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**
  &lt;www.statefarmyab.com/apply&gt;
• **Youth Service America**
  &lt;www.ysa.org&gt;
• **Best Buy (applications are due in summer)**
  &lt;www.bestbuy-communityrelations.com/&gt;
• **NEA Foundation-Nickelodeon Big Help Grants**
  &lt;www.neafoundation.org&gt;
• **For the Kids: School Grants**
  &lt;www.schoolgrants.org&gt;
• **Lowe’s Toolbox for Education**
  &lt;www.toolboxforeducation.com&gt;

Other funding sources:
• Local businesses
• Local organizations
• Fund-raising companies