

**MICROSOFT SILICON VALLEY**

**2015 YouthSpark Grant Program**

**BACKGROUND**

Today's youth face an opportunity divide–a gap between those who have access to the skills and training they need to be successful, and those who do not. With more than 75 million unemployed youth around the world, the future of our youth and of our global economy depends on closing this divide.

YouthSpark is Microsoft’s global initiative to empower 300 million youth over three years. Since September 2012, YouthSpark programs have created new opportunities for more than 227 million young people in over 100 countries around the world. Details and resources available at [www.microsoft.com/youthsparkhub](http://www.microsoft.com/youthsparkhub).  As a part of this initiative, Microsoft Silicon Valley is pleased to announce its 2015 YouthSpark Grant Program, focused on reinforcing a STEM pipeline from cradle to career.

Per recent reports by the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/AECF-EarlyWarningConfirmed-2013.pdf) and [Silicon Valley Community Foundation](http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/sites/default/files/documents/grantmaking/impact-brief-education-reader.pdf), 3rd grade and 8th grade mark crucial milestones for educational success. Put bluntly, a child that is not reading proficiently by 3rd grade or studying algebra by 8th grade is significantly less likely to enter and finish college; missing these milestones is also a key indicator for lower future earning potential.

In Silicon Valley, the statistics are bleak: only 59% of 3rd graders in Silicon Valley read proficiently, and only 54% of 8th graders scored proficient in algebra ([www.svcip.com](http://www.svcip.com)). In addition to these crucial educational building blocks, success in the 21st century requires digital literacy and an understanding of finance and the business world. Once a student makes it to college, financial literacy serves as a key skill for successful college completion and a smooth transition to the workplace, and digital literacy serves as a gateway for STEM careers and civic engagement with the larger world.

**2015 GRANTS PROGRAM**

Microsoft’s 2015 YouthSpark Grant Program will support organizations offering impactful programming in four key areas that influence a youth’s desire and ability to pursue a 21st century career in Silicon Valley:

**STEM Pipeline for Youth Ages 5 - 26**

Through this open-competitive grantmaking program, 8 or more organizations offering impactful programming for Silicon Valley youth will be chosen to receive general operating support grants of $15,000. The focus areas for this grants program are defined as follows:

* Early literacy (grades K – 3)
* STEM education (grades 4 - 8)
* Digital literacy and coding (grades 6 - 12)
* Entrepreneurship (grade 9 – age 26)

We understand that organizations may offer programming to youth at various stages of the pipeline, but request that applicants choose one of the four focus areas for their proposal.

**2015 PROGRAM TIMELINE**

Applications Accepted by SVCF February 3 - March 13, 2015

Applicant Reception at Microsoft March 16 – March 20, 2015

Grant Review March 13 – May 24, 2015

Grant Decisions & Payment May 25 – June 8, 2015

**ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS**

* Applicant must be a 501(c)(3) public charity or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) public charity.
* Applicant organizations must be currently operating programming in one of the four identified focus areas that serves San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.
* Funds will not be granted specifically for endowments, annual fund drives, coverage of operating deficits, debt service, political or partisan activities, religious activities, research organizations, or works in which there is no clear public benefit and/or charitable intent.
* Microsoft 2014 YouthSpark Cohort Grantees are not eligible to apply for funding. National Microsoft partners are encouraged to apply, but will not have any advantage, or disadvantage, over other applicants.
* Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**APPLICATION AND GRANTS PROCESS**

* Questions can be directed to Julie Lata, manager of corporate responsibility at [jlata@siliconvalleycf.org](mailto:jlata@siliconvalleycf.org) or 650.450.5538.
* In an effort to decrease paper usage, only electronic submissions will be considered. Please submit one electronic copy of your final application to [corporategrants@siliconvalleycf.org](mailto:corporategrants@siliconvalleycf.org) with subject title “2015 MSV Grants Program.” A signed copy of the application and supporting documents must be submitted as PDF file(s).
* Proposals will be reviewed based on organization alignment with the YouthSpark program, level of service to underserved populations, organizational health and quality of proposal, among other factors.
* If awarded a grant, the funds will be disbursed by the Microsoft Youth Impact corporate advised fund at Silicon Valley Community Foundation.
* A final report describing the impact of grant funds is required at the end of the one-year funding period.



**MICROSOFT SILICON VALLEY**

**2015 YouthSpark Grants Program**

**Proposal for Funding**

**GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

**ORGANIZATION INFORMATION**

**Date:**

**Organization Name:**

**Address:**

**City/State/Zip:**

**Fiscal Agent’s Name and Contact information (if appropriate):**

**Website:**

**Please include links to all of your organization’s social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)**

**Name and title of primary contact for proposal:**

**Phone:**       **E-mail:**      

**Tax ID Number (Organization or Fiscal Sponsor):**

**REQUEST SNAPSHOT**

**Inflection Point (Please select the one focus area that describes your organization best):**

* Literacy for K-3 grade youth
* STEM education for underrepresented youth
* Digital Literacy and Coding
* Entrepreneurship

**Total number served by organization last fiscal year:**

**Total number served by organization last fiscal year in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties:**

**Total number expected to be served by organization this fiscal year:**

**Total number expected to be served by organization this fiscal year in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties:**

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT  
Fiscal Year Calendar (e.g. Jan 1 – Dec 31)**

**Total organization budget for current fiscal year:**

**Organization’s net income for last fiscal year (use minus sign to denote deficit):**

**Organization’s net income for two years prior (use minus sign to denote deficit):**

**Cash reserve at the close of last fiscal year:**

**GRANT APPLICATION NARRATIVE**

***The proposal narrative should answer the questions below and should be no longer than 3 pages.***

1. **What is your organization’s mission statement?**

1. **Provide a brief history and description of your organization. Please include staff size and community partnerships.**

1. **What are your organization’s core programs and services?**

1. **Provide a description of the need, problem, or opportunity addressed by your organization.**

1. **Describe how your organization addresses the focus area chosen in the “Grant Application Cover Sheet.”**

1. **Describe the demographic population that will be served by your organization. Please provide specifics (number to be served, percentage of low-income or people of color, youth, etc.) as available, including your organization’s impact in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.**

1. **Describe how you will use the grant funds. Please detail the impact this grant will have on your organization and constituency served.**

1. **Does your organization have a dedicated marketing/outreach/PR position? Would your organization be will to coordinate with Microsoft on joint PR opportunities, including promoting this grant?**

**In addition to the narrative, please submit the following attachments:**

Attachment A: Organization’s operating budget for current fiscal year.

Attachment B: Organization’s most recent audited financial report or balance sheet and Profit &Loss (P&L) for last completed fiscal year.

Attachment C: Board of directors list that includes members’ professional affiliations.

Attachment D: List of current corporate partners and major donors.

**Applications must be submitted by March 13, 2015.**

**Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

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| To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing information is true. |  |  |
| Signature of Chief Executive (or equivalent) |  | Date Signed |

Print Name and Title