

# Funding Resources for Your Teach Earth Fellowship

## FUND FOR TEACHERS (FFT)

Fund for Teachers provides grants for self-designed professional development. Awarded fellows often participate in summer travel and learning experiences in the United States and abroad.

- **Amount:** \$5,000+
- **Website:** [fundforteachers.org](https://fundforteachers.org)
- 55+ teachers have been awarded FFT grants to participate in Earthwatch expeditions since 2006: [Learn more](#).

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## THE POLLINATION PROJECT

Daily micro grants for inspiring social changemakers.

- **Amount:** \$1,000
- Micro grants daily
- **Website:** [thepollinationproject.org](https://thepollinationproject.org)

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## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

If you are considering using your Earthwatch experience to improve your teaching in mathematics, this grant can fund your professional development.

- **Eligibility:** Numerous grants available for K–12 math teachers
- **Amount:** Up to \$10,000
- Applications due November (winter cycle) & May (summer cycle) each year
- **Website:** [nctm.org/Grants](https://nctm.org/Grants)

## COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Teachers can use this database to find community foundations that can support professional development. Search by state and county to find a foundation near you.

- **Amount:** Varies
- **Website:** [cof.org/page/community-foundation-locator](https://cof.org/page/community-foundation-locator)

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## NEA FOUNDATION LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP GRANTS

Grants to fund professional development experiences for teachers.

- **Eligibility:** Must be a member of the National Education Association and an educator in a public school or public institution of higher education. Education support professionals encouraged to apply.
- **Amount:** Between \$1,500 and \$5,000
- **Website:** [neafoundation.org/for-educators/learning-and-leadership-grants](https://neafoundation.org/for-educators/learning-and-leadership-grants)

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## STATE FARM COMMUNITY GRANTS—EDUCATION

Your school can apply for funding to support your professional development.

- **Eligibility:** Funding provided to educational institutions, not individuals.
- **Amount:** \$5,000+
- Applications currently by invitation only. Institutions can direct inquiries to State Farm Community Contact.
- **Website:** [statefarm.com/about-us/corporate-responsibility/community-grants](https://statefarm.com/about-us/corporate-responsibility/community-grants)

The grants below run on timelines that do not align with the Teach Earth application cycle but may be useful to support further professional development or secure funding to execute your Community Action Plan or Lesson Plan.

#### MCCARTHEY DRESSMAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT GRANTS (NATIONAL)

If your students come from low-income households and you have a great idea for a Community Action Plan or Lesson Plan, this grant can fund that project for up to two years.

- **Amount:** Up to \$10,000/year for a maximum of two years
- Applications available online January 15–April 15 each year
- **Website:** [mccartheydressman.org/academic-enrichment-grants](https://mccartheydressman.org/academic-enrichment-grants)

#### AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY ACS-HACH HIGH SCHOOL CHEMISTRY CLASSROOM GRANTS

Funds professional development, instructional materials, and student field studies that support learning in chemistry.

- **Eligibility:** Applicants must be a high school chemistry educator teaching in a U.S. or U.S. territory school.
- **Amount:** Up to \$1,500
- Applications accepted between October 15 and January 21 annually.
- **Website:** [acs.org/content/acs/en/funding/grants/acs-hach-professional-development-grant.html](https://acs.org/content/acs/en/funding/grants/acs-hach-professional-development-grant.html)

#### NATIONAL WEATHER ASSOCIATION (NWA) SOL HIRSCH EDUCATION FUND GRANTS

Grants for projects/materials/programs intended to improve student learning in meteorology/climate studies.

- **Eligibility:** Teachers, program directors, school district supervisors, and others looking to improve K–12 student education in meteorology. School or organization must be publicly recognized and/or accredited in the U.S.
- **Amount:** Up to \$750
- **Website:** [nwafoundation.org/scholarships-grants](https://nwafoundation.org/scholarships-grants)

#### ROOTS AND SHOOTS MINI-GRANTS

Funds youth, educators, community groups/organizations, and group leaders interested in starting (or continuing) a community-action project to positively impact people, other animals, and/or the environment.

- **Eligibility:** Applicants must reside in the United States and be a registered member of Roots & Shoots (free!)
- **Amount:** \$250 mini-grant
- Mini-Grants are typically open in two rounds in the Spring and Fall.
- **Website:** [rootsandshoots.org/take-action/find-funding](https://rootsandshoots.org/take-action/find-funding)

## Tips for Researching & Finding Grants

1. Search for grants based on your mission: Look for grants that align with your project's mission and purpose. Identify the keywords of your project's mission.
2. Utilize grant databases: Use grant databases, such as the NAAEE Opportunities, NEA Foundation, The Foundation Center, GrantWatch, or GrantStation to search for grants based on your specific criteria.
3. Look for corporate sponsorships: Many corporations offer funding for educational initiatives as part of their corporate social responsibility efforts. Check with local businesses or corporations to see if they offer funding or sponsorships for educational projects (for example, local banks).
4. Consider crowdfunding: Crowdfunding platforms such as DonorsChoose and Kickstarter can be a great way to raise funds for your classroom projects.
5. Check with your school district: Your school district may have a list of available grants or resources that you can apply for. Speak with your school's administration or district office to find out if they have any information about grant opportunities.
6. Google keywords, such as "environmental education grant funding (insert town/state/district name here)"
7. Ask ChatGPT or Bing AI to help you find appropriate grant opportunities.\*

## Using AI Language Models (ChatGPT and Bing AI) to help find grants.

- To access ChatGPT, create a free account at: [Chat.Openai.com](https://chat.openai.com)
- To access Bing AI, download Microsoft Edge then access: [Bing.com/ai](https://bing.com/ai) and click "chat" mode.

### The Power of Prompts in Ai Language Models

The prompt is the question/information you enter to the tool (it is like what you enter to a google search bar). Include specific parameters in your prompt such as project theme, age group, location, funding total, etc., and ask for sources cited.

Example prompts to try:

- "Please list 10 grants available for science teachers for professional development opportunities in elementary schools in Massachusetts and cite sources."
- "Please list grants of over \$1000 available to high school teachers to create or participate in environmental projects in Florida schools."
- "What are some grants available for environmental education and sustainability initiatives in (insert region here) high schools? Please list at least 5 grants and cite sources."
- "What are some grants available for after-school programs for low-income students? Please list at least 5 grants and cite sources. "
- "What are some grants available for mental health and wellness programs in schools? Please list at least 5 grants and cite sources."

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**\*Note on Ai Language Models:** ChatGPT, Bing AI, and other AI language models are new technologies with many benefits and drawbacks alike. Like any new technology, it will continue to evolve. Controversy around this technology includes the potential for plagiarism and misinformation. The benefits include quick research and access to information, support with creative writing, and inspiration to think outside of one's own perspective. When using these tools, one must do the due diligence of checking the accuracy of information and be careful not to plagiarize. Here are some tips for using these tools to benefit your grant research and applications in a smart, ethical way:

- Do not copy/paste responses from ChatGPT. Instead, use its output as a jumping off point for your own research and writing.
- Always ask ChatGPT to cite its sources, then check the citations to ensure accuracy and timeliness of information.
- Note that ChatGPT contains downloaded information from the internet (as of April 2023, this information was from 2021 and earlier), it is not updated in real time. Bing AI directly accesses internet data in real time.

### Once you have identified potential grants

- Read the guidelines and eligibility criteria carefully: Pay close attention to deadlines, funding requirements, and the application process to ensure that your proposal meets all necessary criteria.
- Identify keywords by funders and build their language into your proposal.
- Reach out to the funders to introduce yourself and set up a Q&A meeting to discuss your proposal. Establishing a relationship increases your chances of receiving funds.