

AEO FOUNDATION

The AEO Foundation strives to create positive change in the areas of youth empowerment and education, student-focused environmental conservation programs, and young women's health issues--causes that are important to both our customers and associates.

Criteria for Funding

Each year, the AEO Foundation will allocate a limited amount of funding to nonprofit, public charities in Pittsburgh; Hazleton, PA; New York City; Ottawa, Kansas; San Francisco; and Mississauga, Ontario, with tax exempt status under Section 501(c)3) of the Internal Revenue Code that fall within the scope of its mission. Before an organization is considered for a grant, it must fulfill the following criteria:

- The organization and/or its programs must fall within the scope of the AE Foundation's mission statement and serve all or a portion of the Foundation's target demographic (15 – 25 years old)
- The organization must provide a year-end letter stating the results of the grant activities.
- The organization must direct at least 70% of money raised as part of overall operating budget towards program beneficiaries
- The organization must be willing to provide documentation to AE verifying financial donations.
- The organization must be located in or near the following metropolitan areas: Pittsburgh; New York City; Ottawa, Kansas; Hazleton, PA; San Francisco; or Mississauga, Ontario.
- Grant request should fall within the \$2,500 - \$15,000 range; please note the Foundation may award partial funding as they see fit.
- The program/goal of the financial donation must significantly affect the surrounding community.
- The organization must be inclusive in policies and practices involving all genders, races, ages, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or creed, and no religious component required of participants.
- The organization must be able to provide a service/volunteer opportunity for 10 or more AEO associates.

Process

Please visit our Grant Portal to create an account and submit your application. You can find our Grant Portal on aeo-inc.com.

You will need to upload a copy of the current IRS determination letter indicating a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, a copy of the organization's current board-approved annual operating budget (including expense and revenue), the program budget for this project and a list of the organization's board members and their affiliations.

Timeline

Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. The AEO Foundation Board of Directors reviews grant proposals two or three times per year. If you have questions about the timeline, or want to discuss when is best to apply, please email grants@ae.com.

What programs are ineligible for support?

The AEO Foundation will not contribute to:

- Fashion Shows or other requests for clothing donations
- Organizations that discriminate based on race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, veteran status or physical or mental disabilities
- Individual religious organizations
- Political organizations, campaigns or candidates for political office
- Lobbying groups
- Medical or health-related causes
- Veteran or fraternal organizations
- Individuals
- Goodwill advertising in journals or program books
- Capital campaigns such as building grants
- Organizations that spend more than 30% of their total budget on fundraising efforts.

Grant Application

Be prepared to answer the following questions on the Grant Application Portal:

- Brief history of your organization/list of accomplishments/year organization was founded
- Requested amount of donation
- Program purpose/goals and how you plan to meet them
- Strategic reason why AE Foundation should fund program
- Time period of the program or project
- Needs/problems to be addressed, target population and the number of people to be served by the project
- Identification of other organizations, partners or funders participating the project and their roles
- How you will creatively involve an AE business unit and/or employees in the project
- Contact information of person requesting grant
- Description of how you plan to evaluate progress and results
- Ways that the American Eagle Outfitters Foundation will be recognized for a program grant.

Questions?

Please reach out to grants@ae.com with questions about eligibility, application status, timeline, or any other related topics.