



The Simple Gifts Fund • Post Office Box 2087 • Clinton, North Carolina 28329 • www.simplegiftsfund.org

Sampson County Love of Learning Grant Program

The Simple Gifts Fund is pleased to continue the Love of Learning Grant Program for educators in Sampson County. The Fund will be awarding grants for the advancement of educators and their students, in order to enable teachers to provide illuminating programs, instruction, and opportunities for students in the classroom, after school, in the summer, or on weekends. The Fund's goal is to inspire the improvement of public education by engaging students in critical thinking and problem solving that deepens knowledge of subject matter. Additional goals are to foster students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection. Through these grants, the Simple Gifts Fund seeks to assist teachers who recognize the value of inquiry, who understand the power of knowledge, and who appreciate the importance of inspiring excellence in their students.

This grant program now includes the opportunity for educators to pursue National Board Certification (NBC). This certification requires in-depth self-reflection, assessment, and learning for an educator. A Love of Learning grant for the assessment fee will be awarded upon successful completion of the initial NBC. An educator can apply to have the NC-SEAA loan paid to the NC Department of Public Instruction. NBC grant funding will be made immediately after initial successful certification.

Grant Award Information

Grant awards will be awarded three times annually and the number of the grant awards will be limited by the merit of the applications and the funding available. Eligible applicants may apply for school grants up to \$3,000 and individual stipend grants up to \$1,000. Grant application deadlines are: October 1, 2025, February 1, 2026, and June 1 2026. Successful grantees will be notified within eight weeks of the application deadline. Applicants proposing field trips must obtain administrative approval prior to submitting their grant application. Additionally, applicants should carefully select their grant deadline in consideration of planned field trips, as notification and funding may not be received until up to eight weeks after the application deadline.

Grant funds may be used for resource materials, supplies, equipment, transportation, technology, or stipends. The main purpose of the grant should not be to fund electronic equipment unless the fixed assets are an integral part of the program. Although funds may be used to support the professional development necessary to implement the project, the focus of the grant should be on educational experiences for students. Funds used for stipends will not be paid to the Fiscal Agent, but will be paid directly to the educator and are subject to income taxes. Educators are eligible to apply or reapply for grants in subsequent application periods. **Grantees are limited to two grants per calendar year and identical grants can be awarded only three times.** Funds may not be used for lobbying or religious purposes.

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements are:

- Be a ten-month teacher, guidance counselor, or media coordinator in a Sampson County or Clinton City public K-12 school
- Have a minimum of two years classroom teaching experience
- Be a full time educator spending at least 50% of the time in the classroom or a classroom-like setting
- **Have the intention of returning to teaching in Sampson County in the consecutive school year!**
- Have the proposal reviewed and approved by the school principal

Application Procedures

The online application can be found on the Simple Gifts website.

<https://simplegiftsgrant.scholarshipapps.org/index.cfm>

Items in a complete online proposal:

1. *Online Application*
2. *Resume*
3. *Description of proposed project that must include:*
 - Title and a summary of 50 words or less; it should be written in a manner suitable for display on the Fund's website.
 - A narrative of about 500 words that explains:
 - The number of students served
 - What, how, when, and where the students will learn
 - Why the project is needed
 - What are the benefits to the teacher, school, and community
 - How the project's success will be evaluated
 - How the project/program improves the student's knowledge and skills and your knowledge and skills as an educator
4. *Budget:* Submit a line item budget for the proposed grant. Please note if educator stipends are included in the grant. Stipends are intended to supplement additional time spent with students outside of regular school hours. Two separate amounts should be indicated in the budget and two checks will be issued. One issued to the grantee and one issued to the fiscal agent. The educator will receive an IRS income reporting 1099-MISC for a stipend.

Identify any additional support (cash or in-kind) that will be provided by other sources, including those provided by the school. The budget should include materials and supplies, equipment, travel expenses, and other out-of-pocket expenses. Stipends for educators should be identified separately in the budget. (Note: Simple Gifts Fund suggests that the budget be as cost-efficient as possible. Please ensure that all items are directly related to the proposed work, as the budget will be assessed by how realistic, clear, and frugal it is.) Please note that all equipment purchased with grant funds should be made available to other teachers and classrooms within the school.

5. *Proper Document Presentation:* Documents should be proofread and presented accurately regarding content, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Selection and Payment

An impartial panel will review the proposals and notify recipients after each deadline. Payments will be made after selections are made within the eight-week time period. The foundation will send checks to the fiscal agent and stipends directly to the grantees. All grantees will be required to sign a grant acknowledgement agreement.

Questions to:

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