FUND FOR TEACHERS

2027 Application Questions & Scoring Criteria

Proposal

Consists of five sections and should articulate creative, thoughtful activities or projects that demonstrate potential for learning for the teacher, the student, and the school community.

- Create and save your proposal using a word processor, avoiding any formatting.
- **25,000 characters, including spaces**, (approx. six and half, single spaced, typed pages) cumulative for all five sections.
- Avoid identifying references: Please refrain from using your name, your school or district names within your proposal to ensure an anonymous selection process.
- Avoid using hyperlinks and web addresses.
- Refer to the Scoring Criteria when addressing each of the five proposal sections.
- *TEAMS:*
    - Proposals should reflect collaboration and demonstrate your ability to work successfully as a team. Team members should be active participants in the writing process. They should also understand that they are financially responsible for their portion of the grant if awarded.
    - Only the team lead is responsible for entering the proposal.

Sections:

A response to each application question is required. These questions are designed to guide you in building your proposal, but they should not limit what you share. Applicants are encouraged to provide any additional information that helps articulate their fellowship goals and vision. Equally important, please review the **Scoring Criteria** (found here and under Quick Links), as these criteria reflect what the Selection Committee will use to evaluate applications and make award recommendations. Familiarizing yourself with them will help ensure that your narrative not only addresses the application questions but also aligns with the expectations for a highly rated proposal.

- **Fellowship Purpose and Overarching Goals**
    - Describe a skill or area of knowledge you would like to develop further as an educator. What motivates you to pursue this learning, and how does it connect to your students' strengths, culture(s), or interests?
    - How will this learning enhance your ability to meet the diverse needs of your students? What anticipated impact do you see on students' learning experiences?
    - Describe what you know about your students, including but not limited to: their collective learning needs, culture(s), interests, and academic performance. How do these factors shape your fellowship goals? What data and/or stories support the need for change in their learning experiences?
    - What are the overarching goals of your fellowship, and how are these goals aligned to both your professional growth and the needs of your students?

- **Fellowship Plan**
  - What is your summer learning plan and what key activities will you experience to achieve your goals?
  - Provide a detailed rationale for each activity. How do these activities connect to your professional growth and to your students' learning needs, strengths, culture(s), and/or interests?
  - How will your plan incorporate opportunities to learn from experts and engage in real-world experiences that push the boundaries of your current practice?
  - How will this fellowship encourage your learning about different cultures and perspectives?
  - Why have you chosen to pursue this learning opportunity in a specific location or institution? What unique aspects of this destination make it essential for your professional growth and for connecting to your students' learning needs, strengths, culture(s), and/or interests?
- **Teacher Growth and Learning**
  - What personal and intellectual challenges do you anticipate encountering during your fellowship, and how will addressing these challenges foster your growth?
  - How will you ensure that you learn deeply from immersive experiences on your fellowship? What strategies will help you reflect, analyze, and grow from these experiences?
  - What diverse perspectives or transformative moments do you hope to encounter, and how will engaging with them deepen your growth and strengthen your teaching practice?
  - How will this fellowship help you learn more about your students' strengths, culture(s), and/or interests, and how will this knowledge contribute to your instructional practice?
  - In what ways will this fellowship help you design learning experiences that are more relevant and impactful for your students?
- **Student and Stakeholder Experience**
  - How will you refine or create new student learning experiences because of your summer learning? How will these experiences increase relevance for students and align with your overarching goals and their needs? (e.g. new units, practices, routines, methods, classroom activities, school initiatives, or other student-centered experiences)?
  - How will you design opportunities for students to engage in authentic, real-world and cognitively challenging work? In what ways will this allow students to reflect on and build from their own strengths, interests, and cultures?
  - What strategies will you use to build partnerships with stakeholders (e.g., colleagues, parents, families, community members) and how will you enable your students to do the same? How will these partnerships foster greater student agency and leadership in their communities?
  - Discuss the feasibility of the proposed changes within your school context. What conditions, supports, or challenges in your school environment will shape how you bring these new student learning experiences and partnerships to life?

- **Budget Narrative**
    - Provide a detailed budget for your fellowship, including all anticipated needs.
    - Explain how each budget item supports the achievement of your fellowship goals and aligns with the activities outlined in your learning plan.
    - Include a time frame and breakdown of costs, approximate costs as closely as possible. Consider the timing of fund distribution when planning your fellowship activities.
    - How have you ensured that your budget is research-based and adheres to grant guidelines?
    - Team budgets should include both costs broken down by individual and totals for the whole team.
    - NOTE: We strongly advise you against under budgeting. The cost of your fellowship is not a consideration in the selection process. Fund for Teachers is unable to increase your budget after you are selected.

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Proposal Scoring Criteria

How to Score: Read proposal once through before scoring. On your second read, assign one point for each criterion. Evidence for some criteria may be found in another section. Points from the "Compelling Evidence" column should only be awarded if the applicant receives all the points under the "Strong Evidence" column.

Fellowship Purpose and Overarching Goals			
Point	**Strong Evidence**	**Point**	**Compelling Evidence**
☐	Uses data and/or stories to establish a need for change in students' learning experience(s).	☐	Weaves together data, stories, and insights into students' strengths, culture(s), and interests to present a case for change, articulating the anticipated impact on student learning.
☐	Articulates a clear area for their own development and outlines overarching goals of their fellowship.	☐	Teacher need for development is tightly aligned to their students' strengths, culture(s) and/or interests.
Fellowship Learning Plan			
☐	Outlines a cohesive summer learning plan, articulating multiple learning experiences, each with clear and detailed rationale.	☐	Summer learning plan includes opportunities to learn from experts in and outside of education and immerse themselves in real-world experiences.
☐	Summer learning activities include a rationale of how activities connect to teacher learning needs.	☐	Summer learning plan includes a rationale for how the activities connect to students' strengths, culture(s) and/or interests.
Teacher Growth & Learning			
☐	Identifies personal and intellectual challenges they may encounter and explains how addressing these challenges will support their growth.	☐	Reflects on how encountering diverse perspectives and complex challenges will deepen their growth, and connect this growth to meaningful impacts on their teaching practice and students' learning.
☐	Describes concrete ways they will learn from immersive experiences (e.g. encountering a challenge, practicing science, learning a different culture, analyzing primary source documents).	☐	Describes concrete strategies to promote critical reflection that challenges personal assumptions, power dynamics or systems.
Student & Stakeholder Experience			
☐	Proposes new or refined student learning experiences that increase relevance for students.	☐	Proposes new or refined student learning experiences that center students and enable them to do authentic, real-world, and cognitively challenging work.
☐	Proposes ways they will build partnerships with different stakeholders (e.g. colleagues, parents, families, community leaders).	☐	Proposes innovative ways they will increase student agency and leadership, ensuring their students are building partnerships and collaborating with stakeholders to engage in their communities.
Budget Narrative			
☐	Details research-based budget that adheres to the requirements of the categories of the grant guidelines.		
☐	Each budget item is related directly to the needs defined in the Fellowship Purpose and Plan.		

Please note: Selection Committee Members complete their review online, where scores are tabulated automatically. They also receive training materials, detailed directions, and the application guidelines.