



# Funding UnityWorks

**UnityWorks is committed** to supporting schools and districts in their efforts to obtain funding to participate in the UnityWorks Program. Please see our list of potential funding sources below. Each school district has its own policies for soliciting and receiving external funding, so it is important to work closely with district administrators and grant writers to coordinate your efforts.

Schools and districts can apply for state and federal grants, and can seek funding from foundations, local businesses, PTAs, community groups and individuals. We have prepared a Program Overview and an introductory PowerPoint for your use when making a proposal. ([Click here](#) and scroll down.)

Once your team has been accepted into the Program, we would be happy to list your sponsors on our website. Just contact us with permission to include their name and logo if desired, along with your team's photo if available.

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## Funding Categories

Grants to support UnityWorks might be listed under diversity training, race relations, social emotional learning, bullying prevention, improving school climate, conflict resolution, character development, improving student engagement, increasing academic achievement, closing opportunity gaps, developing healthy relationship skills, increasing social awareness, professional development, and curriculum development—especially with regard to race, gender, culture, language and other aspects of diversity.

## Federal Funds

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act ([ESEA](#)) is an extensive U.S government law designed to strengthen our K-12 educational system. ESEA is divided into sections or "Titles" and authorizes funds for professional development, instructional materials, safe schools, parental involvement, and support for a variety of educational programs.



Each state determines how it will use its ESEA funds. UnityWorks supporters are encouraged to work closely with their school district offices to explore how these funds might apply. For example:

**Title I**—Improving academic achievement for low-income students

**Title II**— Professional development, academic improvement and instructional materials

**Title III**—Supplementary educational services including faculty development, and programs to support English language learners, migrant and immigrant students

**Title IV**—21st Century Schools, safe schools, academic achievement, youth development activities, character education, community service and mentoring programs

**Title V**—Promoting informed parental choice and innovative educational reform

**You can also visit the following U.S. Department of Education website:**

For current grant opportunities: <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html>

## Discretionary Grant Programs

The U.S. Department of Education also provides funding under its [Discretionary Grant Programs](#). Some of the programs more closely aligned with UnityWorks are listed below. Click each link for details.

<a href="#">School Climate Transformation</a>	<p><b><u>School Climate Transformation</u></b> To develop, enhance, or expand systems of support for, and technical assistance to, schools implementing an evidence-based framework for improving behavioral outcomes and learning conditions for all students.</p>
<a href="#">i3</a>	<p><b><u>Investing In Innovation Fund</u></b> Expands innovative, effective practices for improving student achievement, closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates, or increasing college enrollment rates.</p>
<a href="#">RTTT</a>	<p><b><u>Race To The Top</u></b> Supports states and school districts to implement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Rigorous, college-ready standards and assessments</li> <li>2) Use of data to improve instruction and decision-making</li> <li>3) Systems to recruit, retain, train and support effective teachers and principals</li> <li>4) Interventions to turn around the lowest performing schools</li> </ol>
<a href="#">Gear Up</a>	<p><b><u>Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs</u></b> Increases the number of low-income middle and high school students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.</p>
<a href="#">SIG</a>	<p><b><u>School Improvement Grant</u></b> Supports the lowest performing schools in each state. Funding goes to each State DOE to make competitive sub-grants to school districts to implement rigorous interventions to turn schools around, using effective, targeted strategies to focus on students with the greatest needs.</p>
<a href="#">ESEA Flexibility Waivers</a>	<p><b><u>Flexibility in Exchange for Smart Reforms</u></b> ESEA Flexibility Waivers in exchange for a commitment to advance comprehensive reforms to support locally determined, rigorous interventions in schools.</p>

## Additional Grant Listings and Resources

<https://charactercounts.org/getstarted/funding/grant-opportunities.html>  
[www.commongrantapplication.com/grantseekers/997/#gskOrgContact](http://www.commongrantapplication.com/grantseekers/997/#gskOrgContact)  
[foundationcenter.org](http://foundationcenter.org)  
[www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov)  
[www.grantwatch.com](http://www.grantwatch.com)  
<http://grantspace.org>  
[www.grantsalert.com/grants](http://www.grantsalert.com/grants)  
[Carnegie Corporation - Philanthropic Resources](http://www.carnegie.org/philanthropic-resources)  
<http://www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PSZuE4>  
[www.neh.gov/grants/education/summer-seminars-and-institutes](http://www.neh.gov/grants/education/summer-seminars-and-institutes)  
[www.fundsnet.com/searchresult/6/Education-&-Literacy-Grants.html](http://www.fundsnet.com/searchresult/6/Education-&-Literacy-Grants.html)

## State Funds

Each state also maintains its own funds to support educational programs and initiatives. For information about funds available in your state: U.S. Department of Education > [State Contacts](#).

## Foundations, Corporations and Local Businesses

Many organizations support educational programs and may be pleased to make a long-term strategic investment in their communities by sponsoring the UnityWorks Program in your area.



You can research potential funders by checking the newspaper, talking with local groups such as Rotary or Kiwanis, asking friends and colleagues for referrals, and checking online to see who is funding educational programs and diversity initiatives in your community.

## Arranging a Presentation

If you are approaching a local organization or business, you can ask for a meeting to share information about the UnityWorks Program and to answer any questions they may have. A personal connection is often the most effective for making this initial appointment.

During the meeting, explain that you share a common vision and wish to work together to build a stronger, more unified community. You can provide copies of the UnityWorks Program Overview, show the introductory PowerPoint, and share any local UnityWorks data, achievements and stories. It may be helpful to bring a small presentation team with you, including interested administrators, teachers, students and parents.

## Guidelines for Preparing a Proposal

- If a funder seems like a good match, review their grant guidelines, application procedures, deadlines, required forms and desired format (e.g. letter of inquiry, full proposal or online form).
- If you decide to proceed, design your proposal to meet their criteria exactly. Carefully review their website and any promotional materials to guide your funding priorities and choice of wording.
- Call them if you have any questions, and if desired, request a follow-up meeting.
- Your proposal should be positive, well-written, clear and thorough. Be specific about what you are requesting and help funders understand how UnityWorks aligns with their own goals and priorities.
- Explain why the UnityWorks Program is important to you, your school, district and community.

## If Your Proposal is Successful

- When you receive a grant, be sure to send a formal letter of thanks from your senior administrator.
- This is just the beginning of a long-term relationship that you must build and maintain.
- Find ongoing ways to show your appreciation, for example:
  - Place announcements in the local newspaper and the district newsletter.
  - Ask for opportunities to present to the school board and at corporate meetings.
  - Arrange for presentations at student assemblies and for mailings home to parents.
  - Invite funders for a site visit to meet your UnityWorks team and to share your accomplishments.
  - Submit an annual report with a budget and photos of UnityWorks activities and participants.
  - List funders in any promotional materials such as banners, posters and event fliers.
  - Invite them to the Spring Multicultural Conference and recognize them in front of the group.
- Don't forget to ask for their support again next year.