LSAC Grants Program
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COMMITTEE ON LOCAL SECTION ACTIVITIES (LSAC)

Role: Assist, nurture, inspire, support, and recognize local sections:

- Help local sections to be all they want to be
- Review annual reports
- Stimulate LS programs and initiatives
- Address general development needs
- Leadership development of new volunteers
- Administer grants to local sections
- Outstanding Performance and LSAC ChemLuminary Awards
GRANTS & AWARDS SUBCOMMITTEE (LSAC)

Mission: The Grants and Awards subcommittee will promote innovative programming in local sections and recognize their accomplishments consistent with the ACS Strategic Plan.
LSAC Grant Program Summary

- **Innovative Project Grant (Spring and Fall Cycles)**
  - Supports activities and/or programming that is new to your local section.
  - Up to $3500

- **Science Café Mini Grant (Spring)**
  - Provides funding for outreach activities that share science with the general public.
  - Up to $500

- **Local Section Member Engagement and Enhancement (Fall)**
  - Funding that assists local sections as they leverage new technology to more fully engage their membership.
  - Up to $2000

- **Diversity Equity Inclusion and Respect Grants (Fall)**
  - Funding to support local section efforts to embrace and advance equity and inclusion across ACS and in your community
  - Up to $3000
Planning and funding an event starts with an idea…. but it doesn’t have to be brand new!
Recently funded MEET Grants include events and projects to:

• Presenting Chemistry Demos including nitrogen ice cream, vomiting pumpkins, and dry ice boo bubbles during a heavily visited market during Halloween.

• Using technology to help engage, recruit, and communicate with members within a vast geographic local section. Technology will allow the local section to plan activities and to engage members.

• Hosting an Axe Throwing Event for local section members to engage with the scientific community and to help engage current local section members.

• Host a Scientific-Based Movie Night to bring together local section members.
Examples of recently funded Innovative Project Grants include programs to:

• Hosting a picnic for local chemists as a networking event open to all with the goal of increasing active participants in the local section and recruiting new members.

• Forums held for High School Chemistry teachers to exchange ideas and provide teachers with techniques from industry to support learning in the classroom.

• A Chemistry Competition for Undergraduate students to include competitions such as Pop Rocket Targets, Titration Races, and Dry Ice Hockey. Effort to increase student membership in ACS.
Innovative Project Grants-continued:

• A workshop on the Chemistry of Chocolate and how to create your own chocolate at home.

• Creating a library of Chemical Demonstration Kits to be accessible to members of the local section for classroom instruction.

• A workshop on the Chemistry of 3D-Printing
Events and projects that were funded through the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect Grants

• Chemistry of Fireworks: A Juneteenth Celebration. The event will educate on the associated chemistry of fireworks, fire safety, and celebrate Juneteenth

• A DEIR Symposium with Nationally Recognized DEIR speakers and experts along with a panel of local experts.

• Workshop for high school teachers on how to diversity curriculum along with step-by-step professional produced materials showing lab procedures and lab safety protocols.
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect Grants - continued

• A program created to encourage students from underrepresented, underdeserved, and marginalized communities to pursue academic studies in the STEAM field by using hip-hop and sneaker culture for students grades 9-12.

• Seminars presented by African American/Hispanic Scientists to serve as role models for future scientists/students. Seminars will be presented both locally and internationally.
General Ideas for Grants

• Social events
• Member recognition/awards
• Public outreach
• Education

• It’s OK to come up with your own!

• The sources and amount of funding will depend on the nature of the event.
Planning your event

- Plan at least 6 months in advance
- Consider the audience
- Develop a budget; include costs for:
  - Venue (not more than 25% of total budget)
  - Food (not more than 25% of total budget)
  - Speaker (travel and accommodations)
- Budget should be detailed and specific about expected costs, which should be reasonable
- Consult specific program webpage for limitations on use of ACS funds for meals, alcohol, honoraria, etc.
Plan Ahead

• **Ways to Manage Costs**
  
  • Partner with:
    • University Chemistry departments or chemistry-related student organizations
    • Neighboring ACS LS sections/divisions
    • ACS career programs
    • Other science societies
    • Local community organizations
    • Public libraries
    • Industry
  
  • Choice of venue is important
    • Wineries, microbreweries, distilleries, chocolatiers, farmers’ markets, children’s museums may provide free or low-cost space
    • Having a university chemistry department co-host your event may provide a free venue
Always Have a Plan B

Some Things That Have Actually Happened

• COVID-19
• Twice the expected number of attendees show up
• Press shows up for the event
• Venue falls through a few days before the event
• Snowstorm is predicted for event date
• Venue requires attendees to pass a background check
• Fire alarm goes off during the event
• Weather delay causes speaker’s flight to arrive five hours late (2 hours after scheduled start of event)
Budget Guidelines for Grants

• Food Expenses cannot exceed 20% of the total allocated budget. Venue Rental Costs cannot exceed 25% of the total allocated budget.

Example: LS-MEET Grant provides up to $2000 in total funding for one grant proposal. The food budget cannot exceed $400 (20%) and the venue cannot exceed $500 (25%)

• Memberships to ACS or discount memberships cannot exceed 25% of total budget.

Example: LS-IPG Grant provides up to $3500 in funding. ACS or discount memberships cannot exceed $875 (25%)
Budget Guidelines for Grants

• Alcohol may be funded if central to the event. I.E Tasting at a brewery

• Giveaways such as ACS merchandize is permitted but cannot exceed 25% of the total funding request.

Example: LS-DEIR Grant provides up to $3000 in total funding. $750(25%) can be given in giveaways.

• Honoraria (Awards) or Stipends cannot be funded under grants. Neither can pass-through donations to individuals or organizations.
Do’s and Don’ts when writing your application:

Do:
- Develop a plan-of-action early
- Develop a detailed budget using actual numbers when possible
- Try to expand your volunteer pool
- Carefully proofread your application
- Make sure you’re answering the prompt that’s given
- Have a well developed assessment plan

Don’t:
- Guess at budget numbers; look into actual likely costs
- Neglect to advertise adequately; include any special attractions
- Overlook possible “free” venues
- “Over explain” in the application prompts
Some lessons gleaned from final reports:

• Set dates as soon as possible
• Make sure you have enough volunteers
• Secure multiple funding sources
• Be careful of the timing of the event
• Advertise early and often; be clear, include any “draws”
• Don’t neglect to evaluate the success of the program
Maximizing Funding Potential

- Proposed Program
  - Be sure your proposed activity/program meets the criteria for the grant you’re applying to.

- Budget
  - Budget estimates should be as accurate as possible - We do confirm costs!
  - There are limitations on what can be spent and we urge you to review the FAQ’s and guidelines to ensure your budget meets the standard.

- Timeline
  - Your section’s timeline for implementing your proposed program should be realistic and fall outside of the review period. Each program’s specific timeline is available on acs.org.
Maximizing Funding Potential
Continued

• Letters of Support
  – Any letters of support should be written on letterhead and signed — Email correspondence does not qualify as a letter of support.
  – The section chair should sign the letter unless the chair is the primary applicant in which case another member of the executive committee should sign the letter.
  – A letter of support must be received before funding will be authorized.

• Application Procedures
  – Please read the application and complete all questions as fully as possible, upload any attachments required, and submit the proposal on-time.
Final Reports

- All of LSAC’s grant programs require a final report
- To be eligible for the current program cycle your section must have submitted a final report for any previously funded grants from that same program.
- When executing your project, make sure to document with pictures and attendance records for LS annual report and ChemLuminary award nominations.
Examples of Other ACS Grant Opportunities:

- **Local Section Sustainability Programming Grant**
  Grants up to $500 are available on a rolling basis to enable sustainability within your local section.

- **Corporation Associates Local Section Grant**
  Grants up to $1000 are available to assist local sections promote industry focused events at the local section level.

- **Student Chapter Grants**
  Active ACS Student chapters are eligible to receive grants to support various activities, projects, and events.

- **Division Innovative Project Grant (IPG) Program**
  This program encourages Technical Divisions to conceive of and implement innovative projects to strengthen the functioning of the Division.

- **Senior Chemist Committee (DEIR grants)**
LSAC ChemLuminary Awards

- Best Activity or Program Stimulating Membership Involvement
- Local Section Partnership Award
- Most Innovative Activity or Program
- And more…
Apply for LS-Grants

LS-IPG Grant

LS-MEET Grant
Apply for LS-Grants

Science Café Mini Grant

LS-DEIR Grant