

# OFFICE OF COMPETITIVE GRANTS NEWSLETTER



## Grant Deadlines

March						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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## MARCH 2024

## El Paso Community Foundation The Classroom Fund

The Classroom Fund is a project of the El Paso Community Foundation created to support area teachers. The Classroom Fund will provide requested classroom materials directly to teachers. In order to request classroom materials, an educator must meet the following eligibility requirements.

- Be a PreK-12th grade full time educator. This includes teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, school nurses and teachers who also coach.
- Did not receive a grant last year in 2023.
- Spend 75% of time working directly with students.
- Commit to posting requests for materials that students will directly use/experience.
- Request materials with a total cost of \$1,000 or less.
- Commit to reporting on the use of materials through either pictures, video or written letter.

**Application Deadline:** March 22, 2024

**Maximum Grant Amount:** \$1,000

**Awards Announced:** April 2024

For step by step instructions visit the Office of Competitive Grants webpage: [The Classroom Fund \(visd.net\)](https://visd.net)

For more information and to apply, go to:  
[The Classroom Fund | El Paso Community Foundation](https://visd.net)

## DonorsChoose

DonorsChoose provides a way for teachers to request much needed materials, equipment, and items for their classrooms through a simple project application.

For step by step instructions, visit the Office of Competitive Grants webpage: [Donors Choose \(visd.net\)](https://visd.net)

For more information and to apply, go to:  
[Teacher Sign-up | DonorsChoose](https://visd.net)

## Dollar General Literacy Foundation Youth Literacy Grants

Youth Literacy Grants provide funding to schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations to help students who are reading below grade level or experiencing difficulty reading. Grant funding is provided to assist in the following areas:

- Implement new or expand existing literacy programs
- Purchase new technology or equipment to support literacy initiatives
- Purchase books, materials, or software for literacy programs

<b>Application Opens:</b>	<b>March 7, 2024</b>
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>April 25, 2024</b>
<b>Maximum Grant Amount:</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>Awards Announced:</b>	<b>August 22, 2024</b>

For more information and to apply, go to: [Dollar General Literacy Foundation](#)

## Oliver Foundation Healthy Choices Grants

The goal of the Oliver Foundation is to encourage children, families, and communities in Texas to improve the eating and physical activity patterns of Pre-school, Elementary, Middle, and High School students. Proposed programs may be provided by campus, grade level, teacher, or in the summer.

Healthy Choices Grant Level 1 is for a single school year or a summer program. Level 1 requires incorporation of at least three of seven Healthy Messages, including at least one physical and one nutritional activity.

Healthy Choices Grant Level 2 is for two or more years and is intended to create a long-term sustainable program at the campus level. Level 2 requires incorporation of at least five of seven Healthy Messages, including at least one physical and one nutritional activity.

**Healthy Messages:**

- C Choose 5-A-Day servings of fruits & vegetables!
- H Have more water & less sugary beverages!
- O Opt for healthy snacks!
- I Increase active play & decrease screen time!
- C Choose 3-A-Day servings of low-fat dairy products!
- E Enjoy a healthy breakfast!
- S Serve a smart portion size!

<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>April 15, 2024</b>
<b>Level 1 Grant Amount:</b>	<b>\$750 to \$3,000</b>
<b>Level 2 Grant Amount:</b>	<b>\$3,000 to \$5,000</b>

For more information and to apply, go to: [Oliver Foundation](#)

## Voya Unsung Heroes Awards Program

Do you have an innovative teaching method or creative educational project that can positively influence students? Are you an educator with a class project that is short on funding and long on potential? Do you know a teacher looking for grant dollars? Voya Unsung Heroes can help turn great ideas into reality for students.

All awards must be used to further the projects as described in your submitted application. Voya will award 50 finalists \$2,000 each. Of the 50 finalists, three will be selected for additional financial awards. First place will receive a bonus of \$25,000; second place will receive a bonus of \$10,000, and third place will receive a bonus of \$5,000. Award checks will be made payable jointly to the recipient and to their school. The funds will be placed into a school account for the awarded teacher to use.

Applicants must be:

- Employed by an accredited K-12 public or private school located in the U.S.
- Full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff with **effective and innovative projects that improve student learning**.

**Application Deadline:** April 19, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. MT  
**Award Announced:** August 2024

For more information and to apply, go to: [Voya Unsung Heroes Awards Program](#)

**Please ensure all grant and DonorsChoose project applications are provided to Ysleta ISD's Office of Competitive Grants for district approval prior to submittal to the funder.**

## Helpful Tips on Writing a Foundation Grant

### Use a Positive and Structured Form

You can spend time writing a grant proposal, but it will be time wasted if the reviewer can't understand it. Simplify your writing using these tips:

- Be as specific and clear as possible. Vague words and empty phrases (e.g., nearly, almost, roughly) can make you sound uninformed.
- Use words that you would use on a daily basis, there is no need for a thesaurus. Good word selection, good grammar, and correct punctuation will make your point without distracting the reviewer.
- Use common words, short sentences, and short paragraphs to help readers follow along and to stay engaged.
- Use heading and subheadings to control the flow of the application and to let readers know that you are shifting topics. This will help them follow your thoughts processes.

## Steps for District Routing

All grant and project applications, regardless of the dollar amount, must be routed through the central office administrative approval process using the following steps.

1. Write the application and follow the required steps to complete the application. Do NOT submit it to the funder yet.
2. Print a copy of the completed application. Ensure each narrative response is fully visible. If unable to expand any of the response boxes, save the question(s) and full response(s) in a Word document.
3. Complete and sign the [YISD Campus Grant Submission Form](#) and have your principal sign too.
4. To start the district routing approval process, scan and email the following documents to [lcuster@yisd.net](mailto:lcuster@yisd.net) in the Office of Competitive Grants (OCG):
  - a. Completed application
  - b. Saved Word response(s), if necessary
  - c. Signed Campus Grant Submission Form
5. Allow up to 7 business days for the routing process to be completed. Several central office departments may be involved in this approval process.
6. Once the application has been approved, the OCG will notify you to submit the grant or project application to the funder.
7. Notify the OCG once your project has been funded.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Secretary**  
[lcuster@yisd.net](mailto:lcuster@yisd.net)

**E-Fax number:** (915) 435-9553

If you need assistance with your application, please contact the Office of Competitive Grants early in the process.

*For grant procedures and helpful information, please visit our website at [www.yisd.net](http://www.yisd.net) under the Office of Competitive Grants. Newsletter layout—Luz E. Custer*