National Education Association’s Urban Grant Program Guidelines

NEA’s Urban Grants support development of large local NEA affiliates representing pre-K-12 educators, higher education faculty, and education support professionals. This funding is intended for projects that promote membership recruitment and engagement, build Association capacity, and involve issue organizing and engaged communities. Urban Grants, administered by the NEA Center for Organizing, will be awarded for programs that align with the NEA Strategic Plan. Preference is given to the following kinds of organizing projects:

☐ Membership Organizing: Projects involving targeted campaigns to develop strategies for membership growth and engagement, organizing culture, and sustainability.

☐ Early Career Educators and Young Member Engagement: Projects that implement strategies to support new and/or younger educators in the transition from Student to active involvement in the Association, identify and address the motivations of newer educators, support educators early in their career and develop innovative approaches to engagement.

☐ Leadership Development: Projects including building internal capacity to cultivate an organizing culture among staff and leaders; and developing strategies to identify emerging leaders. Projects that engage new member-leaders at the worksite or local Association level (examples: creating Building Association Teams; worksite organizing teams, or an Association Organizing Committee).

☐ Community Outreach Engagement: Projects increasing advocacy and outreach to underrepresented communities, advancing community awareness, and engaging in collaborative partnerships. Community-parent engagement might be creating a committee for parent outreach around education issues (lower class size, implementation of ESSA or bargaining campaigns).

☐ Local/District level design and implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

☐ Local organizing or bargaining campaigns to promote racial justice in education.

Amount: The grant amount is up to $5,000. Up to twenty-five urban grants are awarded annually.

Project Duration: Grants fund activities for twelve months from the date of the award. Recipients are expected to provide reports on progress to goals, and to share results with the NEA. All data is required to be entered into the VAN.

Eligibility: Any NEA local affiliate of 500 members or more or which is the largest local NEA affiliate of any state regardless of membership number may apply.

Deadlines:

Application: September 30 (received)
Awarded: December 1
Application:

1. To apply for a grant by the September 30 deadline, download the PDF application form at [www.nea.org/partnerships](http://www.nea.org/partnerships). You will also submit the grant via this website under the “Urban Grants” section of the page.

Responsibilities/Requirements:

All applicant locals must provide contact names of the Project Coordinator (s), local affiliate president, and local affiliate UniServ/Executive Director. Each application must provide an email address for the primary contact person on the grant.

Urban Grant recipient locals must submit interim and final reports in a timely fashion using NEA-provided guidelines; failure to do so may jeopardize future grant requests. The final report is a full, substantive narrative of the project and includes copies of any final products, newspaper clippings, or photographs.

NEA reserves the right to publicize, reproduce, or use the reports and/or products resulting from any Urban Grant project. Local affiliate grant recipients are announced at the National Council of Urban Education (NCUEA) Fall Conference and are publicized in NEA websites.

Any print or electronic presentations or publications prepared in conjunction with an NEA Urban Grant must include this statement: “This project is supported by the National Education Association through its Urban Grants Program.”

Proposal Review and Selection of Grant Awardees

Proposal review is done by a carefully selected review team of NEA members and NEA staff in partnership with the NCUEA. All decisions by the Review Team for the awarding of grants are final.

Criteria that guide selection of awardees include:

- Statements of need and objectives that reflect NEA priorities around organizing and building capacity within the Association
- Alignment with NEA strategic priorities
- Collaboration among members, school districts, communities and other stakeholders
- Attainable and measurable outcomes
- Potential for successful completion within the timeline and budget provided
- Intentionality, inclusiveness and innovation
- Sustainability of the project after the urban grant funding period