



Use of Funds: How STEM Grant Funds May [and May Not] Be Used *2020/2021 MISF STEM Grant Guidelines*

All Grant funds must be used during the summer of 2021, and/or the 2021-2022 school year to support the learning activities outlined in the grant application and must be spent by June 5, 2022. Any funds not spent by this date must be returned to MISF by June 30, 2022.

Funds May Be Used for:

- **EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS & SUPPLIES.**
 - **Non-consumable materials** such as tools, lab equipment or similar items that are not for one-time use. Any equipment that is of significant cost must be clearly justified as being essential to the proposed project.
 - **Consumable supplies** may be included in Starter and Innovation Grants, up to 20% of the total request. Sustainability Grants are usually awarded to cover costs of consumable or replacement materials necessary to continue and improve a previously funded project. In some cases, non-consumable materials may be justified (for example additional sets of tools or curriculum materials to scale up a previously funded project).
- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** for teachers to learn new methods, acquire new knowledge or skills, or further their understanding in ways that are directly relevant to the project is strongly encouraged. This includes a summer stipend to plan and develop STEM projects as well as workshops, training and other learning opportunities. Stipends can be paid up to \$25/hour and may not exceed \$750 per teacher. Professional development is allowed for Sustainability Grants only in cases that directly relate to sustaining the original project, as opposed to extending it beyond its original scope.

Funds will be *considered* for the following if they are integral to the proposed project:

- Computer software, probeware, lab equipment or maker space equipment.
- Registration fees to enable teachers to attend a conference, seminar or workshop for professional development directly related to the proposed project.
- Registration fees for the MISF STEM Education Conference are not allowed expenses.

Grant funds may *not* be used for:

- General-purpose expenditures such as technology (computers, tablets, projectors, smart boards, etc.) and furniture (such as desks, shelving and storage systems).
- Field trip, camp or competition expenses for students, e.g. program or registration fees, tuition, room and board and/or transportation.
- Fees or stipends for guest speakers, chaperones, etc.
- Expenses typically part of a school budget, such as teacher salaries or building renovations.
- Transportation, lodging, meals, car rental and other travel expenses for teachers to attend conferences, workshops, seminars, etc.
- Fees for residencies or programs offered by museums or other organizations UNLESS they include a significant teacher professional development component.
- Registration fees for the MISF STEM Education Conference.

If you have any questions about allowed expenses, please contact the STEM Program Manager, Beth Murphy – bmurphy@misf.org, or call 612-270-0194
