Call for Proposals

MAA Tensor Grant Program

The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) is pleased to announce a call for proposals for the MAA Tensor Grant Program, supported by funding from The Tensor Foundation. The MAA Tensor Grant Program supports projects that provide mathematics enrichment for students designed to achieve one or both of the following:

- Encourage college or university women and pre-college girls to study and persist in mathematics
- Support the pursuit and enjoyment of mathematics by students who are members of groups historically underrepresented in the mathematical sciences. 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 is designed to support a group not listed here, please consult with us before submitting your proposal.

Participation in funded project activities is available to any student group, as long as the projects have a clear plan for meeting the MAA Tensor Grant Program goals stated above.

Proposed projects should provide enrichment activities for middle school, high school, or college/university students that feature active engagement. These activities should not focus on remediation efforts. Projects should also encourage and prepare students for 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.

The MAA Tensor Grant Program supports activities throughout the year, including after school, weekends, and during the summer. Projects should be conducted over a sufficient period of time to increase impact and meaningfully engage students in learning and applying new and interesting mathematics, extending beyond their classroom-based learning experiences.

Funding may be used to initiate a new project, expand or enhance existing projects, or adapt and implement evidence-based programs or practices for local contexts or specific student groups. While project goals and contexts may vary, content and activities should include innovative approaches to building knowledge, skills, confidence, and a sense of belonging in the mathematical sciences.

Funding Details

- Applicants may request up to $8,000.
- Applications will be accepted from college and university mathematical sciences faculty at accredited U.S. (including U.S. Territory) institutions, accredited schools or school districts, and nonprofit organizations. Faculty are strongly encouraged to work in partnership with middle or high school mathematics teachers if the project targets students at these levels.
- **No indirect costs are allowed.**

Restrictions

- The MAA Tensor Grant Program will continue to support programs that were previously eligible for funding through the **MAA Tensor Women and Mathematics** and the **Tensor SUMMA** (Strengthening Underrepresented Minority Mathematics Achievement) grant programs. A project may only be funded three times by the MAA Tensor Grant Program. This includes projects previously supported by MAA's previous Tensor programs. Grant recipients who wish to continue their programs must reapply each year.
- Beginning with all awards made in 2026, an **active MAA membership is required to apply for renewal of funding** beginning in the 2027 award cycle. Any project applying for renewal during the 2026 cycle will not be subject to this requirement.
- Applications focused exclusively on a **one-off or single-day event will not be considered for funding**. Such programs will only be eligible if they include additional opportunities for student experiences and/or mentoring that support continued program impact over a sustained period of time.
- Funding for the MAA Tensor Grant Program is limited, and the MAA will make every attempt to support a broad range of projects. If more than one proposal is submitted from an institution, they must support different programs with different personnel.
- A proposal submitted to multiple MAA grant programs in the same year will only be considered for review in one program. The Program Directors will decide which program is the best fit and reject it from the other programs.

Timeline

The 2026 MAA Tensor Grant Program award cycle will follow the timeline below.
November 21, 2025: Application cycle opens
February 10, 2026: Applications due by 11:59 EST
March 31, 2025: Notification of awards
May 2026-June 2027: Grant period for funded activities

If you currently have an active grant with a previous Tensor grant program and would like to seek additional funding to continue your work, you may apply in the 2026 cycle by submitting a new application that includes a summary of progress to date. Unexpended funds may be carried forward but require significant justification and written approval.

Characteristics of Effective Programs

While differences occur among highly successful projects, there are some characteristics that effective projects have:
- Clearly articulated goals that are feasible and measurable within the grant period
- Strong academic component, with a focus on enrichment rather than remediation
- Information on careers that draw on mathematical thinking and learning
- Strategies that incorporate the experiences of participating students and address specific challenges faced by the student groups, the project is designed to support
- Highly competent project leadership and personnel with an established commitment to supporting students in ways that align with the MAA Tensor Grant Program goals
- Involvement of appropriate role models, mentors, and evidence-based mentoring strategies
- Development of a peer support system
- Well-developed evaluation plan to measure impact and support ongoing program improvement
- Evidence of institutional commitment
- Budget distributions that focus spending on project participants

How to Apply

All application materials must be submitted as **one complete PDF package** by **February 10, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET**. Incomplete or late submissions will not be reviewed. If you need guidance on how to combine multiple files into a single PDF, you can follow [this short tutorial](#).

Step 1. Review This Call for Proposals

Before starting your application, carefully review this Call for Proposals to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria, understand the funding guidelines, and are aware of allowable costs and review considerations. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the **Application Materials** section (below) for a complete list of required documents and formatting details.

Step 2. Complete the Required Forms

Download and complete both required forms:

- [**MAA Outreach Grant Application Form (fillable PDF)**](#) – captures institutional, personnel, and project details, including required signatures from the Project Director and Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR).

- [**MAA Outreach Grant Budget and Justification Template (fillable Excel)**](#) – provides standardized budget categories and auto calculations for totals. Brief explanations for each budget line should be included in the **budget justification** (see Application Materials section).

Step 3. Prepare the Proposal Narrative and Attachments

Follow the content and formatting guidance outlined under Application Materials. Ensure that your narrative clearly describes the project's purpose, objectives, participant population, proposed activities, evaluation plan, and anticipated outcomes. Include any required attachments (e.g., CVs, Letters of Collaboration) as a single PDF file combined with your application materials.

Step 4. Assemble and Submit

Combine all required components, listed in the *Application Materials* section, into a single PDF file in the specified order.

Submit your completed application by using the [**MAA Outreach Grant Application Submission Form**](#) on the MAA website to upload a single PDF using the following naming convention.

 "MAA–Tensor Application – [Institution Name]"

A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt.

Application Materials

Required Organizational Cover Letter

A **Cover Letter signed by the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)** is required and must follow the template provided in **Appendix A.** The AOR is the person in your organization who has the authority to commit your institution to the terms of the grant. This is often someone such as a **principal, chair, dean, president, or executive director**—not the Project Director or Principal Investigator. Every organization is structured a little differently, so we trust you to determine who this person is within your institution.

Proposals submitted without a signed cover letter from the AOR **will not be reviewed**.

Application Form

Please complete all required fields in the application form as indicated.

- **Proposal Title**: Provide a clear, descriptive title that reflects your project's focus.
- **Institution Information**: Enter the name, address, and contact information for the lead school or organization applying for the grant and contact information for associated staff who will support grant administration if awarded.
- **Project Director Information**: Provide contact details for the person who will manage the project and serve as MAA's primary contact.
- **Project Co-Director(s) Information**: Include names and contact details for up to three Co-Directors. If you have more, list them in your proposal narrative.
- **Administrative Contact**: Enter the contact for the person who will assist with communication, reporting, and general administration.
- **Financial Contact**: Provide the contact for the person who will manage the project's budget, invoicing, or payments.

Project Director and Co-Directors

Please enter contact information for the Project Director and up to three Co-Directors. If your team includes more than three Co-Directors, include their details in the proposal narrative.

Provide a brief résumé or CV for each Project Director and Co-Director, highlighting relevant experience and qualifications for the project, limited to two pages for each.

Proposal Narrative

Address the following guidelines in your narrative using 11- or 12-point font, and limit the narrative to **no more than five single-spaced pages**. Applicants are encouraged to utilize the whole space to provide as much detail as possible.

- **Context:** Provide details of the project setting, participants, and broader context within which your project is situated, the potential for your project to make an impact, and the value of this impact for participants, their community, and the mathematical sciences.
- **Goal Statement(s):** Clearly establish feasible, measurable goals for your project.
- **Recruitment:** Provide a plan for reaching and engaging the target audience in a sustained and ongoing way and evidence that you have the connections and resources to achieve your recruitment goals.
- **Activities:** Provide a detailed description of the project activities, including the mathematics that participants will learn, and the evidence base that supports these activities as an effective way to achieve your stated goal(s).
- **Personnel roles and qualifications:** Outline the roles and responsibilities of the project director, any co-directors, and other key personnel, along with how their backgrounds and experiences contribute to their ability to fulfill these roles and responsibilities.
- **Timeline:** Provide a detailed timeline for the project activities.
- **Institutional commitment:** Explain how your institution will provide resources and support to ensure the project's success, including any evidence of a long-term commitment to the project goals and activities.
- **Evaluation:** Provide a detailed plan for how you will evaluate the success of the project relative to the goals. This should include any data (qualitative or quantitative) you plan to collect to help you measure impact and adapt project activities for future implementation beyond the grant period.
- **Sustainability:** Discuss plans and strategies to sustain project activities and impact beyond the grant period.

Letter(s) of Recommendation (optional)

If working in partnership with a school, district, or community organization, you must include a letter of collaboration from the partner organization confirming their commitment to participate if the project is funded. The letter should be signed by an appropriate official (such as a principal, administrator, or department chair) and demonstrate shared decision-making and alignment of goals between partners.

Renewals

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

You will also need to include 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

Applicants will complete a fillable budget form with detailed line items and corresponding budget justifications. The form provides separate fields for each budget category listed below.

Each budget item must be accompanied by a **brief and clear justification that explains** its purpose and necessity for the project. The budget justification form can be found in the second tab of the budget template. For example:

Supplies – We are requesting $X to purchase pens, pencils, markers, and notebooks for participants to use during project activities.

Proposals without adequate budget justification will be deemed incomplete and will **not be reviewed**.

Category	Description / Examples
Personnel / Project Leadership	Stipends for project directors, co-directors, or other lead personnel.
Consultants / Professional Services	Fees for external experts, guest speakers, evaluation partners, or content specialists.
Participant Support Costs	Stipends, materials, meals, or travel directly supporting project participants (e.g., students).
Supplies & Materials	Instructional supplies, printed materials, manipulatives, or technology directly used in the project.

Travel	Local or domestic travel for project staff, speakers, or participants (e.g., mileage, airfare, lodging).
Other Direct Costs	Venue rental, catering for participants, communications, small printing, or outreach costs.

INDIRECT COSTS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

The budget form will automatically calculate totals. **Budgets must not exceed the allowable amount of $8,000**.

Contact Us

For general questions about the MAA Tensor Grant Program, please email programs@maa.org.

For consultation on your project ideas and potential applicants, contact the MAA Tensor Proposal Advisor, Alicia Prieto Langarica, at aprietolangarica@ysu.edu.

Appendix A: Institutional Cover Letter Template (Required) - Signed by an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)

[Institution Letterhead]

[Date]

To:
Grants Program Office
Mathematical Association of America (MAA)
1529 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Subject: Institutional Cover Letter – [Project Title]

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of **[Institution Name]**, I am pleased to submit the attached proposal titled **"[Project Title]"** for consideration under the **MAA Tensor Grant Program**.

This submission has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate institutional officials. The institution fully supports the proposed activities and certifies that, if funded, it will comply with all applicable terms and conditions established by the Mathematical Association of America and the National Science Foundation.

[Principal Investigator Name] and the project team are authorized to carry out the activities as described in the proposal, and all necessary resources and administrative support will be provided to ensure the project's success.

We appreciate the opportunity to partner with MAA in advancing mathematics education and outreach.

Sincerely,

[Typed Name]
[Title, e.g., Authorized Organizational Representative / Dean / Chief Financial Officer / Principal]
[Institution Name]
[Email Address]
[Phone Number]