

ReConnection Mini-Grants/AAUW NC

Introduction

In the spirit of the ReConnection process AAUW NC will offer branch mini-grants in 2005-2006, thus giving branches access to funds not usually available to them. A total of \$2000 is available to be awarded to multiple applicants.

We encourage action-oriented projects or other meaningful branch proposals that promote the mission of AAUW and/or current national and state themes. We look for impact on the local community. However, awards may be made for branch infrastructure and outreach programs, particularly if they are tied to building the capacity of the branch to do community action projects in the future.

Reminders:

Mission: AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

Diversity statement: There are no barriers to full participation on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Vision: We will remove barriers and develop opportunities to enable women and girls to reach their full potential.

AAUW theme: Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security

AAUW NC theme: Actively Encouraging Women and Girls to be Lifelong Learners

Application Timeline

Award Period	Deadline	Award Date	Final Report Due
1. Fall 2005	9/26/05	10/17/05	6/1/06
2. Spring 2006	12/12/05	1/16/06	12/1/06

Grant Limits

The amounts of the grants will be at the discretion of the judges taking into consideration the justification provided by the branches. Limits per period will be

Award Period	Total Award Limit
1. Fall 2005	\$1000
2. Spring 2006	\$1000 plus any unallocated amount from period 1

Applications will be accepted for the following types of projects with the following limits:

1. Community action, public policy and social justice projects
This project must involve an event or other activity that reaches nonmembers.
Limit: \$500
2. Other projects that increase branch capacity
Limit: \$100
3. Travel funds that increase branch "connection" to AAUW NC or other branches
Limit: \$50

Application Process

The application must contain the following information:

Project Title

Branch Name

Name/Phone/e-mail for Branch President.

Name/Phone/e-mail for Project Leader/Traveler (if different)

For applications for the \$500 community action and \$100 branch capacity projects, include the following sections.

1. Concise project description
2. Specific long term goal(s) that this project addresses. These should be tied to the mission, vision or themes referenced above.
3. Specific action steps that this grant will fund with estimates of actual costs and the time frame.
4. Background on other branch efforts to address the goal. (Include other action steps where applicable.)
5. Discussion of why this money is needed and what other funds are available to address the goal. A simple budget is applicable here.
6. Discussion of how will you know whether the action steps get you closer to your goal(s).

For the \$50 travel grants, include

1. Specifics of the travel: who, when, where, why, and how
2. Estimate of the actual travel costs and what other (matching) funds are available.
3. How this travel will benefit the branch

Send the completed packet to minigrants@aauwnc.org to arrive by midnight of the deadline date. If you cannot submit the information via e-mail, please FAX it to 866-233-9717 (toll free).

Other notes

The judges will award grants based on

1. Application containing all the requested information
2. Amounts requested and financial justification for those amounts
3. Preference for new projects
4. Expected impact for the benefit of AAUW NC and its branches

Grants will be payable to the branch and sent to the branch treasurer.

There is no requirement that the judges distribute all the allocated funds. They may make awards for less than the requested amounts if necessary to give some funding to all worthy projects.

Any branch receiving an award is required to submit a final report that includes:

1. Summary of how the funds were used
2. Evaluation of progress toward the long term goal
3. Any specific benefits that the project brought to the branch or AAUW NC.
4. Links to web articles about the project or other external documentation

This report should be submitted within two weeks of the completion of the project, and any branch that has not submitted a report by the deadline for their grant cycle, will be asked to return the funds.