

Best Buy Foundation Blue Gives Back Grant Request for Proposals December 2022

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 seek to create the best possible opportunity with technology, training and tools that transform teens from consumers to creators – a new generation of engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers, designers and dreamers.

For more information on our programs, please visit the [Best Buy Social Impact website](#).

Blue Gives Back Grant

Best Buy Foundation seeks national organizations with a network of local program sites and a demonstrated track record of increasing tech skill proficiency, providing career readiness, career exploration, and employment opportunities for young people from disinvested communities across the nation.

Goals of the Blue Gives Back Grant are:

1. Increase youth access to high-quality and tech-focused programming and skills training (prefer in-person delivery format).
2. Identify and work closely with 5-8 local programming sites from your existing network of preferred locations. See eligibility criteria for more information.
3. Partner with a local Best Buy employee - the Blue Gives Back Champion - to identify volunteer requirements and provide volunteer opportunities to Best Buy employees.
4. Develop social capital for program participants (e.g., networking, career panels, etc.).

This program is part of [Best Buy's Bold Commitments](#) to create more opportunities and support for youth and emerging talent.

Blue Gives Back Grant Opportunity

Blue Gives Back grant is a community and employee engagement program focused on supporting high-quality teens and tech programming and helping Best Buy employees deepen relationships within their community.

Blue Gives Back grantees play an integral role in delivering industry-relevant and focused curricula in collaboration with local programming sites. They are expected to use or adapt existing program curriculum and work in-partnership with local sites to deliver in-person programming. To support the efforts of the local programming sites, Blue Gives Back Grantees are also expected to provide up to \$12,000 in re-grant funding to each local programming site. Re-grant funding should be included in the budget proposal. The Re-grant are for the local program sites to host the program and the related responsibilities articulated below.

Blue Gives Back Program Components Include:

- Providing one learning cycle ranging from 4-8 weeks at 5-8 of your local program sites between July 1st and September 30th.
- Serving youth ages 13-18.
- Delivering cutting-edge technology learning opportunities focused on technical skills development.
- Accommodating 15-25 teens per programming site.
- Partnering with a local Best Buy employee - the Blue Gives Back Champion - to identify volunteer requirements and ensure Best Buy employees have the opportunity to support as volunteers. Examples of the types of engagement that can be expected of Best Buy Volunteers include:
 - Supporting program staff with set-up of program activities and materials.
 - Supporting program participants through their learning journey (i.e. problem solving and reviewing program materials with program participants).
- Connecting youth to industry professionals to practice workforce readiness skills and increase social capital. Recruit local companies and/or subject-matter experts to support programming (i.e., guest speakers, volunteers, etc.) in collaboration with your local community nonprofit.
- Supporting local programming site staff with youth recruitment.

Blue Gives Back Grantee Expectations and Eligibility

Expectations for Blue Gives Back Grantees Include:

- Identifying, selecting and re-granting up to \$12,000 to 5-8 community-based and youth-serving non-profit organizations (referred to as “local programming sites”). These non-profit organizations should be identified from your existing network.
- Delivering programs with a relevant technical skill focus area. (i.e., coding/programming, computer repair/help desk, robotics, cyber security, entrepreneurship, graphic design/photography, digital marketing/media)
- Identifying on-site support, facilitation, or instructors for program implementation.
- Curating and sharing program toolkit and/or curriculum material for local program sites to support self-directed learning as needed.
- Integrating a dedicated planning period during which the Blue Gives Back grantee and their local programming sites collaborate to understand and determine the local organizations and youth needs, scheduling, etc.
- Regularly collaborating and communicating with local program sites through ongoing meetings to plan and execute the program.
- Prioritizing in-person program delivery. In the event of COVID-19 protocol changes, we expect grantees to adapt to a virtual or hybrid model.

Eligibility Criteria for Blue Gives Back Grantees:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with a proven track record of serving youth ages 13-18.
- Ability to recruit and re-grant up to \$12,000 to support 5-8 local nonprofits from your network across the country.
- Organizational mission offers clear and demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- Use technology to develop skills in a wide range of track areas: 3D design, arts (must include tech components), augmented reality, automotive (tech components), coding/programming, computer repair/help desk, cyber security, entrepreneurship, graphic design/photography, digital marketing/media, digital music/audio production, gaming design, mobile apps, multi-media production, retail, robotics, software engineer, video/film production, virtual reality, tech in fashion, tech in sports, etc.

Local Programming Site Expectations and Eligibility

Primary Responsibilities of Local Non-Profit Sites/Organizations 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.
- Identifying and committing programming staff to work in collaboration with the national curriculum partner to provide on-the-ground support to youth participating in program.
- Partner with a local Best Buy employee - the Blue Gives Back Champion - to identify volunteer requirements and ensure Best Buy employees have the opportunity to support as volunteers.
- Participate in and/or support evaluation efforts including interviews with key program staff, brief impact report and youth participant surveys (including collection of consent forms from participants' parents/guardians).

Eligibility Requirements for Local Non-Profit Sites/Organizations:

- Eligible nonprofits may be a 501c3 public or nonprofit community-based organization (e.g., community center, school or library) with existing out-of-school time program and a proven track record of serving youth ages 13-18.
- Non-profit organization with a commitment to supporting young people in under resourced communities.
- Program must operate within 25 miles of a Best Buy store or other Best Buy center of operations (e.g., warehouse, corporate headquarters, Geek Squad Service Center, etc.) to allow for Best Buy employee volunteer participation. To find store locations, visit the [Best Buy store locator](#).
- Preferred locations include cities that do not currently have a Teen Tech Center location. (See the [current map of Teen Tech Center locations](#)). This includes but is not limited to:

Birmingham, AL

Tampa, FL

Rochester, NY

Fayetteville, AR

Boise, ID

Columbus, OH

Little Rock, AR

Joliet, IL

Tulsa, OK

Fresno, CA

Baton Rouge, LA

North Charleston,

Orange County, CA

Baltimore, MD

SC

Riverside, CA

Mankato, MN

McAllen, TX

Sacramento, CA

Elizabeth, NJ

Norfolk, VA

Colorado Springs,

Jersey City, NJ

Appleton, WI

CO

Santa Fe, NM

Miami, FL

Buffalo, NY

Application and Administrative Information

Key Dates & Deadlines:

Application Opens	Monday, December 19
RFP Information Sessions (Zoom)	December 21, 2022, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Central January 11, 2023, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Central
Open Office Hour Sessions (Zoom)	January 17, 2023: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Central January 25, 2023, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Central
Application Closes	February 12
Virtual Finalist Interviews	March
Award & Grantee Announcement	April 30
Kick-off Orientation	May
Payments Issued	June
Program Window	July 1 to September 30

Application Process:

Eligible organizations are invited to apply for this open competitive grant opportunity. All applicants should log into Best Buy Foundation's [online application portal](#) in CyberGrants and familiarize themselves with online submission requirements well before the submission deadline. Staff may not be able to assist all applicants in the final 24 hours before the submission deadline. Please note that CyberGrants' FrontDoor account registration takes 3-5 business days for verification. Applicants who have previously applied for funding may select the standard login option and use their existing credentials.

The Best Buy committee will review all proposals and invite finalists for a virtual interview as part of the selection process.

Grant Administrative Information:

Grant Awards	Program grants (no general operating) typically range from \$100,000 to \$240,000, with the expectation that up to \$12,000 be re-granted to each program site.
Grant Period	Up to one year of funding. Organizations demonstrating success are eligible to apply for future funding in subsequent years.

Application Link	https://www.cybergrants.com/bestbuy/BGB-national
Additional Information	Social Impact - Best Buy Corporate News and Information
Application Inquiries	Awale (Wally) Osman, awale.osman@bestbuy.com
Technical and Account Support	Contact CyberGrants using the “Need Support” link on the application webpage.