

MEA Community Outreach/Anti-Privatization Mini Grant

Supported by NEA Center for Great Public Schools / NEA ESP Quality Department

Name of Affiliate _____

School District _____

Number of Members _____ Coordinating Council _____

Local President or Contact Person _____

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Personal Email _____

Description of Community Outreach Project

Please attach a separate sheet that describes the project and addresses the following criteria:

1. How ESP members are involved in the leadership and implementation of the project, and, if applicable, how an ESP/EA local partnership is involved in the work.
2. How the project addresses local member involvement, activism and retention.
3. How will the public be involved in/made aware of the project and the role of school employees in their community.
4. How will success be measured and reported for the project.

Date(s) of project _____

Amount requested (*not to exceed \$500, or \$1500 for coordinating councils*) \$ _____

Make check payable to _____

Mail check to _____

Itemized Budget Description (*What you would be using the grant money for*):

Item _____ Cost _____

Item _____ Cost _____

Item _____ Cost _____

Item _____ Cost _____

Submit Application To:

Michigan Education Association
Attn: Jessica Lumbreras, Anti-Privatization/Organizing Consultant
1216 Kendale Blvd., P.O. Box 2573, East Lansing, MI 48826-2573
Fax: 517-336-4009
Email: jlumbreras@mea.org



Guidance on MEA Community Outreach/Anti-Privatization Mini Grants

Goal

To engage in long-term local partnerships that focus on MEA members engaging in community outreach projects. Projects will be designed to educate the community about who our members are, what they do and identify how they make an essential contribution to the community, both in and outside of the educational system.

Objective

MEA members will be identified as an integral part of the community. Involvement of our ESP members in particular is essential for anti-privatization efforts, as they will be seen as friends and allies with a common community interest to resolve issues and concerns pertaining to educating Michigan's children. Partnerships between ESP and EA units/members broaden that impact to include positive benefits for bargaining, school board relations/elections, etc.

Criteria

Successful grant requests must include involvement of ESP members but should include an EA partnership component when possible. Projects must include member involvement, activism and retention, and include a public relations component to ensure the community is aware of the good work being done. Finally, post-project evaluation and reporting to the MEA Member Engagement Department about the success of the effort is required. Receipts for expenditures are required no later than 60 days after the event.

Examples

Successful projects involve members actively engaging in community outreach work – i.e., not just giving money to a good cause, but getting out and volunteering in the community for that cause. Outreach can be to the student/parent community, charitable causes, with the business community, etc. The most successful projects involve partnerships where ESP and EA members take equal responsibility in the leadership and implementation of the project.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What's the maximum amount that can be funded through a community outreach mini grant?

A: \$500 maximum per local, and up to \$1500 per coordinating council (locals and CC's can submit for grants together to increase the amount of funding available). However, if a project requires more than that, additional funding requests will be considered on a case by case basis. Checks will not be disbursed to individuals. The check must be payable to the local.

Q: Who is eligible for the mini-grant?

A: ESP leadership and involvement is required for mini-grants, but EA involvement and partnership is highly recommended.

Q: Are there types of projects that are not eligible for funding?

A: Projects that solely involve financial contribution of the mini-grant funds will not be funded (i.e., charitable contributions or scholarships for \$500). However, mini-grant funds can be used to coordinate member fundraising and volunteerism for those efforts – the goal of these funds is to engage members; not to simply give money to good causes.

Q: Can the grant be used to purchase t-shirts?

A: Yes, given the following conditions: 1. Only ½ the total cost of the purchase price of the t-shirts can come from the grant; the other half must come from local sources or the members themselves. 2. The grant must specify how the t-shirts will be used for visibility around community outreach projects. 3. Distribution of t-shirts (or any other materials) should be used as an opportunity to ensure members are in good standing.

Q: When should we apply for funding?

A: Mini-grant applications should be submitted for approval/feedback by the MEA Member Engagement Department PRIOR to any funds being spent. Funds spent without prior approval may not be eligible for grant funding.

Q: What reporting is required after the project and when?

A: A brief write-up of the project – including the outcomes/impacts of the project, numbers of members involved, any photos/newsclips of the project, and an accounting of how grant funds were used. Documentation and receipts are due no later than 60 days after the conclusion of the project.

Questions about grant applications should be directed to Jessica Lumbreras at jlumbreras@mea.org or 517-332-6551 ext. 5446.

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