**Character Education Matching Grant**

**Overview, Requirements and Application Instructions**

**Grant Overview and Requirements**

The Character Education Matching Grant is authorized by [Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) 15-154.01](https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/15/00154-01.htm). Its purpose is to provide funding to public schools for training on a character education curriculum pursuant to A.R.S. 15-719. Requirements per statute are:

1. Programs must demonstrate proven and effective curriculum and training to receive grant funds, and
2. Schools must provide matching monies from any lawful source in an amount that is equal to or greater than the amount of grant funds requested.

Curriculum, programs or strategies that can be supported under this grant are those that are determined to be effective for character education that teaches, enforces, and models intellectual and civic skills with the intent to positively impact student motivation, academic success, and leadership skills. A list of pre-approved program providers can be found on the ADE website:

[Character Education Matching Grant Pre-Approved Providers and Programs](https://www.azed.gov/character-education/matchinggrant/pre-approvedproviders/). Applicants should contact a program provider before applying in order to determine programmatic costs. Selected programs may need to be supplemented with additional information or activities to meet the requirements in A.R.S. 15-154.01 that are addressed in the Narrative Questions portion of the grant application.

Local education agencies (LEAs) must agree to have their awarded schools fully participate in program evaluation conducted by the ADE and a pre-course and post-course survey of parents, teachers, and students on their assessment of program.

**Grant Awards**

All complete applications will be reviewed and approved by a technical evaluation team. Completed requests that meet the grant requirements in this document will be awarded funding if the amounts of these requests are within the available funding level. Should eligible requests exceed the available funding level, the evaluation team will rank order applications and funding will be awarded to those with the highest likelihood of achieving desired outcomes or level of funding will be reduced to allow all interested schools to participate.

Awarded schools may receive grant funding for up to three years if compliant with program requirements and with approval of a continuation application for the second and third years.

**Application Overview**

The application will be available in the Arizona Department of Education’s Grant Management Enterprise system (GME) on March 1, and must be submitted online on or before April 15 with program implementation occurring in the next school year. Although LEAs are the applicants, the application is school-level and awards are for a school(s) within an LEA. An application must include the following components:

* Grant Contact Information
* Signed Statement of Assurances
* Budget for each applicant school
* Matching Funds Itemization Form
* Program Narrative Question responses for each applicant school

**Budget Instructions**

The funding available under this grant are for training services consistent with grant requirements, and therefore, funds can only be requested for the Purchase Professional Services line item.

**The budget request is for one year; upon approval of a continuation application the budget request for subsequent years can be at the same amount or a lesser amount.**

Do not list the school matching monies in the GME budget section.

**Program Narrative Questions**

Please provide detailed but concise responses.

1. Name of the character education curriculum, program or strategy to be used

2. Name of the vendor or provider selected to provide training for the selected curriculum, program or strategy

3. Indicate the character traits that the program defines and teaches application of (minimum of six):

Attentiveness

Caring

Citizenship

Compassion

Diligence

Discernment

Fairness

Forgiveness

Generosity

Gratefulness

Initiative

Integrity

Obedience

Orderliness

Resiliency

Respect

Responsibility

Sincerity

Trustworthiness

Truthfulness

Virtue

Wisdom

4. Describe how the curriculum, program or strategy to be utilized implements activities, discussions and visual media and literacy presentations to illustrate and reinforce the application of the character traits.

5. Describe how the curriculum, program or strategy to be utilized includes presentations by teachers or mentors who demonstrate the character traits.

6. Describe how the curriculum, program or strategy to be utilized includes reinforcement by adults for desired student behavior.

7. State the amount of matching funds provided by the applicant (must be equal to or greater than the amount requested in this application).

8. State the source of matching funds.

**Contact Information**

For programmatic questions and assistance, please contact Mila Makal at Mila.Makal@azed.gov, or call (520) 770-3177. For assistance within the GME system, please contact Grants Management at (602) 542-3901, or submit a service request online at <https://helpdeskexternal.azed.gov>.