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September 24, 2020

Dear IUSD Staff,

While the start of this school year has been anything but ordinary, Irvine Public Schools Foundation remains committed to supporting IUSD students and staff through the 2021 **Innovative Grants Program**. This year, I am proud to announce we have \$200,000 in funds available to support innovation in IUSD. Since 1996, IPSF has awarded over \$1.7 million to help educators bring new ideas and initiatives to provide the best educational opportunities for our students.

The funding parameters of the 2021 Innovative Grants Program are provided below. Schools or departments may apply for funding up to \$10,000 in Innovative Grants and \$20,000 in Mega Grants. **All IUSD staff are eligible and encouraged to apply.**

• **Innovative Grants**

- Funding limits per school or department: Up to **\$10,000***
*Applicants may apply for up to \$5,000 per funding request

• **Mega Grants (Limit one award per school or department)**

- Funding limits per school or department: Up to **\$20,000**

Funding priorities include but are not limited to the following:

- Arts
- Mental Health & Counseling
- Music
- Science & Engineering
- Technology
- Other educational areas

We are proud to provide these resources to enhance innovation in IUSD and look forward to receiving your applications. Attached you will find more details regarding the application process. For questions, please contact Connie Cheung, Program Manager, at ccheung@ipsf.net. We are grateful for the opportunity to be your partner in education!

Sincerely,



Neda Eaton
President & CEO

Innovative Grants Program: Innovative & Mega Grants



Irvine Public Schools Foundation (IPSF) is pleased to offer all staff in the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) the opportunity to apply for funds through the Innovative Grants Program. The purpose of the program is to support innovation by awarding funds to enhance learning and improve the educational experience of students.



The Innovative Grants Program is made possible by parent donations to IPSF through the *Parents Appreciating Teachers and Staff (PATS)* program, and the generous support of the Assistance League of Irvine, Edison International, and PPG.



General Information

1. Projects must exemplify an innovative teaching approach and/or initiative that benefits students.
2. **Innovative Grants: Applicants may apply for up to \$5,000 per funding request.** The maximum amount a school or department can receive is **\$10,000**. It is **NOT** a guarantee that a school or department will receive full funding.
3. **Mega Grants: Applicants may apply for up to \$20,000 per funding request.** The maximum amount a school or department can receive is **\$20,000**. It is **NOT** a guarantee that a school or department will receive full funding. While you are welcome to submit multiple applications, a school or department may only receive one Mega Grant award per school year.
4. Funding priorities include but are not limited to the following: Arts, Mental Health & Counseling, Music, Science & Engineering, Technology, and other educational areas.
5. Projects may be funded for a maximum of three years and applicants must apply each year.
6. Grant awards are intended to fund the proposed project only. Any materials or services purchased with award funds remain the property of the school or department and not the recipient(s).
7. Only funding from Mega Grants may be used to compensate for time put towards the proposed project (i.e. training). Funds may not solely be applied towards staff compensation.
8. A school or department can submit as many grant requests as they desire, but please note funding limits apply.
9. Please complete **ALL** sections of the application. You may submit additional materials to clarify your project for the review committee.
10. The application must be completed **WITHOUT** mentioning names of staff members and/or the name of your school or department to ensure an unbiased evaluation process.
11. Please pay careful attention to the application guidelines and criteria used by the review committee to evaluate proposals and be sure these issues are addressed in your application.
12. Recipients will be notified by mid-February 2021. A reception honoring award recipients will be held on **Wednesday, February 24, 2021** from **4:30-5:30 p.m.** Funding will be available via gift accounts shortly after the reception.

All applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020

Applications may be submitted via email to **ccheung@ipsf.net**
Please attach your application as a PDF file. The cover page must be signed by your principal or supervisor and attached as a separate PDF file.



2021 Innovative Grants Program Innovative & Mega Grant Application

Please include this cover page with your application.

I am applying for (check one):

Innovative Grant

Mega Grant

I have previously applied for funding through IPSF:

Yes

No

Project Title

Full Amount Requested

Partial Funding Requested (If Applicable)

Applicant Name(s) and Title(s)

Primary Contact Name, Email, and Phone Number

Principal or Supervisor Name

School or Department

Principal or Supervisor Signature (**Required**)

Date

All applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020

Applications may be submitted via email to **ccheung@ipsf.net**
Please attach your application as a PDF file. The cover page must be signed by
your principal or supervisor and attached as a separate PDF file.



Project Proposal

Project Description

1. Please provide the following:
 - Project title
 - One-paragraph summary of the project
2. Provide a detailed description including all of the following information:
 - Need for the project, including how this project will benefit students and improve current instruction
 - What in educational research supports the efficacy of this idea or project (i.e. provide information from publications, links to online resources, and/or other evidence that the project is likely to be effective in improving learning outcomes)
 - Goals and objectives of the project
 - How this project is innovative or aids in the implementation of creative approaches to teaching and learning
 - How this project might be developed beyond your classroom, school, or department
3. Specify the anticipated number of students and the grade levels that will benefit annually from the project.
4. How do you anticipate assessing the project's effectiveness, including quantitative and/or qualitative indicators to assess the impact on students.
5. A detailed timeline of your project from planning, execution, and assessment. This should also include your plan to maintain your project after its first year, and discuss whether or not your project is sustainable.

Funding Request

1. Please provide an itemized, prioritized budget for your project which includes the amount to fully fund your project and what partial funding would be acceptable (include all expenses such as product purchase costs, labor/installment costs, shipping/handling, taxes, etc.).
2. Indicate any additional sources of support that you anticipate using for the project such as staff time, PTA funds, DonorsChoose.org, private donations, etc.
3. If requesting technology equipment, please obtain approval and price quotes from Scott Bennett, IUSD Information Technology Department, at ScottBennett@iusd.org.



Innovative & Mega Grants Review Process & Criteria

Review Process

The review committee is composed of community members, corporate leaders, IUSD staff, and IPSF staff. Members are selected annually to ensure objectivity and diversity in the judging process. Committee members use the criteria and rubric below to individually review and score each proposal.

In addition to using the criteria below, reviewers will be looking for unique projects that reflect an extraordinary commitment on the part of the staff member, and/or appear to be highly stimulating to student interest.

Criteria

1. The proposal is clear and thorough; application guidelines have been followed in sufficient detail.
2. The proposed project is innovative. It provides a creative approach to instruction and offers a unique opportunity to students.
3. The proposal clearly demonstrates how the project will meet a student need, and be of benefit to their growth and learning.
4. Project demonstrates clear goals and objectives, and indicates how appropriate outcomes will be assessed.
5. The proposal cites strong theoretical reasoning from education research that supports the request.
6. The proposed project represents a good fiscal investment. The project reaches a wide group of students, benefiting not only those directly involved but others as well (i.e. will benefit students in more than one area and/or additional students in the future). The project also demonstrates the potential to be replicated and/or expanded.
7. The project has a clear plan, which includes how it will be maintained after implementation and whether or not it is sustainable.

Rubric

A scale of 1 to 6, 6 being the highest, is used by the review committee to rate each criterion. Funding will be awarded based on the total number of points and the recommendation a proposal receives from committee members.

Each criterion will be rated as follows:

- 0 = Not addressed
- 1-2 = Needs improvement
- 3 = Satisfactory
- 4-5 = Very Good
- 6 = Outstanding