EMPOWER TOOL: STEAM Funding Resource List

Why Does Funding Matter?
Funding helps bring your ideas to life. Whether you're building a robot, hosting a STEAM Night, or launching a community project, strong funding makes everything possible. Learning how to find and request funding is part of becoming a strong advocate and leader.

What Can Funding Can Help You Do?
• Build prototypes & test ideas
• Start or expand a STEAM club
• Buy materials & equipment
• Host STEAM events or competitions
• Bring in guest speakers or mentors
• Take field trips to museums or STEM workplaces
• Launch community STEAM projects

Types of Funding
Grants: Money you apply for to support a project.
Mini-Grants: Smaller awards (often $50–$500) that are may be easier to get.
Sponsorships: Support from local businesses or partners.
Crowdfunding: Raising funds online with help from your community.
School-Based Funding: PTA, district funds, principal support, or student government.

How to Use This Tool
1. Decide what your club or project needs.
2. Review the funding types & choose the best fit.
3. Explore national & local opportunities on the next page.
4. Use the grant-writing tips & template on Page 3.
5. Share your ideas with a trusted adult or advisor.

National & Online Funding Sources

National Science Foundation (NSF)
Website: www.nsf.gov/funding

Society for Science STEM Action Grants
Website: www.societyforscience.org

NEA Foundation STEM Grants
Website: www.neafoundation.org

STEMgrants.com
Website: www.stemgrants.com

U.S. Department of Education GEAR UP
Website: www.ed.gov

LEGO Education Grants
Website: www.education.lego.com

Afterschool Alliance STEM Funding
Website: www.afterschoolalliance.org

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Grants
Website: www.pltw.org

Wonder Workshop Grants
Website: www.makewonder.com

InfyMakers Awards
Website: www.infymakers.com

Local & Regional Funding Ideas

Think local! Many STEAM clubs find success by reaching out to nearby organizations.

• School district or foundation mini-grants
• PTO/PTA or parent association funds
• Local banks, tech companies, or engineering firms
• Public libraries, museums, or community centers
• Borough or city STEM initiatives (NYC, Queens, etc.)
• Local civic groups (Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions Club)

Creative Fundraising Ideas for STEAM Clubs

• STEM Night or Science Fair
• STEM Trivia or Bingo Night
• Escape Room or Puzzle Night
• Community Maker Faire
• Sell STEAM bracelets, stickers, or shirts
• Restaurant "STEAM Night" partnership
• Recycling drive to collect materials
• STEM Challenge Competition
• DonorsChoose or GoFundMe (teacher required)

Grant Application Tips

• Start early—deadlines come quickly.
• Tell a strong story: What problem are you solving?
• Show how students will benefit.
• Include realistic cost estimates.
• Ask a teacher or advisor to review.
• Keep everything organized in one folder.

Grant Application Template & Possible Expenses to Consider

Project Title:
School / Club Name:
Amount Requested:

Statement of Need:
Describe the challenge or opportunity your project addresses.

Project Description:
Explain what students will build, create, or learn.
Describe activities, who will participate, & expected impact.

Target Students / Audience:
Who benefits? What grade levels?

Timeline:
• Planning
• Purchasing materials
• Building & testing
• Final presentation or event launch

Possible Expenses to Consider:

• Robotics or engineering materials
• Art & design supplies
• Software licenses or digital tools
• Workshop or maker supplies
• Printing (flyers, signage, displays)
• Guest speakers or workshop leaders
• Field trip transportation or entry fees
• Snacks for STEAM events
• General project supplies (tape, markers, cardboard)
• Contingency for unexpected needs

Additional Support:
List volunteers, partners, & donated materials.