



Funding Your Invention Education Program

Although typical invention education programs are not overly expensive to implement and sustain, your program might need to budget some funds.

- Program registration fees or curriculum fees.
- Training for facilitators.
- Materials for prototyping.
- Awards and incidentals if you host a community event. Out of school time programs can use the publicity and exposure from these events to attract more support and interest for their programs.
- Inventor event registration fees, if you would like your students to present at event.

Here are some suggestions to kickstart your funding journey:

1 Grants and Foundations: Research and apply for grants from government agencies, foundations, and corporations that support STEM/STEAM education initiatives. Look for opportunities specifically tailored to out-of-school time programs or youth development.

2 Corporate Sponsorship: Partner with local businesses or corporations that are invested in supporting education, innovation, and youth development. Pitch your program as an opportunity for corporate social responsibility and community engagement.

3 Community Partnerships: Forge partnerships with local organizations, schools, and community centers that share your mission. Collaborate on fundraising events, joint grant applications, or in-kind donations of materials and resources.

4 Individual Donations: Reach out to parents, alumni, and supporters of your organization to solicit individual donations. Highlight the importance of invention education in shaping future leaders and problem solvers.

5 In-Kind Donations: Consider the value of in-kind donations such as equipment, materials, or professional expertise. Approach businesses or individuals who may be willing to contribute resources instead of monetary funds.

Making Your Pitch: When seeking funding, clearly articulate the goals, objectives, and impact of your invention education program. Highlight success stories, student achievements, and the transformative experiences that your program offers. Tailor your pitch to resonate with the priorities and interests of potential funders.

Corporate and foundation funders appreciate how invention education encourages creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication skills alongside STEM literacy and competence – and said that these are the essential skills they want students to have upon graduation. Invention education helps to cultivate not only a problem-solving orientation, but also a problem-identification mindset, which gives students the confidence to address challenges.

Source: InventEd's Field Guide developed by Kid Museum, The Lemelson Foundation, and Nation of Makers

Explore additional resources such as acquiring materials, finding partnerships, and more at inventioneducation.org

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InventionEducation.org

InventEd is a coalition of K-12 educators, nonprofit leaders, researchers, government agencies, funders, and others who are building the field of invention education. We share resources and progress, work together to reach more students and educators, and build awareness and understanding of invention education.