

## 2012 Music Matters Grant Program FAQ

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### What has changed for 2012?

We have clarified the criteria and restrictions to help potential applicants determine if a program is eligible for funding. Major changes include:

- Placed emphasis on need and service to economically disadvantaged children
- Clarified that schools that charge tuition are not eligible
- Maximum grant amount reduced from \$12,000 to \$6,000
- Removed requirement that program must already employ a music educator, however clarified requirement that funding cannot be used to pay the salary of the regular music educator. Together, these allow funding to pay stipends for guest educators where budget cuts have eliminated the regular music educator position.
- Clarified budget requirements to allow for consistent comparison between applicants

### Can you elaborate on the budget requirements?

Schools should submit their existing music program budget, as is, without including potential funding from the Heart & Soul Foundation. If the budget is \$0, state that. A school should also submit an itemized project budget that details what funds would be used for should the school be selected for funding by the Heart & Soul Foundation.

Non-profits (including school-sponsored non-profits and non-profits applying on behalf of a school) should submit their existing music program budget, as is, without including potential funding from the Heart & Soul Foundation. A non-profit must also submit an itemized project budget that details what funds would be used for should the school be selected for funding by the Heart & Soul Foundation. Additionally, a non-profit must submit an existing budget for their entire organization, as is, without including potential funding from the Heart & Soul Foundation. If the entire non-profit's budget is covered within their music program budget, state that.

### Can a PTA or Booster Club apply on behalf of a school?

Yes, the PTA/PTO or Booster Club can submit an application on behalf of a school. The application should be submitted in the name of the school and prepared in cooperation with the music educator and school administrator (their signatures are required). For this type of application, three budgets are required: existing school music program budget, proposed project budget, and PTA/Booster organization budget.

### Can a community non-profit not associated with a school apply on behalf of a school?

Yes, a non-profit partnering with an eligible public or charter school can apply on behalf of a school. The application should be submitted in the name of the school and prepared in cooperation with the music educator and school administrator (their signatures are required). For this type of application, three budgets are required: existing school music program budget, proposed project budget, and non-profit organization budget.

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**Are orchestral programs eligible? I notice most previous recipients are band, chorus or general elementary music.**

Yes, we encourage orchestral programs to apply. The vast majority of our applications have come from middle and high school band and chorus, and elementary music programs, thus the prevalence of those programs in our past winners.

**I see the majority of previous grants winners have been schools. Are schools given priority over non-profits?**

Material need and economic circumstances are our top priorities. Many school music programs have little or no music budget, whereas non-profits are more likely to have funding from corporate and individual sources.

**My band has been invited to march in a parade/event in another city, but many students are not able to afford the trip. Can we apply for funding to help those economically disadvantaged students?**

No, the Heart & Soul Foundation does not fund scholarships or travel to parades, camps, festivals, competitions or similar performance events.

**What is a “qualifying performance?” Few of my students have exposure to professional music performance and I would like to have musicians visit the school or organize a field trip to a performance.**

Transportation and admission to curricular musical educational opportunities, and stipends/performance fees for professional guest musicians/instructors for events during the school day are eligible for funding.

**Why are salaries for regular music educators not eligible for grant funding, but stipends and professional fees for guest educators are?**

Since Music Matters Grants are on a one-time basis, we do not want someone’s job security to be contingent on whether funding can be obtained from another source the following year. Guest educators/musicians are not dependent on a stipend for their livelihood; they can provide meaningful musical experiences for students on a short-term basis without the costs and personnel considerations associated with a full time educator.

**My school charges tuition, but almost all students receive some form of financial aid. Are we eligible to apply?**

No, schools where tuition is charged for regular curricular education are not eligible, regardless of financial aid provided (unless every student is completely subsidized, regardless of financial situation). Student activity fees for activities such as athletics, performing arts, clubs, tutoring/extracurricular instruction, etc. are not considered tuition.

**My non-profit program does charge a small fee for participation, but it’s affordable for most families, and can be waived for financial difficulty. Are we eligible to apply?**

Yes, non-profit programs charging reasonable fees, yet serving students regardless of their ability to pay are eligible. However, priority may be given to programs that do not charge any student for participation.

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### **Does the Heart & Soul Foundation consider partial funding of projects?**

Yes. We may choose not to fund your entire project; however there may be components of the project that we decide to fund. This is a reason why including a detailed, itemized project budget is even more important. If there are parts of your project that are more critical than others, you may indicate that in your application and/or budget.

### **Can the Foundation provide feedback on applications not awarded funding as to why they were not selected?**

Due to the volume of applications received, we are not able to provide feedback to those programs not selected for funding.

Please read the [2012 Music Matters Grant Program Guidelines](#) for complete program details.

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