

Finding Funding With Donors Choose

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DonorsChoose.org
Teachers ask. You choose. Students learn.

Your wish list CAN come true
With Donors Choose



DonorsChoose.org

Teachers ask. You choose. Students learn.

Who can write a DonorsChoose project?

Teachers in Public Schools	Media Coordinators
Guidance Counselors	School Nurses

Some school employees are not eligible.

Principals	Teacher Assistants
Student Teachers	PTA Members

DonorsChoose is much easier than a grant.

- You can write a successful DonorsChoose project in 15 minutes!
- You will not need to keep receipts or write a final report.
- **PLUS**, you are **much, much, much** more likely to receive funding from DonorsChoose in return for your time investment!

What kinds of things can you ask for?

At DonorsChoose.org, you can request the student-centered materials you need to support instruction in your classroom.

Books!	art supplies	Books!
Paints	Books!	Paint brushes
Books!	iPad	Books!
furniture	Books!	LCD Projector
Books!	Digital camera	Books!

At first you must shop with certain vendors.
 Later you will be able to shop anywhere.

ABC School Supply	Cannon Sports	Frey Scientific	Quill	Teachers School Supply
AKJ Books	Carolina Biological Supply	Kaplan Early Learning	Sargent-Welch	TIME for Kids
Abilitations	CDW Government	Lab Safety Supply	Sax Arts and Crafts	Woodwind & Brasswind
Best Buy	Childcraft Education	Lakeshore Learning	School Specialty	
Blick Art Materials	Encyclopedia Britannica	Nasco	Sportime	

What about technology?

Every year, HP and other corporations offer matching dollar support for DonorsChoose technology projects. This is a great way to get printers, cameras, and ink for your classroom.

Teachers must consider **district technology policies** when asking for technology. **Be careful!**

How can you help your projects get funded?

Start with smaller projects.

Projects under \$400 are almost always funded.

Watch the special funding opportunities.

The screenshot shows an iPad browser interface. The status bar at the top indicates 'iPad', signal strength, Wi-Fi, the time '6:12 PM', and a battery level of '50%'. The address bar contains the URL 'help.donorschoose.org/app/fundingopportunities#Newyork'. Below the address bar, there are four tabs: 'Cannot Open Page', 'Beth Garrett's plastic bag sculpt...', 'Martin Merchant - Class Work', and 'Help Center'. The main content area is titled 'New York Funding Opportunities'. It includes an introductory paragraph: 'To take advantage of the opportunities below, [log in and submit a project](#). Read each offer and "How it works" to learn how your project can be considered for funding.' There are three funding opportunity cards, each with a green header and a 'How it works' link. The first card is for 'Selective Funding From Chase', offering a 50% match for projects on civil rights, diversity, and multiculturalism. The second card is for 'Selective Funding From the Lily Sarah Grace Fund', offering full funding for elementary school arts projects. The third card is for 'Selective Funding From UPS Foundation', offering 50% match for environmental projects in rural schools. Below these cards, there is a section for 'North Carolina Funding Opportunities' with a similar introductory paragraph.

New York Funding Opportunities

To take advantage of the opportunities below, [log in and submit a project](#). Read each offer and "How it works" to learn how your project can be considered for funding.

Selective Funding From Chase [How it works](#)

50% match offer for projects that teach students about civil rights, diversity and multiculturalism. Projects may include up to \$1200 in materials. Projects will be reviewed weekly and added to the campaign at the discretion of the grantor. Only two projects per teacher can receive funding through this offer. [More details](#).

Selective Funding From the Lily Sarah Grace Fund [How it works](#)

Full funding available for select elementary school arts projects. Projects may cost up to \$1000 total (including all fees and the optional donation) and should incorporate arts into academic curriculum. Read the Lily Sarah Grace Fund's [vision](#) to learn more. After submitting your project on DonorsChoose.org, [complete this form](#) with your project ID. Projects will be selected and funded at the discretion of the Lily Sarah Grace Fund.

Selective Funding From UPS Foundation [How it works](#)

50% match funding available for select environmental projects in rural schools. Projects may include up to \$3400 in materials. Projects will be selected every 2 weeks, at the discretion of the grantor.

North Carolina Funding Opportunities

To take advantage of the opportunities below, [log in and submit a project](#). Read each offer and "How it works" to learn how your project can be considered for funding.

Fully funded projects earn points.

You will earn 3 points for each completed project.

+ 1

Reply to email within 5 days after project funded.

+ 1

Send in 7 student thank you letters.

+ 1

Submit thank you package on time.

Special Projects cost 6 points.

A Special Project is NOT limited to DonorsChoose vendors.

Field Trips!

Concerts!

Professional story-telling

Afterschool Dance Instruction!

Idea Paint to turn walls and tables into dry erase boards!

Visiting Artists!

Classes in cake decorating

Poison-ivy eating goats!

See what great teachers need for their students:



Art



Science



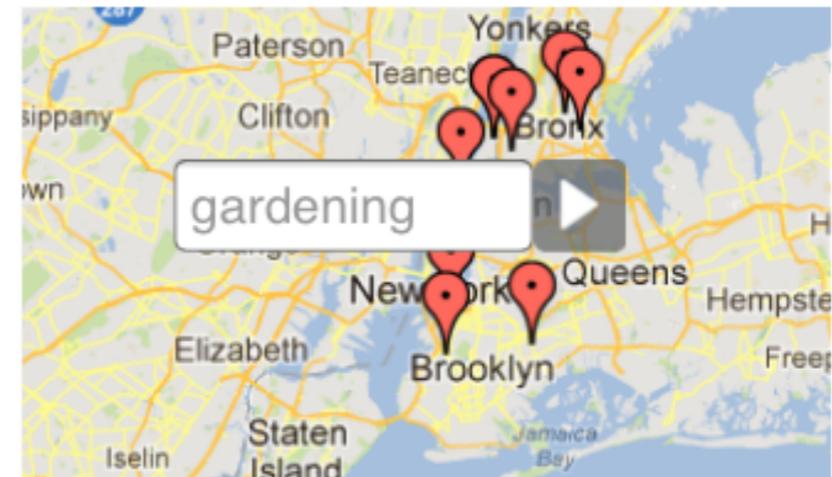
Project of the Day



Books



Field Trips



Community



Create a Project

home > my account > my project drafts > Welcome

Steps:

1. Welcome
2. [Choose Project Type](#)
3. Create Title
4. Go Shopping
5. Summarize Cart
6. Tell Your Story
7. Provide Project Details
8. Quantify Impact
9. Select Expiration Date
10. Confirm and Submit

Welcome!



We're glad you're here.

Whether you have a creative project idea or need basic supplies, we know you're committed to ensuring that your students have the resources and opportunities they deserve.

We're here to help. If you get stuck along the way, there are three places on each page to find help:



Video Guide | Help

(Top Right): You will find a video help and a pull-down help menu of resources.



Steps (Left): You can track where you are in the process and return to a step at any time.



Common Questions

(Bottom): You'll find answers to common questions teachers ask.

Get Started



And if you are new or need a refresher:



— How to submit a project.

Read

2. Choose Resource Type

What type of resource would you like to request? You currently have 0 items to spend.

- Materials
- 1 point: Materials no more than \$40
- 2 points: Materials between \$401 and \$800



I'm a teacher »

Projects Gifts About Help Hi, Jessica ★

Create a Project home > my account > my project drafts > Choose Project Type

Steps:

- 1. [Welcome](#)
- 2. **Choose Project Type**
- 3. Create Title
- 4. Go Shopping
- 5. Summarize Cart
- 6. Tell Your Story
- 7. Provide Project Details
- 8. Quantify Impact
- 9. Select Expiration Date
- 10. Confirm and Submit

2. Choose Project Type

Help ▼

What type of resource would you like to request?

You currently have 57 points to spend. ([Why?](#))

- Materials through eSchoolMall (1-4 points)
 - Materials between \$100 and \$400 (1 point)
 - Materials between \$401 and \$800 (2 points)
 - Materials more than \$801 (4 points)
- Special request for materials not available through eSchoolMall (6 points)
- Class trip (4 points)
- Class visitor (4 points)

Save and Create Title >

[What is the points system and how does it work?](#)
[What resources can I request?](#)
[What is eSchoolMall?](#)

Create a Project

[home](#) > [my account](#) > [my project drafts](#) > **Create Title**

Steps:

- [Welcome](#)
- [Choose Project Type](#)
- [Create Title](#)**
- [Go Shopping](#)
- Summarize Cart
- Tell Your Story
- Provide Project Details
- Quantify Impact
- Select Expiration Date
- Confirm and Submit

3. Create Title

Help ▼

Give your project a title to capture attention. Capitalize It Like a Book Title.

You can come back later and change this if you wish.

Title:

[Check spelling](#)

40 characters remaining

Save Draft

Save and Go Shopping >

Example Titles

- From Garbage to Gold: The Alchemy of Composting ([view project](#))
- Van Gogh's Starry Night in Motion! ([view project](#))
- Ravenous Readers Need a Larger Leveled Library ([view project](#))

Create a Project

[home](#) > [my account](#) > [my project drafts](#) > **Summarize Cart**

Steps:

- [Welcome](#)
- [Choose Project Type](#)
- [Create Title](#)
- [Go Shopping](#)
- 5. Summarize Cart**
- Tell Your Story
- Provide Project Details
- Quantify Impact
- Select Expiration Date
- Confirm and Submit

5. Summarize Cart

Help ▾

You will be able to access this page once all previous steps are complete.

In one sentence, summarize the requests in your cart below.

Summary Examples:

[Hide Examples](#)

"My students need 50 children's books, such as Green Eggs and Ham and Mr. Moon to read during story time."

"My students need a new rug, calculators and other basic supplies to start the new school year."

My students need tote bags, oak tag, and fabric markers to create wearable art.

[Check spelling](#)

Character count: **79**

Characters remaining: **91**

Minimum characters: **25** ✓

Save Draft

Save and Tell Your Story 

[Return to Go Shopping to edit cart](#)

[Why can't I ask for more than the items I added to my cart?](#)

Steps:

1. [Welcome](#)
2. [Choose Project Type](#)
3. [Create Title](#)
4. [Go Shopping](#)
5. [Summarize Cart](#)
6. **[Tell Your Story](#)**
7. [Provide Project Details](#)
8. [Quantify Impact](#)
9. [Select Expiration Date](#)
10. [Confirm and Submit](#)

6. Tell Your Story

Help ▼

You will be able to access this page once all previous steps are complete.

Open with the challenge facing your students.

Opening Examples:

[Hide Examples](#)

- Do you remember what it was like the first time you read a book that you couldn't put down? My students have not yet discovered books that capture their imaginations, but they have also not yet met Roald Dahl.
- "Be the change you want to see in the world," Mahatma Gandhi said, and my students apply this quote in my classroom and dream big every day.
- Save our fingers! The kitchen knives and shears in our home economics classroom seem as though they are older than our 1970s building!

[Check spelling](#)

Character count: **0**
Characters remaining: **300**
Minimum characters: **50**

Tell us more about your students.

Who are they? What are they like? What kind of school do they attend? For privacy, don't reveal names or location -- mentioning your state is OK, but nothing more specific.

[Check spelling](#)

Character count: **0**
Characters remaining: **1000**
Minimum characters: **250**

Essay Tips

- **Tell a story.** Illustrate why and how the project will help your class. Here's a great example: "We don't have dictionaries, so my students can't look up definitions of words they don't understand when they are reading. Instead of being resourceful, my students get frustrated."
- **Beware of jargon.** If you use acronyms like the name of a standardized test or "ELMO," make sure you explain them. (Most donors will picture the Sesame Street character, not a useful document camera!)
- **Double check spelling and grammar.** Like it or not, some donors won't give to a project if they find a typo in it.
- **Start small!** Have a \$2000 idea? Consider breaking it into several smaller projects. We've learned that donors are drawn to less expensive requests.

Get the Word Out

- Spread the word. Add your Teacher Page to your email signature. Anyone you email can check out your projects and learn what your classroom needs.
- Upload an awesome photo. Photos that pop include bright colors and show something unique.
- Use Facebook to tell family and friends about your project. Donors Choose will give a match code that your friends and family can use when they are donating. So that \$10 now becomes \$20

I got funded, now what?

- Teacher thank you notes
- Student thank you notes
- Photographs of students using the materials.

Dream on and on.
Run with that wild and crazy idea!

DonorsChoose can help prevent teacher burnout. Keep a list of dream ideas for your classroom and add to it regularly. Nothing is out of reach. Pick an idea that sounds fun **to you** and go for it!



DonorsChoose.org
Teachers ask. You choose. Students learn.

Create a teacher account today.
Go to www.donorschoose.org to sign up.

Need help?

Contact me at Jessica.sinclair78@gmail.com



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