

**Best Buy Foundation
Twin Cities Fund Request for Proposals
February 2021**

Best Buy Foundation Ignites Potential through Technology

For half a century, Best Buy has been a catalyst for the rise of technology to improve virtually every aspect of our lives. Technology know-how is crucial for young people preparing to enter the job market for the first time. Nearly 90% of jobs over the next decade will require tech skills. We are committed to giving teens from disinvested communities hands-on access to the tech education and tools they need to be prepared for the tech-reliant jobs of the future.

We open the door to opportunity with technology training and tools that transform teens from consumers to creators – a new generation of engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers, designers and dreamers.

Grant Opportunity

Please note that you may only apply to one program. If your program requires additional technology to run efficiently, please outline the needs in your program grant request.

IMPORTANT: It is neither required nor expected that you purchase technology or services from Best Buy. Please include a list of technology to be purchased in your budget details. You do not need to specify where you will purchase these items.

1. Career Pathways

Best Buy Foundation seeks nonprofit partners that generate interest and awareness in tech-related careers, improve access to training, credentialing and employment and support tech career progression. Our goal is to help teens from disinvested communities obtain the tech skills and training they need to be prepared for a successful career.

The primary responsibilities of the nonprofit organization include:

- Working with schools and other community-based organizations to build awareness of the program to drive youth participation.
- Ensuring access to teens from disinvested communities.
- Enabling participation of Best Buy employees to serve as volunteers.
- Developing financial and community support to help sustain the program beyond the grant funding from Best Buy.
- Completing an annual online report submission for program evaluation purposes.

Eligibility Criteria

The Best Buy Foundation invites nonprofits that have a fundamental commitment to youth, ages 13-21, to apply for funding. Minimum eligibility criteria include:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with a proven track record of serving youth ages 13-21.
- Demonstrated track record in engaging youth at the local level who have been disconnected from education and careers.
- Programming must be within the Twin Cities seven-county metro area.
- Commitment to diversity and inclusion.

- Preferred programs will have some of the following components:
 - Rigorous tech-related curriculum, mentorship, and soft-/hard-skills training for youth over a 9-12-month period.
 - Align training with labor market needs to ensure youth gain relevant skills and engage youth in work-based learning opportunities (i.e. internships, apprenticeships).
 - Pathways from high school to post-secondary/tech-related credentialing programs.
 - Opportunities for dual enrollment/college credits for teens from disinvested communities completing high school.
 - General career-readiness training such as resume prep, mock interviews, job shadows, etc.
 - Use technology to develop skills in a wide range of areas: 3D design, graphic design/photography, coding/programming, digital music/audio production, game design, mobile apps, multi-media production, robotics, video/film production, etc.
 - Wraparound supports such as food access, housing, transportation, health services, etc.
 - When possible, enabling participation of Best Buy employees to serve as volunteers.
- Success metrics include developing skills for tech-reliant jobs, achieving a degree or credential with real value in the current labor market, gaining employment with self-supporting wages and/or having opportunities for further education and career advancement.

2. Teens and Tech

The Teens and Tech program grant supports organizations that encourage teens to learn, experiment and collaborate with the latest technologies, developing skills and experiences to help them succeed in their careers, contribute to their communities and lead outstanding lives

Programs should help teens build tech skills by utilizing cutting-edge technology such as computers, digital cameras, video cameras and professional software in a wide range of areas including, but not limited to:

- Audio production (including music mixing & recording)
- Website development
- Computer maintenance and repair
- UX/UI (user experience/user interface)
- Digital arts, such as graphic design and photography
- Cybersecurity
- Mobile & game app development
- 3D Animation
- Programming & coding
- Virtual Reality/ Augmented Reality
- Robotics
- Green technology

The primary responsibilities of the nonprofit organization include:

- Providing staff and curriculum for the out-of-school time programming.
- Where the opportunity exists, working with schools and other community-based organizations to build awareness of the program to drive teen participation.

- Demonstrating engagement of youth from disinvested communities.
- Developing financial and community support to help sustain the program beyond the grant funding from Best Buy Foundation. Best Buy Foundation will not fund a program as the only supporter, additional funders or support are required.
- Submitting an impact report on program components such as participant demographics, program activities, desired outcomes, challenges, successes, and participant survey results.
- When possible, enabling participation of Best Buy employees to serve as volunteers.

Eligibility Criteria

The Best Buy Foundation invites out-of-school time programs that have a fundamental commitment to youth ages 13-18 from disinvested communities to apply for funding. Minimum eligibility criteria include:

- Public or nonprofit community-based organizations with proven track-records of serving youth through programs outside of school time.
- Program located within a non-profit organization targeting teens ages 13-18 from disinvested communities.
- Commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- Programming must be within the Twin Cities seven-county metro area.
- Submitting an impact report on program components such as participant demographics, program activities, desired outcomes, challenges, successes, and participant survey results.

Required Elements of the Proposal: Please include in online submission

Proposals will be evaluated and competitively ranked by a review committee from Best Buy. The review committee may choose to conduct a site visit or conference call as part of the selection process. The overall comprehensiveness, quality and clarity of the proposal will be taken into consideration.

Please submit proposal online via this link: [Teens & Tech and Career Pathway Grant](#)

Make sure to address each requirement below in the section that corresponds to the online application. The grant will be to support the operation of the program for one-year from date of implementation. Grant recipients will be eligible to apply the following year for funding based on demonstrated success.

Contact/Organization Information – General information on proposal contact and organization, board members, diversity of board and staff, non-discrimination policy.

Proposal Information – Program title, grant amount requested, program description, request summary, program start and end dates, program goals and objectives, volunteer opportunities and racial equity support. Career Pathways/Teens and Technology only: Program activities, student progress and tracking, program focus, outcomes and impact.

Demographic Information – Program youth outreach, ethnicity and gender.

Finances – Organization budget, program budget, additional funding sources and funding sustainability plan.

Authorization – Diversity and Inclusion/Non-discrimination Policy.

Proposal Deadlines and Administrative Information

Grant Awards	Program grants (no general operating) typically range from \$5k to \$50k
Grant Period	Up to one year of funding. Organizations demonstrating success are eligible to apply for future funding in subsequent years
Proposal Due Date	Proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00pm CDT on April 1, 2021
Application Link	Teens & Tech and Career Pathway Grant
Invitation Category	Twin Cities Fund
Proposal Requirements and Information	Proposals must be submitted electronically
Notification Date	No later than July 30, 2021
Additional Information	https://corporate.bestbuy.com/social-impact
Contact	SocialImpact@BestBuy.com