



## City of Lake Worth Beach

### Educational Innovation and Advancement Grant

Sponsored by the City of Lake Worth Beach-Office of the City Commission

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#### **Program Overview**

The Educational Innovation and Advancement Grant is a city sponsored initiative designed to strengthen the partnership between the City of Lake Worth Beach and local public, charter, and private schools. The program seeks to enhance academic achievement, improve student engagement and promote career readiness through innovative educational projects that encourage youth development and community enrichment.

The city is committed to the enhanced academic success of all students in Lake Worth Beach. To further such academic success, the Commission has allocated \$75,000 which will be made available, in whole or in part, through this program as competitive grant funding to support innovative school-based programs and projects that improve student outcome and foster collaboration between schools, families and the community.

In establishing this program, the City Commission recognizes the public benefit in supporting education and the academic success of the students in the City consistent with the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan. Policy 10.1.3.1 of the Education Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan states that "[t]he City will enhance the educational partnerships with its non-profit partners through innovative funding sources such as grants, pilot or trial programs that might be implemented through government entities, non-profit organizations or educational foundations". Policy 10.1.3.2 states that "[t]he City through its coordination mechanisms and staff shall continue to explore partnerships and funding opportunities to improve educational opportunities in Lake Worth".

#### **Program Objectives**

1. Support the development of academic enhancement programs that raise student achievement in literacy, math, and STEM.
2. Promote career readiness, vocational training, and entrepreneurship among middle and high school students.
3. Encourage community-based learning projects that build civic responsibility and environmental awareness.
4. Expand access to arts, culture, and digital learning opportunities within local schools.
5. Foster collaboration between schools and local businesses, nonprofits, and residents to create sustainable educational partnerships.

#### **Funding Opportunity**

- **Term** April 20, 2026 through - July 31, 2027
- **Total Funding Available:** \$75,000
- **Award Structure:**

- **(Excellence Award):** \$10,000
- **(Achievement Award):** \$7,500
- **(Innovation Award):** \$5,000

Funding may be adjusted or expanded depending on the number of qualified applicants. Multiple applications may be submitted per school but only one grant can be awarded to each school.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

Eligible applicants include:

1. Public, charter, or private K–12 schools located within the city limits of Lake Worth Beach
2. Schools must be in good standing with their governing school district or authority.
3. Proposed projects must directly benefit students who reside in the City of Lake Worth Beach.
4. Collaborative applications (e.g., between schools and community organizations, lake worth beach businesses) are encouraged.

## **Eligible Project Requirements**

Eligible projects must address one or more of the following priority areas:

- STEM labs or associated clubs
- Literacy improvement initiatives
- Environmental stewardship programs (recycling, green campus projects)
- Mentorship and after-school tutoring programs
- College and career readiness workshops or programs
- Arts and cultural enrichment programs
- School-based mental wellness and leadership development initiatives

## **Grant Application Requirements**

1. **Completed Grant Application**
2. **Project Narrative (3–5 pages)** including:
  - Description of project and objectives
  - Expected student outcomes and community benefits
  - Detailed project timeline (up to 12 months), including the proposed schedule for the use of grant funds
  - Budget and funding justification
  - Sustainability plan beyond the grant year
3. **Letter of Support** from the school principal and at least one community partner
4. **Performance Metrics Plan** – measurable indicators of success (i.e. attendance rates, academic gains, etc.)
5. **Documents Required for Payment**
  - City’s Vendor Registration Form

## **Selection Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

- **Innovation and Creativity (25%)** – How unique or transformative is the idea?
- **Impact on Student Learning (25%)** – How measurable and significant are the expected outcomes?
- **Feasibility (20%)** – Is the project realistic and achievable within the proposed timeline and budget?
- **Collaboration and Community Involvement (20%)** – Are there strong partnerships and stakeholder engagement?
- **Sustainability (10%)** – Will the project continue to benefit students beyond the grant period?

## **Reporting and Accountability**

Grant recipients shall comply with the following reporting, accountability, and funding administration requirements:

- Submit quarterly progress reports to the City Manager’s Office detailing project status and progress towards stated objectives.
- Provide documentation of expenditures and measurable outcomes, addressing any changes to the proposed project timeline for expenditures.
- Within 30 calendar days following the end of the grant period, participants must submit a presentation to the City, summarizing key accomplishments, and demonstrated community impact. The City Clerk will coordinate with the participant to have the presentation placed on a Commission agenda for the participant to present to the Commission.

## **Proposed Program Timeline**

<b><u>Phase</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
Application Period Opens	April 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2026
Application Deadline	May 19, 2026
Review & Evaluation	Starting May 21, 2026
Awards Announced	June 2, 2026
Project Implementation	August 1, 2026 – July 31, 2027

## **Funding Disbursement**

The City will make the awarded grant funds available, in full, within 30 days after the City Commission has approved the project. Any changes to the approved budget and expenditures must be approved by the City Commission or is subject to the return of funds provision.

## **Return of Funds**

The City may, in its sole discretion, require a full or partial repayment of grant funds from the recipient for any of the reasons stated below. All requests for repayment will be made in writing from the City to the recipient and must be paid to the City by the recipient within thirty (30) days after the date of the notice.

- **Non-performance or non-compliance:** The recipient fails to comply with the program requirements, reporting obligations, or approved project scope.
- **Ineligible Expenditures:** The recipient uses funds for unapproved or ineligible expenses.
- **Project Modification or Termination:** In the event of significant project changes, delays, or termination of the project.

**Administration of Grant** The program will be administered by the City Manager's Office. The City Commission will review and rank the applications based upon the established selection criteria, once that process is completed, the commission will vote to award the grant funding.

## **Contact Information**

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