FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VIRTUAL STEM CAMPS

Various funding sources may be available for UBTECH Education solutions, including private and community foundations, state grants, crowdfunding platforms, and federal funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) ACT. Here are a few important questions to consider when searching for funding sources:

- Does your organization currently receive federal funding?
- Does your organization closely partner with a school district?
- Is your organization a 501(c)(3)?
- Does your project align with the workforce goals of your region?

CARES ACT: OVERVIEW

The CARES ACT provides $30.7 billion in emergency relief to support four discretionary funds: Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund; the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, and $13.2 billion directed specifically to K-12 schools and districts as part of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

**Important note:** CARES ACT funds are distributed to state education agencies that pass the funds through to local districts and schools. Each state will have its own process for distributing the local funds. Focus areas for funding could vary from state to state.

The CARES Act specifies 12 uses of the funding in Sec. 18003(d). The three listed below are most relevant for virtual camp opportunities: The complete list can be found [here](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolsnack/CARES-Act-signed-into-law-includes-support-for-afterschool_03-31-2020.cfm):

- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care. (12) Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

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Additional CARES ACT OPPORTUNITIES:

Two competitive grants worth $307.5 million are part of the CARES Act: the Rethink K-12 Education Models Grant and Reimagining Workforce Preparation Grant. State education agencies are eligible to apply. The grants are intended to provide the following: (From USDOE):

1. Microgrants for families, so that states can ensure they have access to the technology and educational services they need to advance their learning
2. Statewide virtual learning and course access programs, so that students will always be able to access a full range of subjects, even those not taught in the traditional or assigned setting
3. New, field-initiated models for providing remote education not yet imagined, to ensure that every child is learning and preparing for successful careers and lives

WHAT THIS MEANS?

Virtual robotics camps fall into the federal guidelines for allowable uses for CARES Act funds; however, you must reach out to your state education agency for more information about the application process and state priority areas. If your organization is not a local education agency, you may want to partner with a school district on a collaborative program or seek private foundation funding (See examples below). Some foundation funds require grant recipients have a 501(c)(3) status. No matter which funding source you pursue, the goals of your camp should align with the strategic goals of the funder.

HELPFUL LINKS:

STEMGrants.com provides descriptions and links for grants that are available to fund STEM projects.

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolsnack/CARES-Act-signed-into-law-includes-support-for-afterschool_03-31-2020.cfm
The National Education Association Foundation provides a great best practices guide for effective grant writing.

EXAMPLES OF OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

American Honda Foundation
Awards: $20,000 to $75,000. Deadlines: For new applicants, applications are due February 1 and August 1, annually. For returning applicants, applications are due May 1, annually.

The American Honda Foundation supports youth education with a specific focus on STEM, the environment, job training, and literacy. Eligible Applicants must be classified as a 501(c) (3) public charity or a public school district, private/public elementary and secondary schools.

Lockheed Martin
Awards vary. Applications are accepted year-round

Lockheed Martin provides generous funding to STEM education outreach activities for students from elementary school through college with a particular focus on teacher development, student achievement, and diversity in STEM.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Seeks Cooperative agreements. Deadlines Vary.

The MUREP Aerospace Academy (MAA) seeks to work with Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) to encourage underrepresented youth along the path toward STEM careers by providing high-quality, STEM experiences. The program emphasizes African American, Native American, Hispanic, and female students.

National Education Association (NEA) Foundation Grants
Awards range from $2000 - $5000. The submission deadline is August 31, 2020

According to the NEA, “Preference is currently being given to projects that incorporate STEM and/or global learning, as well as projects with leads/partners that are education support professionals.” The grants are intended to current public school or higher education institution educators.

Toyota U.S.A. Foundation Grants
Awards vary and begin at $50,000. Submissions are accepted year-round.

The Toyota U.S.A. Foundation focuses on inclusiveness and four pillars: workforce readiness, inclusive, mobility, financial inclusion and community resilience. Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization.