WINDSORESSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

KID START Grant

APPLICATION

DUE FEBRUARY 5, 2027

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

KidStart Grants provide individual elementary-level classes with up to $500 to use on a project that will have a positive impact on the community outside their school and classroom.

The KidStart Grant Program offers an exciting and meaningful way for teachers to engage with their students in real-world learning experiences. Here's why it's such a valuable opportunity:

1. **Hands-On Learning:** Students learn by doing—writing a grant proposal teaches them essential skills like research, project planning, budgeting, and persuasive writing. These skills will serve them far beyond the classroom.

2. **Community Impact:** This program encourages students to think about the world around them and how they can make a difference. By working on projects that benefit their own communities, students gain a deeper understanding of civic responsibility and social issues.

3. **Collaboration with Local Organizations:** The KidStart Grant allows students to partner with community organizations, helping them see the direct impact of their work and providing an opportunity to build relationships with those who are making a difference in their neighborhoods.

4. **Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving:** Students are tasked with identifying issues, brainstorming solutions, and planning a project to address those issues. This fosters creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking—key skills for success in school and beyond.

5. **Empowerment and Confidence:** Completing a grant proposal and seeing their ideas come to life empowers students and boosts their confidence. They gain a sense of ownership over their projects and are proud to contribute to positive change in their community.

6. **Curriculum Connections:** The Kid Start Grant program aligns with a wide range of subjects, from language arts (writing proposals) to social studies (understanding community issues), and even math (budgeting). Teachers can integrate this into their existing curriculum while providing students with a hands-on, real-world application of their learning.

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KidStart Projects:

- Provide students with a unique community-building experience of their own design.
- Encourage hands-on community outreach.
- Increase students' pride in their school and community.
- Encourage creative thinking.
- Provide constructive ways to address Vital Signs 2026 issue areas.

KidStart Guidelines:

KidStart Grants will fund projects that…

- Are driven by students.
- Are creative and innovative.
- Will make a positive impact on the community.
- Partner with a Community Organization (a letter of support from Community Partner is recommended).
- Are inclusive to everyone in the classroom.
- Are for JK- Grade 8 classes.
- Have approval from the school's administration.
- Align with 1 of the 11 WECF Vital Signs issue areas.

KidStart Grants will NOT fund projects that…

- Are part of the standard curriculum.
- Would normally be covered by core funding.
- Request funds for guest speaker expenses.
- Have no community connection.
- Are written solely by teachers or administration.
- Are multi-year.
- Contribute to fundraising efforts.
- Fund other charities.
- Fund existing operations.

Each year we receive many applications for fantastic projects.
Unfortunately, we cannot fund every project proposal we receive.
We sincerely appreciate the time and effort put into every submission.

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1. Review the guidelines for the KidStart Grant Program before filling out an application to ensure that your project fits the criteria.
2. Fill out the application below in full, including the budget.
3. Have your application approved and signed by school administration.
4. Return the completed and signed application to the WECF office no later than **Friday, February 5, 2027**. Keep a copy of the application for your records. The application must be submitted via e-mail. **After submitting your application, please follow up with the WECF to ensure your application was received.**

E-mail completed applications to Moneeza Sami, Administration Coordinator, at: msami@wecf.ca

FAQs

What is the program's timeline?
Applications must be submitted to the WECF office no later than **Friday, February 5, 2027**. Review of the applications will take place in February, and you will be notified of your project's status by February 25, 2027.

What happens if my classroom gets a grant?
The WECF will connect with you about organizing a visit to your class for a cheque presentation. This is strictly for photo-op purposes. The actual cheque will be given to the school board, and they will flow the funding through to your school to fund your project. You must follow up with the WECF regarding updates or planned activities related to your project.

Can high schools apply?
No, this program is strictly for elementary-level classes.

Can we apply for funding to pay someone to come speak to my class?
No, we do not fund guest speakers.

Can you fund projects that only involve my school?
No, your project must have a community component, where the students make a connection to the broader community. We suggest that you name your Community Partner within your application. A letter of support will go a long way to help your project in the selection process.

How much can I apply for?
Up to $500.

Who do I contact with a specific question?
Please contact our Administration Coordinator, Moneeza Sami between 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday.
msami@wecf.ca or 519-255-6572

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Can two classrooms apply for the same project?
No, only one submission per project is allowed.

Can my project involve only some students in my class?
No, all students in the classroom must take part.

Can my class use funding to donate to another charity?
No, we will not fund projects that use the grant money to donate to other charities.

Can my class add the grant money to our fundraising efforts?
No, the KidStart Grant Program does not contribute to fundraising.

Can my class submit multiple projects?
No, only one submission per classroom.

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SECTION 1: SCHOOL INFORMATION

Name of School:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

Principal's Name:

Teacher's Name: Grade:

Teachers Telephone Number: Teachers E-Mail:

SECTION 2: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:

Total Project Budget: $

Amount Request: $

Start Date of Project: End Date of Project:

How did you hear about the KidStart Grant Program:

1. Tell us about your class, your school, and the neighbourhood you live in.

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2. Tell us about your project! What makes it special and why do you think it's important?

3. How did your class come up with this idea? What inspired you?

4. How does your project help our community? Who is your Community Partner? Don't forget to include a letter from your Community Partner to support your project!

5. What difference will your project make? Who will it help?

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6. Please indicate which Vital Signs issue area your project is addressing (min. one).

- ☐ Arts & Culture
- ☐ Belonging & Leadership
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Food Security
- ☐ Getting Around
- ☐ Getting Started
- ☐ Health, Wellness & Activity
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Learning
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Work

7. Please briefly explain how your project addresses the selected Vital Signs issue area.

SECTION 3: BUDGET

Estimated Budget

DESCRIPTION OF EXPENSES	AMOUNT ($)
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
TOTAL AMOUNT	$

** Your grant money MUST be spent by the end of the school year.*
If there are remaining funds, contact the WECF office for further directions.
** If there are any changes to the submitted proposal*
notify the WECF and ask for a review of the changes before proceeding.
** The WECF has the right to withdraw funding at any point.*

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SECTION 4: AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES

We confirm the information contained in this application is true and that the project has been approved by our school and the Board of Education.

_____ _____

Signature of Principal *Signature of Teacher*