

# **The NEA Rural Grants Program**

## **What are Rural Grants?**

The National Education Association Rural Grants program supports local NEA affiliates in rural school districts in the development of programs for preK–12 to higher education faculty and education support professionals. For each year, NEA awards these grants in amounts up to \$750 per proposal.

NEA Constituent Relations administers the program and supports local affiliate efforts to provide great public schools for every student. NEA champions these efforts through:

- Securing public policies and associated funding for closing the gaps in student achievement (Priority Schools Campaign).
- Increasing the positive image and support of NEA by ethnic-minority opinion leaders and sustaining the support among the general ethnic-minority public.
- In partnership with state affiliates, achieving a minimum of \$40,000 starting salary for teachers and a living wage for ESPs and assisting higher education locals to engage in effective salary campaigns.
- Organizing for membership growth and affiliate development.
- Ensuring all state affiliates have available research, technical assistance, and/or other appropriate strategic support on tax and economic policies and school funding (TEF) that will enable them to develop and implement a plan to increase and stabilize funding for public schools.

When writing the objectives of your grant proposal, consider how your local affiliate can address the strategic priorities listed above through coordinated efforts, which include but are not limited to:

- Improving communications with members and the general public
- Increasing confidence in public education
- Enhancing leadership development and training
- Building stronger local associations

## **Who is eligible for a Rural Grant?**

- Local affiliates with less than 500 members;
- Local affiliates that represent members from school districts with total enrollments of less than 500 students;
- Local affiliates located in counties with less than 10 people per square mile.

## **What is the program procedure?**

1. Applicants submit proposals to NEA Constituent Relations/Urban and Rural Initiatives. Proposals must be postmarked by February 15.
2. Grant recipients will be announced by December 31.

\* NEA reserves the right to publicize, reproduce, or use the reports and/or products resulting from any of the rural grant projects.

## What are the responsibilities of Rural Grant Recipients?

1. Submit an interim and final progress report to NEA Constituent Relations staff. **Interim reports are due May and final reports are due December of the following year.** NEA will provide guidelines for the interim and final reports. Please note: Failure to submit interim and final reports may jeopardize any future grant requests.
2. Grant recipients must be willing to share what they have learned from their projects, if requested, at Association-sponsored forums.
3. Any publications or media presentations prepared in conjunction with an NEA Rural Grant must include the following statement: This project is supported by the National Education Association through its Rural Grants program.

NEA reserves the right to request the refund of grant monies from any affiliate recipient that does not comply with these guidelines. Exceptions due to extenuating circumstances may be approved.

### Important Dates:

- **Proposal Deadline:** February 15
- **Grants Awarded:** By December 15
- **Interim Report:** May of the following year
- **Final Report:** December of the following year

### Proposal Review and Selection

A selection committee of NEA local affiliate members and NEA staff reads and evaluates all parts of the applications and makes its judgments using the following criteria.

- Application is complete and adheres to all instructions.
- Application complies with NEA policy.
- Project benefits the local association.
- Local affiliate members are involved in the project.
- Project's objectives are attainable and measurable.
- Project demonstrates innovation, originality, and creativity.
- Project meets identified needs of affiliate.
- Timeline for activities is adequate for successful completion of project.
- Project uses funds appropriately.
- Application estimates costs realistically.

Decisions by the selection committee are final.

### Questions?

Please direct any questions you may have to:

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