

Oakland Literacy Coalition Middle School Mini Grants 2020 Pilot



Request for Proposals

OVERVIEW

The Oakland Literacy Coalition is piloting a Middle School Mini Grants Program to build our mission of ensuring every Oakland child learns and loves to read. The pilot will fund **up to five** projects with a **total budget of \$5000** for this pilot round with an expected individual grant award of \$750 to \$1,500.00.

After 5 years of a successful mini-grants program for young and elementary aged children, we are excited to introduce the next phase of our mini grants to include schools and programs serving middle school-aged students to increase engagement, learning, and a joy of reading. Like all our mini grants, we aim to create reading opportunities beyond the classroom. In addition to schools, community and faith-based organizations—education focused or not, are welcome to apply!

The goal of the pilot is to develop a framework for continuing a middle-school mini grant program beyond the Spring of 2020. The pilot grant program is focused around creating reading-rich spaces and opportunities, increasing student engagement in reading, and/or using books and stories as a way to help students engage with the world.

The OLC seeks creative and innovative ideas to engage middle school-aged youth.

Strong proposals will:

- Increase student engagement in reading and books
- Highlight student student agency, and voice
- Innovate on an existing project, idea, or program and demonstrate how the use of mini grant funds can add to or further develop existing programming.
- Create new opportunities for student access or engagement with books—in particular culturally relevant and affirming books and first voice narratives.
- Engage multiple stakeholders in the project (school, community organizations, families, etc)
- Invite various perspectives or provide a different exposure (bring in outside speakers, create intergenerational partnerships, participate in different experiences, etc).

GRANT REQUIREMENTS

All grant proposals must demonstrate clear and compelling ideas for how the grant will help to engage middle schoolers in literacy.

- The project must be highly engaging!
- All students participating in the project must receive at least one book to keep.
- All projects must be completed by the end of May, 2020.

ELIGIBILITY

Organizations must serve predominantly low-income families in order to receive a grant. The opportunity is open to:

- **Public Middle and Jr. High Schools** (district and charter). Grants cannot be made directly to district schools, so these schools will need a nonprofit partner (such as the Oakland Public Education Fund) to serve as the grant recipient.
- **Community and Faith-Based Organizations** with current 501(c)3 status or a fiscal sponsor, serving middle school-aged youth. *Organizations do not need to focus on literacy or education as part of their core programming to be eligible.*

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND GRANT TIMELINE

Because this is a pilot mini grants program, the goal of the RFP process is to identify strong, aligned ideas that can shape the basis of future middle school grants. After submitting an RFP our team will work with you to confirm details and support the implementation of your project.

Proposals will be accepted through January 17th, 2020. [Submit a proposal here.](#)

We will notify selected proposals by February 3rd, 2020. Some additional information and details will be requested prior to awarding funds. Funds will be distributed 30 days prior to your project start date. Grants will be determined based on the project and the number of quality proposals, but are expected to be in the range of \$750 to \$1500 per project or idea.