



Call for Proposals

MAA Neff Outreach Fund

The John and Mary Neff Foundation provides funding for the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) to award grants to mathematical enrichment projects for elementary through early college students to actively explore math in fun ways. Projects should serve students in rural and/or indigenous communities, communities of color, and/or schools in high need of funding. Additionally, the Neff Outreach Fund also supports projects focused on professional development projects that offer math teachers opportunities to continue to learn about updates in the mathematics field

Proposals are sought from higher education institutions, school districts, or nonprofit organizations establishing projects that actively engage elementary, middle or high school students beyond the standard curriculum. Projects should help build a strong mathematical foundation for students and ultimately encourage them to persist and excel in upper level math.

Projects may be conducted during summer, during the school year, on weekends, or after school. Projects should be conducted over a sufficient period of time to engage student participants in learning and applying new and interesting mathematics that they will not otherwise encounter in their classes.

Sample Projects

Projects may replicate existing successful projects, adapt components of them, or be innovative. Funding may also be used to supplement existing enrichment programs in order to increase the number of students participating in those programs. Possible projects, all of which have a strong mathematical component, are:

- Math clubs
- Math Circles
- Summer mathematics camps
- Mentorship programs between post-secondary students and middle or high school students working on mathematics projects or competitions
- Speaker series focusing on mathematical enrichment topics and career opportunities
- Projects that connects students with a problem based on real applications in industry

Note: Projects do not need to incorporate all of the above suggestions.

Funding Details

- Each project grant is capped at \$10,000.
- Applications will be accepted from college and university mathematical sciences faculty at accredited U.S. (including U.S. Territory), school districts, and nonprofit organizations.
- For those applicants from higher education institutions, they are encouraged to demonstrate a partnership with a secondary or middle school mathematics teachers/faculty that are appropriate for the project. Either the middle or high school teachers or the college or university faculty may initiate the project and teachers are encouraged to develop ideas and to contact colleagues at a nearby two- or four-year college or university to work collaboratively.
- In-kind institutional support is expected as an indication of commitment to the project.
- **No** indirect costs or fringe benefits are supported.

Restrictions

- A project may only be funded three times by the MAA Neff Outreach Fund. Grant recipients must reapply each year, should they wish to continue their projects.
- Funding for the Neff Outreach Fund is limited, and the MAA will make every attempt to support a broad range of projects from various geographic locations. If any department is interested in submitting more than one proposal, the proposals must support **different** programs and must have **different** personnel.
- A proposal submitted to multiple programs (Tensor Women, Tensor SUMMA, DMEG, and/or Neff Outreach Fund) in the same year **will only be considered for one**. The Program Directors will decide which program it is best suited for, and reject it from the other programs. We encourage applicants to carefully consider which program is best suited for their project before applying.

Timeline

The MAA Neff Outreach Fund program is an yearly award cycle and follows the approximate timeline below.

- November 2024: Application portal opens.
- February 2025: Applications are due.
- April 2025: Notification of award.
- May 2025-May 2026: Projects may be conducted during summer, during the school year, on weekends, or after school during this timeframe.

Project activities should conclude by **May 31, 2026** if awarded in 2025. A final report narrative on activities and a final financial report must be submitted by June 30, 2026.

If you are a current Neff Outreach Fund grantee seeking a renewal, you may apply in the 2025 cycle by submitting a new application and include a summary of progress to date. Unexpended funds from a previous grant may be carried forward but require significant justification before approval.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted through Amplifund, our online application portal.

We encourage all applicants to click the **Download** button on the first screen of the application portal *before starting* their application to gain insight into all the information required. This will download a PDF to your computer with the full blank application form.

We recommend completing the application on Amplifund using Chrome or Firefox. There are known issues with Amplifund and Safari.

To create* a free AmpliFund account:

1. On the "Application Details" page, click "Apply".
2. On the next screen, click "Register".
3. Enter the requested information about yourself and your organization (note: for academic institutions please select "Other" as the organization type).
4. Read and accept the terms and conditions.

If awarded, this account will be used to administer your award, so please be sure to enter all of your contact information correctly.

*If your institution already has an AmpliFund account for another grant, you do not need to create your own. Amplifund is the grants management system for many organizations, not just MAA, so it is possible that your institution's grants office, or sponsored programs office, already has an account for your institution. Please check with them before creating an account.

Application Materials

Application Form

In AmpliFund, please complete the information in the fillable fields as requested.

Please Note:

- Please limit project titles to 80 characters or less. (The project title is what should be entered in the field **Application Name**.)
- If awarded, the name of the institution/organization, address, and other information you submit will be used to generate the award agreement letter, so please ensure that the correct name is included here.
- Please be prepared to include the name and email addresses of an Authorized Signatory and Financial Officer at your institution. These contacts and the Project Director are usually not the same individual.
 - The Authorized Signatory will sign the agreement letter. We will send the grant agreement letter to the attention of this contact. This person is usually in the institution's finance or grants management office.
 - The Financial Officer should be a person in your institution who will accept the award direct deposit for this grant, ensure that the funds are available to the project team, and help the Project Director with preparing the final expenditure report on the project. At most institutions, these persons are in the Sponsored Programs Office.
 - **We encourage you to discuss this project with your sponsored programs office or grants office before applying.**

Project Director and Co-Directors

Please be prepared to enter contact information for the Project Director and up to four Co-Directors. If you have more than 4 co-directors, please be sure to include their contact information in your proposal narrative.

You will need to upload a PDF of the CV of the Project Director and for each Co-Director. Each CV should not exceed two pages.

Proposal Narrative

The following guidelines should be addressed in the order listed using a font of 11 or 12 point and not exceed 5 pages. You will need to upload this as a PDF in AmpliFund.

- **Concept:** What are your ideas and philosophy about mathematics and education that form a basis for your project?
- **Goal Statement:** What is your overarching goal for the project?
- **Rationale:** In what way will your institution be a welcome host for the project?
- **Objectives:** What are the objectives of your project?
- **Activities:** What tasks do you plan to undertake for your project? Describe the mathematics content and activities you expect to provide participants.
- **Personnel:** Other than the proposed project director, who else will be involved in the project? How?
- **Evaluation:** How will you judge the success of this project?
- **Future funding:** How will this project be sustained after Neff Funds are spent?
- **Timeline:** When will you carry out the activities?
- **Reception:** If this is an already running project, what is some positive feedback you have received thus far?
- **Impact:** Does this project engage students who are generally underrepresented in mathematics (female students, students of color, etc.) or students in regions that lack quality mathematics education? If so, how?

Letter(s) of Recommendation

These letter(s) should be from your department chair, institutional administrators, project partners, or any other key stakeholders who are engaged with the project. You will need to merge the letters into one PDF, which you will then upload in AmpliFund.

If you are working with an elementary, middle, or high school, at least one letter should be from the appropriate leadership personnel at that school.

You must have at least 1 letter of recommendation from an appropriate person at your institution. The letter should indicate their recommendation of your leadership for the project and their support for the project in general. This letter is **not** the same as the institutional commitment - more details on that below.

Renewals

If the project is a renewal, please be prepared to state the year(s) that funding was previously granted.

You will then need to upload a two-page summary including:

- progress to date
- a brief overview of any evaluation results
- a budget summary of money expended to date
- if applicable, plans for spending remaining funds.

If your summary of progress and financials is not sufficient, your proposal will not be renewed.

Budget

You will be asked to complete a fillable budget form in AmpliFund. The budget form will have separate lines for you to enter line items against the provided budget categories. Each line item will also have a space for your budget justification. Please include a brief but thorough narrative justifying the need for each budget item.

For example, "Supplies - We are requesting "X" amount of money to purchase supplies such as pens, pencils, markers, and notebooks for the students to use for their daily projects."

If your budget justification is blank or does not include enough information to justify the expense, your proposal will not be reviewed.

All line items are considered **Non-Personnel** Item Types in AmpliFund, as MAA Outreach Programs do **not** support indirect costs or fringe benefits.

The following categories have been set up in the budget template. If you have an expense that does not fall into one of these categories, you may create a new category.

Consultants/Contracts

Line items in this category can include: guest speaker fees, consultant fees, etc.

Participant Support

This category is for any stipends or other payment given to students for their PARTICIPATION in the project.

Project Leadership

Line items in this category can include salaries/stipends for project personnel such as PI, Co-PI, and other senior personnel.

Supplies

This category is for line items needed to successfully implement your project. They can include items such as t-shirts, office supplies, food (snacks/meals for participants during programming), activity materials (puzzles, origami paper, etc.), and more.

Travel

This category is for any expenses related to project travel. This can include: student travel, speaker travel, transportation costs, etc.

Other Direct Costs

Any other costs for your project.

Please note that this fillable budget form is only for **new** funds requested; not for any remaining funds from a previous project or other expected funding.

The form will automatically total your line items and will not allow your budget to exceed the amount you requested at the beginning of the application.

Characteristics of Effective Programs

While projects will have a high degree of variability, there are some characteristics which effective projects will share:

- Distinct, fresh, and innovative
- Plans for successfully recruiting and retaining students participants from high need schools;
- Clearly articulated and measurable project objectives;
- Strong academic component beyond the standard K-12 curriculum, with a focus on enrichment;
- Actively engage students in the activity and in mathematics;
- A clearly defined activity that engages students in the process, structured in a way to have a positive impact on the student;
- Highly competent project team;
- Strong mentorship component among students and/or teachers
- Make it fun!
- Demonstrate practical application of math concepts
- Use technology to improve math and critical thinking skills

Projects may also include mentoring of student participants, involvement of parents, teachers, and counselors, or a peer support system.

Contact Us

Questions? Email programs@maa.org.