Idaho EcosySTEM Grant Guide

Are you seeking additional funding to support your TMC Lab? Need to restock a trailer or purchase STEM supplies for your OST programs? Idaho EcosySTEM has grants available! This guide provides a quick overview of the grant and offers writing tips specifically for TMC Labs. **APPLY HERE!**

What activities Can the grant fund?

STEM nights at local schools, materials and equipment for makerspaces, Out-of-School STEM programming, events, and activities, program staff stipends, professional development for educators, materials for STEM competitions.

How much can I request?

$500-$5,000 to support local STEM and workforce development projects in Idaho.

Who is eligible to apply?

Public education institutions, non-profits, and local education agencies. *Ineligible applicants: for-profit businesses, private schools, homeschool institutions, and individuals.*

When does the Application open?

4 rounds of funding are available:
  Round 2: closes 11/3/24.
  Round 3: opens 11/3/24, closes 1/6/25.
  Round 4 open 1/6/25, closes 4/13/24

When must I use the fund?

Quick turnaround! Funding must be spent within 4-5 months from date awarded.

Are there any giving priorities?

Special emphasis is given to initiatives that foster community-wide engagement and serve underrepresented and underserved populations. Projects featuring a diverse panel of partnerships across different community sectors are particularly encouraged.

What expenses aren't Allowable?

Technology intended for personal use, activities outside of Idaho or involve non-Idaho residents, organizations, or businesses, and indirect or overhead costs, such as rent, utilities, and shared office supplies.

Grant Writing Tips

Grant writing is a vital yet time-intensive task for OST programs. Here are some tips to streamline the process and make it more efficient:

Use existing grant materials

If you've applied for STEM grants before, such as ION's TMC Mini Grant or Maxi Grant, you shouldn't have to start from scratch for this application. Use narrative content from grants you've submitted in the past. Look back at these applications and see how existing narratives can be used.

Copy data Submitted in TMC User Reports

Grant reports are valuable for your future grant applications. Data from TMC User Reports (a monthly reporting requirement for TMC Labs), are metrics that can show how your lab is impacting youth.

If you do not have any data around STEM activities, start tracking the number of sessions and students served. *Email apost@jannus.org to receive a copy of your submitted user report.*

Write about Community Partners

One impactful strategy to show program sustainability is to write about relationships with community partners. Community partners can often open new funding paths, sponsorships, and collaborations on grants.

Create a working Document

Before writing a grant, copy all the questions into a document and work from there. This will prevent you from losing work if the grant portal crashes.

Write about Participation in ION's trainings

Including details about participation in ION's STEM or Quality trainings highlights your commitment to professional development and delivering high-quality OST and STEM programming. Mentioning staff training initiatives or leadership development demonstrates how ongoing education and skill-building are enhancing your programs' effectiveness and sustainability.

ION encourages TMC Labs to request funding to restock trailers, for ION trainings at our Spring 2025 Round Tables, direct staffing costs related to your STEM projects, or other STEM needs! Contact the Idaho EcosySTEM for questions.