of resources. This option would also follow the guidance in this policy.

Tracking Results – Applicants must track and report on results, providing success indicators prior to receiving funding.

Benefiting Fresno Unified Students – Funds must directly benefit students within the Fresno Unified School District.

Application Limits – The Foundation will consider only one application per organization per year (within any 12-month period).

Ineligible Applicants – Funding is not available for for-profit organizations, individuals, or other typically ineligible entities.

Application Deadlines and Review Process:

Application Period – Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with the period closing at the end of February each year. Regardless of when the application is received, applications will be reviewed in February.

Decision Timeline – Applicants will receive a decision by March for the following school year.

Reviewers – The Proposal Review Committee, comprising the CEO, Chairperson, and staff of the Foundation, will review applications.

Funding Examples by Cornerstone

Learn

- **Objective:** Support district initiatives.
 1. *Literacy Support:* Enhance literacy outcomes, increase reading proficiency, and provide resources for literacy programs.

Innovate

- **Objective:** Support Foundation initiatives in student mental health or technology education, including student involvement.
 1. *Student Mental Health:* Provide access to mental health support services, led by licensed professionals and student focus groups.
 2. *Technology Programs:* Increase student access to technology, such as AI learning and cybersecurity initiatives.

Amplify

- **Objective:** Support individual student goals, focusing on post-secondary education.
 1. *Scholarships:* Reduce costs for post-secondary education, including study abroad opportunities.
 2. *Apprenticeship Programs:* Establish programs for students pursuing careers in education and entrepreneurship.
 3. *College and Career Readiness:* Implement programs for at-risk students to complete post-secondary education.

Application Requirements

Executive Summary – A brief overview of the project, its goals, and expected impact.

Detailed Proposal – A comprehensive description, including methodology, timeline, budget, and the number and percentage of students impacted.

Alignment Statement – Explanation of how the project aligns with the Foundation's and school district's mission, vision, values, and cornerstones.

Evaluation Plan – Description of how project outcomes will be measured and reported.

Supporting Documents – Include relevant documents such as letters of support, financial statements, and key personnel resumes.

Post-Funding Requirements

Note: The timeline for these requirements depends on the nature of the project and should be considered before applying.

Progress Reports – Regular updates on project progress and impact.

Final Report – A detailed report upon project completion, including outcomes, lessons learned, and recommendations for future initiatives.

Financial Accountability – A detailed account of how the grant funds were spent, including receipts and financial statements.