



Grant Guidelines of the WNY STEM Hub

The WNY STEM Hub (WNY STEM) is an incorporated entity that exists to facilitate collaboration across the five counties of the region. Given a network of over 550 individuals and more than 200 organizations, we are uniquely situated to identify potential collaborators for grant opportunities. **Collaboration** is a core value of the organization and will strengthen the **collective impact** we strive to achieve in the region.

WNY STEM is a pending 501c3 and is deeply grateful to the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County that, in the absence of having an independent 501c3 status, has served as our financial manager and lead 501c3 umbrella organization for grant and donation purposes. A menu of services available through WNY STEM and a sponsorship form for potential donors and sponsors are available, upon request.

WNY STEM has independent resources to support its mission as well as the needs of collaborators for the following: facilitation of collaborative grants, identification of potential partners for the design of programs, grant writing, grant management, professional learning programs, partnership development, scale up of initiatives, promotion and recruitment for programs and program evaluation. With respect to the latter, WNY STEM can deliver evaluation reports and analysis for in-school or informal STEM programs, including survey interview and observational data. WNY STEM is a certified evaluator to use evaluation tools by the Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital.

In order to anticipate questions and interest from partner organizations and members of WNY STEM, we are relaying the following guidelines for your use. WNY STEM will:

- 1) **Encourage and model collaboration of WNY members in seeking grants.** Grants and donor campaigns that we have pursued with the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County reflect our commitment to broad collaboration with other entities.
- 2) **Avoid differential support among multiple grant-seekers.** When we do become aware of multiple grant-seekers among our members for the same grant, we have acknowledged a potential conflict of interest and have encouraged collective effort from those members.
- 3) **Refrain from directly competing with members on grants, when possible.** When we become aware that our grant efforts may disadvantage a member organization, we have sought discussion with that member regarding potential collaboration in lieu of multiple submissions from the region. If we determine it is in the best interest of the region to defer to another entity, we have done so and will continue that practice.
- 4) **Seek to collaborate on grants as a funded partner rather than as a supporter.** When asked to provide a "letter of support", we explain that whatever services we can provide to assist the lead organization, including promotion, scale up and/or facilitation, require a share of funding through the grant. By compensating WNY STEM for the services we provide, your members are helping to sustain our ability to provide services as an all-volunteer led organization.

In turn, we ask members and partners to:

- 1) **Inform us when you intend to submit a STEM grant or initiate a donor campaign relating to STEM.** We are in a better position to support our members when we are aware of your funding initiatives.
- 2) **Consider how WNY STEM might be a partner in your grants and donor campaigns.**