



Call for Proposals

MAA Tensor SUMMA Grants

The Tensor Foundation provides funding for the MAA to award Tensor SUMMA (Strengthening Underrepresented Minority Mathematics Achievement) grants for projects designed to encourage the pursuit and enjoyment of mathematics by students who are members of groups historically underrepresented in the field of mathematics. These include students who are Black or African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Hispanic or Latino; or, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. If your project will be targeted toward another group that you believe would qualify for the project, you may wish to consult with us before submitting your proposal.

Projects should be designed for middle school students, high school students, or college/university students. Projects should provide enrichment activities that feature active engagement and should not support remediation efforts. Projects should also encourage and prepare students for their continued studies of mathematics in high school and college and provide them with relevant career information whenever possible. Implementation of a mentoring component is encouraged and desirable.

Projects may be conducted during summer, during the school year, on weekends, or after school. Projects should be conducted over a sufficient period of time to engage student participants in learning and applying new and interesting mathematics that they will not otherwise encounter in their classes.

Projects may replicate existing successful projects, adapt components of them, or be innovative. Project design should reflect strategies that have been shown to be effective in increasing underrepresented minority achievement. Funding may also be used to supplement existing enrichment programs in order to increase the number of students who are members of historically underrepresented groups participating in those programs. Participation may not be barred to members of any group, but it must be clear that the project will seek to recruit and serve participants from historically underrepresented groups.

Sample Projects

Possible projects, all of which have a strong mathematical component, are:

- Student group and individual research experiences
- Math Circles
- Math clubs
- Summer mathematics camps
- Mentorship programs between post-secondary students and middle or high school students working on mathematics projects or competitions

Note: Projects do not need to incorporate all of the above suggestions.

Funding Details

- Each project grant is capped at \$6,000.
- Applications will be accepted from college and university mathematical sciences faculty at accredited U.S. (including U.S. Territory), or Canadian AUCC-member institutions.
- Faculty must be working with middle or high school mathematics faculty if the project targets those students, but **the college/university must be the fiscal agent.**
- In-kind institutional support is expected as an indication of commitment to the project.
- **No** indirect costs or fringe benefits are supported.
- Funds may be used to supplement existing projects in order to increase the number of minority students participating in those projects or may be used to initiate new projects. Participation may not be barred to members of any group, but it must be clear that the project will seek to recruit and serve participants from historically underrepresented groups.

Restrictions

- A project may only be funded three times by the MAA Tensor programs. Grant recipients must reapply each year, should they wish to continue their projects.
- Funding for the Tensor programs is limited, and the MAA will make every attempt to support a broad range of projects from various geographic locations. If any department is interested in submitting more than one proposal, the proposals must support different programs and must have different personnel.
- A proposal submitted to multiple programs in the same year will only be considered for one. The Program Directors will decide which program it is best suited for, and reject it from the other programs.

Timeline

The MAA Tensor SUMMA program is a yearly award cycle and follows the approximate timeline below.

- November 2024: Application portal opens.
- February 2025: Applications are due.
- April 2025: Notification of award.
- May 2025-May 2026: Projects may be conducted during summer, during the school year, on weekends, or after school during this timeframe.

Project activities should conclude by **May 31, 2026** if awarded in 2025.

If you are a current Tensor SUMMA grant seeking a renewal, you may apply in the 2025 cycle by submitting a new application and include a summary of progress to date. Unexpended funds from a previous Tensor grant may be carried forward but require significant justification before approval.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted through Amplifund, our online application portal.

We encourage all applicants to click the **Download** button on the first screen of the application portal *before starting* their application to gain insight into all the information required. This will download a PDF to your computer with the full blank application form.

We recommend completing the application on Amplifund using Chrome or Firefox. There are known issues with Amplifund and Safari.

To create* a free AmpliFund account:

1. On the "Application Details" page, click "Apply".
2. On the next screen, click "Register".
3. Enter the requested information about yourself and your organization (note: for academic institutions please select "Other" as the organization type).
4. Read and accept the terms and conditions.

If awarded, this account will be used to administer your award, so please be sure to enter all of your contact information correctly.

*If your institution already has an AmpliFund account for another grant, you do not need to create your own. Amplifund is the grants management system for many organizations, not just MAA, so it is possible that your institution's grants office, or sponsored programs office, already has an account for your institution. Please check with them before creating an account.

Application Materials

Application Form

In AmpliFund, please complete the information in the fillable fields as requested.

Please Note:

- Please limit project titles to 80 characters or less. (The project title is what should be entered in the field **Application Name**.)
- If awarded, the name of the institution/organization, address, and other information you submit will be used to generate the award agreement letter, so please ensure that the correct name is included here.
- Please be prepared to include the name and email addresses of an Authorized Signatory and Financial Officer at your institution. These contacts and the Project Director are usually not the same individual.
 - The Authorized Signatory will sign the agreement letter. We will send the grant agreement letter to the attention of this contact. This person is usually in the institution's finance or grants management office.
 - The Financial Officer should be a person in your institution who will accept the award direct deposit for this grant, ensure that the funds are available to the project team, and help the Project Director with preparing the final expenditure report on the project. At most institutions, these persons are in the Sponsored Programs Office.
 - **We encourage you to discuss this project with your sponsored programs office or grants office before applying.**

Project Director and Co-Directors

Please be prepared to enter contact information for the Project Director and up to four Co-Directors. If you have more than 4 co-directors, please be sure to include their contact information in your proposal narrative.

You will need to upload a PDF of the CV of the Project Director and for each Co-Director. Each CV should not exceed two pages.

Proposal Narrative

The following should guide your proposal narrative listed using a 11 or 12 point font and not exceed 5 pages. You will need to upload this as a PDF in AmpliFund.

- **Concept:** state the ideas that form a basis for your project design. Include a description of the context/local conditions that make your project appropriate. Why will your strategies work?
- **Goal Statement:** What is your overarching goal for the project?
- **Objectives** to meet the goal
- **Recruitment:** your plan for reaching the target audience
- **Activities:** detailed description of the activities of the project, including the mathematics that participants will learn
- **Personnel qualifications:** provide the name, position, and qualifications of the project director and principal members of the team and their role in the project
- **Timeline:** timeline for the activities before, during and, if relevant, after the funding year
- **Commitment:** In what way is your institution a welcoming host and what resources can the institution provide? What is the long-term commitment of the host institution to the goals of the project and its specific activities?
- **Evaluation:** How will you evaluate the success of the project relative to the objectives? What data, qualitative or quantitative, will you provide, including information on project expenditures, as part of a brief final report to be submitted at the end of the funding year?
- **Sustainability:** What is the likelihood of institutionalizing through local or state or institutional funding after the start-up funding provided by the Tensor Foundation?

Letter(s) of Recommendation

These letter(s) should be from your department chair, institutional administrators, project partners, or any other key stakeholders who are engaged with the project. You will need to merge the letters into one PDF, which you will then upload in AmpliFund.

If you are working with a middle or high school, at least one letter should be from the appropriate leadership personnel at that school.

You must have at least 1 letter of recommendation from an appropriate person at your institution. The letter should indicate their recommendation of your leadership for the project and their support for the project in general. This letter is **not** the same as the institutional commitment - more details on that below.

Institutional Commitment

Your institution is expected to show an indication of commitment to the project. The commitment can be any percentage of matching funds, or in-kind support (materials, office supplies, use of space, etc.). They need not match dollar-for-dollar.

Please prepare a brief narrative that describes how your institution is showing commitment to your project. You will need to upload this as a PDF in AmpliFund.

Note: Indirect cost (also called Facilities and Administrative Rate, or F&A Rate) is the mechanism used to reimburse a university for the infrastructure support costs associated with sponsored research and other sponsored projects. The F&A rate is essentially an overhead rate. MAA Outreach Programs do not support indirect costs.

Renewals

If the project is a renewal, please be prepared to state the year(s) that funding was previously granted.

You will then need to upload a two-page summary including:

- progress to date
- a brief overview of any evaluation results
- a budget summary of money expended to date
- if applicable, plans for spending remaining funds.

If your summary of progress and financials is not sufficient, your proposal will not be renewed.

Budget

You will be asked to complete a fillable budget form in AmpliFund. The budget form will have separate lines for you to enter line items against the provided budget categories. Each line item will also have a space for your budget justification. Please include a brief but thorough narrative justifying the need for each budget item.

For example, "Supplies - We are requesting "X" amount of money to purchase supplies such as pens, pencils, markers, and notebooks for the students to use for their daily projects."

If your budget justification is blank or does not include enough information to justify the expense, your proposal will not be reviewed.

All line items are considered **Non-Personnel** Item Types in AmpliFund, as MAA Outreach Programs do **not** support indirect costs or fringe benefits.

The following categories have been set up in the budget template. If you have an expense that does not fall into one of these categories, you may create a new category.

Consultants/Contracts

Line items in this category can include: guest speaker fees, consultant fees, etc.

Participant Support

This category is for any stipends or other payment given to students for their PARTICIPATION in the project.

Project Leadership

Line items in this category can include salaries/stipends for project personnel such as PI, Co-PI, and other senior personnel.

Supplies

This category is for line items needed to successfully implement your project. They can include items such as t-shirts, office supplies, food (snacks/meals for participants during programming), activity materials (puzzles, origami paper, etc.), and more.

Travel

This category is for any expenses related to project travel. This can include: student travel, speaker travel, transportation costs, etc.

Other Direct Costs

Any other costs for your project.

Please note that this fillable budget form is only for **new** funds requested; not for any remaining funds from a previous project or other expected funding. See **Total Budget Narrative** below for more details on how to provide information about other funding.

The form will automatically total your line items and will not allow your budget to exceed the amount you requested at the beginning of the application.

Total Budget Narrative

Please include a **total** budget narrative that outlines how you will spend **all** funds allocated to this project, including the requested funds for this proposal, institutional commitment funding, and, if applicable, remaining funds from a previous grant. You will need to upload this as a PDF in AmpliFund.

Characteristics of Effective Programs

While differences occur among highly successful projects, there are some characteristics that effective projects targeting women and girls appear to have:

- Clearly articulated goals and measurable objectives;
- Strong academic component, with a focus on enrichment, not remediation;
- Information on careers that use mathematics extensively;
- Teaching strategies that take into account the needs and cognitive development of women and girls;
- Teachers highly competent in the subject matter who believe that women can learn the material;
- Use of appropriate role models;
- Strong directors and committed and stable staff;
- Ability to respond to the participants' needs and interests before, during, and after the program
- Development of a peer support system;
- Institutional commitment;
- Programs that last longer than one-day events.

Contact Us

For further information regarding proposed projects, please contact the MAA Tensor SUMMA Program Director Candice Price at cprice@smith.edu.

For consultation on your ideas for projects, potential applicants are encouraged to contact the MAA Tensor Proposal Advisor, Alicia Prieto Langarica at aprietolangarica@ysu.edu.

For technical information regarding submission of your proposal, contact the MAA Programs Staff at programs@maa.org.