

Examining the sector:

How to secure outreach and public engagement funding

You're thinking about running a STEM engagement event or activity, but need some funding for it. While there are many options out there, it can be quite daunting to find the schemes which are right for you, and once you do you have to navigate the application process to get your ideas across. This guide will help you find the best scheme for your project and offer some top tips for writing a successful application.

Top Tips for a successful application

1. Read the criteria – each scheme will have certain conditions around which costs are eligible
2. Be clear – ask someone not involved with the project to check your application
3. Be specific – a defined plan, especially for costings, will give the judges confidence in your project
4. Think about your audience – make sure your activities will work with and for your audience
5. Think about your audience again – match your marketing and promotion methods to your audience
6. Partnerships – try and secure partnerships before submitting your application
7. Timeline – show that you know what needs to be completed and by when, including approximate dates
8. Experience – indicate any relevant experience and how you will apply what you've learnt from it
9. Research – find out what the organization's strategic goals are and tailor your application to them
10. Get in touch! – we all offer advice to applicants during the submission period and are happy to talk through your application

What grant schemes are there?

The public engagement grant schemes available from the Royal Society, the Institute of Physics, the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Science and Technology Facilities Council are shown on the back of this leaflet. To find out more, visit the links below.

royalsociety.org/grants
iop.org/PEGrant

stfc.ukri.org/pef
rsc.li/outreach-fund

Other grants:

BBC Children in Need and Wellcome Curiosity - up to £120,000 over three years

British Ecological Society Outreach Grants - up to £2,000

The British Academy Rising Star Engagement Award - up to £15,000

British Society for Immunology Communicating Immunology - up to £1,000

EPSRC Holmes Hines Fund - £55 to £1,500

Microbiology Society Education and Outreach Grants - up to £1,000

The Physiological Society Outreach Grants - £500 to £20,000

Royal Academy of Engineering Ingenious - £3,000 to £30,000

The Royal College of Pathologists Funding for public events - up to £1,000

Royal Society of Biology Outreach and Engagement Grants - up to £500

Society for Endocrinology Public Engagement Grant - up to £1,000

Funding for science engagement with public audiences

Royal Society Places of Science

- up to £3,000
 - up to one year
 - any STEM subject
- Must be a small museum to apply.

STFC Public Engagement Spark Awards

- up to £15,000
- up to three years
- any STFC research area*

IOP Public Engagement Grant Scheme

- £500 to £3,000
 - up to one year
 - physics
- Must not be aimed at students in school time.

Royal Society Public Engagement Fund

- up to £10,000
 - up to two years
 - any STEM subject
- Must be a Royal Society Research Fellow.

RSC Outreach Fund – Small grants

- up to £2,000
- up to one year
- chemistry and the chemical sciences

RSC Outreach Fund – Large grants

- up to £10,000
- up to one year
- chemistry and the chemical sciences

STFC Public Engagement Nucleus Awards

- up to £100,000
- up to three years
- any STFC research area*

STFC Public Engagement Legacy Awards

First award

- up to £50,000
 - up to three years
 - any STFC research area*
- Applicants must have completed STFC funded public engagement project and secured 50% project costs elsewhere.

STFC Public Engagement Legacy Awards

Second award

- up to £25,000
 - up to three years
 - any STFC research area*
- Applicants must have completed their first Legacy Award scheme and secured 75% project costs elsewhere.

STFC reaction award

- up to £5,000
 - short term responsive projects
 - any STFC research area*
- Must relate to a new and/or unexpected scientific development.

STFC leadership fellows in public engagement

- up to £100,000
 - up to three years
 - any STFC research area*
- Applicants must have a strong research and public engagement record.

*STFC research areas:

- Particle Physics
- Astronomy
- Particle Astrophysics
- Solar and Planetary Science
- Nuclear Physics
- Accelerator Science

Funding for schools

Royal Society Partnership Grants

- up to £3,000
 - one to three academic terms
 - any STEM subject
- Applicants must be based at a school or college in the UK.

IOP/STFC/IET Schools Grant Scheme

- up to £600
 - one academic term
 - Physics or Engineering
- Applicants must be based at a school, college or home-school group in the UK or Ireland.

If your project is based in chemistry or the chemical sciences, you can also apply for the RSC Outreach Fund.

See above for details.