

Funding Service-Learning Projects

Funding for service-learning projects should not be something that prevents a school's participation. Some projects will be very low budget and some will require a more significant amount of money. There are many grants available to help with funding. Even if a teacher is not an experienced grant writer, there are many grants with a very easy application process. In fact, some grants prefer that they hear "student voice" in the application rather than the teacher's voice.

When applying for a grant:

- Read the instructions carefully to ascertain qualifications
- Secure administrator support
- Allow students to answer grant questions; teacher should act as an editor
- Be aware of deadlines
- Research local grant sources, such as supermarkets, small business, and hospitals

Some possible grant sources include the following:

- **State Farm**
<www.statefarmyab.com/apply>
- **Youth Service America**
<www.ysa.org>
- **Best Buy (applications are due in summer)**
<www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/>
- **NEA Foundation-Nickelodeon Big Help Grants**
<www.neafoundation.org>
- **For the Kids: School Grants**
<www.schoolgrants.org>
- **Lowe's Toolbox for Education**
<www.toolboxforeducation.com>

Other funding sources:

- Local businesses
- Local organizations
- Fund-raising companies