

American Chemical Society



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 innovate 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
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- It's OK to come up with your own!
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- 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