



## ***Education Grants Newsletter***

August 19, 2013

Dear Hoosier,

In today's economy, a quality education is more important than ever. A strong education system will enable Americans to better compete globally and will help with our country's economic recovery.

I've been working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to help make post-secondary education more affordable. Last month, I voted to lower student loan interest rates and to put in place a cap on how high rates can grow. Students should not be burdened with unmanageable debt in order to obtain a college degree.

I've also been working to support our country's educators. This summer, I introduced a bill in the Senate that would redefine 'full-time' in the Affordable Care Act to help protect part-time employees, including school district staff, from getting their hours cut.

Further, I requested one year of transition relief, free of penalty, for employers including school districts as they work to understand what health care reform means and as we work to make common sense improvements. I am pleased to say this one year of transition relief was implemented.

Our nation's educators face a heroic task every day with fewer resources and more challenges. I am working in Washington and Indiana to help as best I can. Below is a summary of grant opportunities and resources available to educators. If you have any questions about the information provided, please contact my office at [Beth\\_Barrett@donnelly.senate.gov](mailto:Beth_Barrett@donnelly.senate.gov). If you would like to request a letter of support from me, please visit [www.donnelly.senate.gov/help/grants](http://www.donnelly.senate.gov/help/grants).



Sincerely,



Senator Joe Donnelly

## **Federal Grants of Interest to Educators**

*Note: If you are not prepared to apply for funding at this time, many of these grants are offered annually, so you can plan ahead for 2014.*

### **Federal Communications Commission**

#### *ConnectED*

Last month, the Federal Communications Commissioners voted to bring America's classrooms into the modern age with high-speed Internet. This is the first step in a five-year effort that will keep our schools competitive globally. Education Secretary Arne Duncan noted, "Today, the bandwidth of the typical American school is far too low to support today's learning technologies and demands. Thanks to the ConnectED effort, teachers will have new tools to tailor learning to students' individual needs.

Watch for future funding opportunities related to this initiative! For information, click [here](#).

### **U.S. Department of Education**

*Although most federal education funding is distributed to states, who in turn distribute it to school districts according to set formulas, there are some programs that are competitive.*

#### *The Investing in Innovation Fund (i3)*

The Investing in Innovation Fund, established under section 14007 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), provides funding to support (1) local educational agencies (LEAs), and (2) nonprofit organizations in partnership with (a) one or more LEAs or (b) a consortium of schools. The purpose of this program is to provide competitive grants to applicants with a record of improving student achievement and attainment in order to expand the implementation of, and investment in, innovative practices that are demonstrated to have an impact on improving student achievement or student growth, closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates, or increasing college enrollment and completion rates.

These grants will (1) allow eligible entities to expand and develop innovative practices that can serve as models of best practices, (2) allow eligible entities to work in partnership with the private sector and the philanthropic community,

and (3) identify and document best practices that can be shared and taken to scale based on demonstrated success.

Full Application Deadline: **August 16, 2013** (pre application was required). View the [informational webinar PowerPoint for 2013](#) and begin planning ahead for 2014.

### **The National Endowment for the Arts**

#### *Poetry Out Loud*

Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition to high schools across the country. Poetry Out Loud was created in partnership by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation with the collaboration of state arts agencies as a way to foster the next generation of literary readers by building on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form. Through Poetry Out Loud, students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. For information, [click here](#).

The coordinator for Indiana's state competition is: Kristina Davis-Smith of the Indiana Arts Commission, 317-232-1279, [kdavis-smith@iac.in.gov](mailto:kdavis-smith@iac.in.gov).

### **The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS)**

#### *The Indiana Secured School Safety*

The Indiana Secured School Fund was created to provide matching grants to school corporations and charter schools or coalitions of school corporations and/or charter schools to make schools safer by hiring school resource officers, conducting threat assessments, or purchasing equipment to restrict access to school property or expedite notification of first responders.

School corporations, charter schools or coalitions with an average daily membership (ADM) of at least 1,000 can apply for grants up to \$50,000 per year. Eligible applicants with an ADM of less than 1,000 can apply for grants of up to \$35,000 per year.

Schools must be located in a county that has a County School Safety Commission and the Commission must have specific members and perform certain prescribed duties. There is still time for County School Safety Commissions to be organized prior to the application deadline.

Grant opened for applications August 1, 2013. The deadline to submit proposals for grant funds is **September 30, 2013**. For more information on the Secured School Safety Grant Program, [click here](#).

#### *Resources for Teachers*

The Department of Education wants to ensure that students are protected from the harmful effects of bullying within their communities. Check out the information by [clicking here](#). Watch a helpful video on the subject [here](#).

### **Private Foundation Grants for Educators**

## **The Kids in Need Foundation**

The Kids in Need Foundation helps to engage students in the learning process by supporting our most creative and important educational resource — our nation's teachers. Kids In Need Teacher Grants provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative learning opportunities for their students. Teacher Grant awards range from \$100 to \$500 each and are used to finance creative and imaginative classroom projects.

Find information [here](#).

## **Lexus Eco Challenge**

Lexus and Scholastic offer the Lexus Eco Challenge, an educational program and contest designed to inspire and empower middle and high school students in the United States to learn about the environment and take action to improve it. In its seventh year, the program will award a total of \$500,000 in grants and scholarships. Middle and high school teams of five to ten students and a teacher-advisor are invited to participate in one or both of the two initial challenges, each addressing different environmental elements: land/water and air/climate.

Registration opens **September 2, 2013**. View details [here](#).

## **Whole Kids Foundation**

Whole Kids Foundation has provided garden and salad bar grants for thousands of schools throughout the United States and Canada. In collaboration with FoodCorps, the Whole Kids Foundation is accepting applications for the School Garden Grant Program, which supports school garden projects that help students learn about complex topics such as nutrition and health, sustainability and conservation, food systems, and community awareness.

To be eligible for a grant, applicants must be a nonprofit K-12 school (public, private, or charter) and/or a 501(c)(3) organization that is developing or currently maintaining a garden project on school grounds with the goal of interesting children in fresh fruits and vegetables.

Grants will provide \$2,000 for projects lasting a year and will be limited to one per school.

Applications will be accepted from **September 1, 2013, until October 31, 2013**. Find details [here](#). To find information about the Whole Kids Foundation other school-related activities, [click here](#).

## **The National Art Education Foundation**

Teacher Incentive Grants: Grants are given to projects that promote the teaching of art. Teaching of art includes, but is not limited to the instructional process, curriculum, student learning, student assessment, classroom behavior, management, or discipline, or other practices relating to instructional interaction and the achievement of student learning. Proposals are limited to a

maximum of \$2,500 per grant. **Deadline: October 1, 2013.**

Find information [here](#).

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Senator Joe Donnelly  
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