

Applying for IRC, ILA, and Other Grants and Awards

Katie Russell
IRC Past President
irc.krussell@gmail.com
specialistrussell@gmail.com

How many of you have felt like this when you have tried to write a grant?

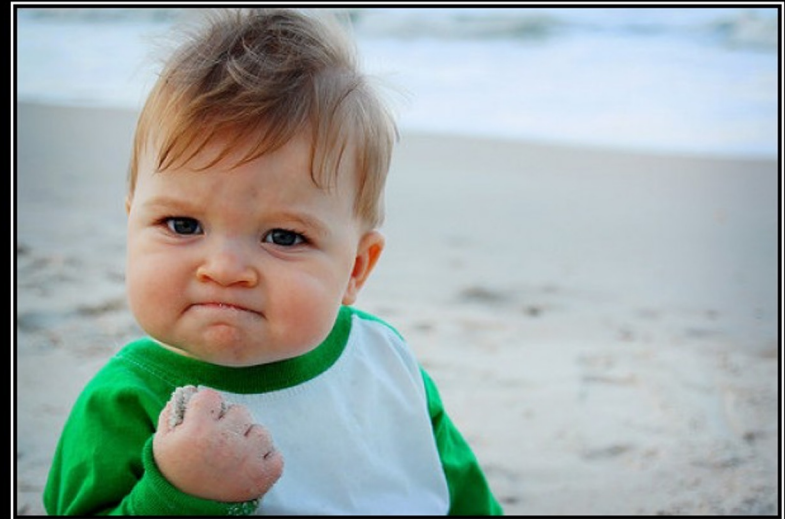


....Or this?



Relax.....

You CAN do it!



SUCCESS

Because you too can own this face of pure accomplishment

The Grant Writing Process

READ the Grant Application!

- Make note of the information requested in the application
- Look at the materials needed to fill out the application
 - Do you have access to these documents or will you need to contact someone?
- Highlight key words and phrases – tailor your responses to these

THINK – Will this grant fund my project?

- Write a brief summary of your organization and the project.
 - This will help you focus on what your organization does and what you would like to get funded.
- Review the requirements of the grant
 - Does your summary match the requirements and goals of the grantor?
- If not – can you modify your project to match their requirements?

Writing the Grant

- Create an outline
 - Most grants are looking for specific topics to be covered. Use this to help you design your application.
 - Make sure you have collected the materials needed to cover the topics.
- Write a first draft
 - Do your best to tailor your application to the mission of the grantor. Highlight the parts of your project that align with their goals.
 - Use the key words and phrases

Review Your Writing

- Look at other projects this grantor has funded.
 - Can you glean any information to include in your application?
- Review the requirements for the application. **Have you done exactly what they asked for?** The grantor is receiving many grants and looking for ways to eliminate applications.
 - Follow the instructions on the application. If it asks that you not have any references to your identity, make sure you don't!
 - If a rubric is provided, use it to evaluate your application.
- Make sure your goals for the project are clear, specific, achievable, and able to be documented.

Get Help!!

- Find someone who has written successful grants to review your application. (Even better if they wrote the same one!)
- Ask your friend who is really good at finding grammatical errors to read your application.
- Ask someone who is not familiar with your project to read through the application.
 - This is a great person to ask to look for any identifying information.

Supporting Documents

- Include all supporting documents!
- Documentation from other organizations you are working with.
- Budgets: **(Remember most grants reimburse you! So you, your organization, or your school district will have to spend the money first!)**
 - Realistic
 - As close to exact prices as possible
 - Covering some of the costs yourself
 - Working with other agencies
 - Show savings when you can

Deadline

- Make sure you meet the deadline for the grant.
 - If needed - allow time for it to go through the mail.
- Follow-up to make sure it was received.

What Next?

APPROVED

- Do what you said you were going to do!
 - **If you change what you are doing, contact grantor for approval!**
- Remember to complete any follow-up documents!
 - **You must submit receipts that show you paid for materials!**
- Make sure you publicize your project! Include grantor in any publicity!

What Next?

NOT FUNDED

- Ask what you can do better next time.
- Don't get discouraged there are a lot of projects and limited funds!
- Try again next year!

IRC Grants

How to Find IRC Grants and Awards

- Located on the IRC Homepage (www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org)
- Hover over About IRC
- Click on “Awards/Grants” in the dropdown menu

- You can see previous winners by clicking the link at the top

Literacy Support Grant

- **What:** The Illinois Reading Council will award financial grants for the purpose of promoting literacy development in the school and community, and/or providing professional development opportunities related to the improvement of reading and writing instruction. There is no specific amount per grant. The amount awarded for each grant may be less than the amount requested.
- **Who:** Local and special interest councils and individual council members
- **Deadline:** May 1

International Grant

- **What:** The International Committee of the Illinois Reading Council has created a grant to promote literacy projects internationally. Funds up to \$500 (varies per year/request).
- **Who:** Local and special interest councils and individual council members
- **Deadline:** May 1

Other Grants

Other Grants Available for Teachers

- Ag in the Classroom <https://www.agintheclassroom.org/programs-events/teacher-grants/>
- Book Love Foundation <http://booklovefoundation.org/apply>
- Wal-Mart Foundation <http://giving.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/local-giving>
- The NEA Foundation <http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/grants-to-educators>
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
http://www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/Pages/grant_programs.aspx
- Snapdragon Book Foundation <http://snapdragonbookfoundation.org/>
- Target <https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/grants>
- AISLE LBSS <https://www.lbssfund.org/>

IRC Awards

Barack Obama Library Award

- **What:** This award is a classroom library, valued at \$1000, which was created in 2006 through a generous gift to the IRC from (then) Senator Obama. This collection is comprised of carefully selected literature that is “culturally relevant” for African-American readers and targets students in the middle-school (5th-8th) grade range.
- **Who:** IRC members (Can nominate non-member)
- **Deadline:** Nominations are due by November 1

Council of Excellence Award

- **What:** The Award of Excellence recognizes local and special interest councils that organize and conduct well-rounded programs serving the council members, the community, and the state association. Councils receive \$100.
- **For the previous fiscal year**
- **Who:** Local and special interest councils
- **Deadline:** October 1

Family Literacy Award

- **What:** This award recognizes an IRC member who promotes and supports parent involvement in children's reading.
- **Who:** Must be a member of IRC and ILA
- **Deadline:** November 1

Hall of Councils

- **What:** The Hall of Councils at the annual IRC Conference allows councils the opportunity to advertise activities and accomplishments and to promote membership with a display. Awards for first, second, and third place.
- **Who:** Local and special interest councils
- **Deadline:** Notify IRC office of intent to participate prior to conference

Jerry Johns Reading Educator of the Year Award

- **What:** This award recognizes an outstanding teacher who make contributions in promoting literacy among students, colleagues, and school communities. *This award is supported by a generous gift from Jerry Johns.*
- **Who:** Must be a member of IRC and ILA
- **Deadline:** November 1

IRC Hall of Fame Award

- **What:** The IRC has designed the Hall of Fame to recognize significant contributions to reading or reading education.
- **Who:** Certificates are awarded to the most deserving individuals who meet the criteria listed.
- **Deadline:** November 1

IRC Service Award

- **What:** The IRC will present the IRC Service Award at the annual IRC Annual Meeting.
- **Who:** Certificates are awarded to the most deserving individuals who meet the criteria listed.
- **Deadline:** November 1

Prairie State Award for Excellence in Writing for Children

- **What:** This award recognizes an Illinois Children's/young adult author whose body of work demonstrates excellence, engenders a love of literature, and embraces an important part of the mission of the Illinois Reading Council—to promote lifelong literacy.
- **Who:** Illinois Children's/young adult author who meet criteria
- **Deadline:** June 15

Static Stick Decal Design Contest

- **What:** Students in grade 4, 5, or 6 are encouraged to create an original design promoting reading. The winning design is printed on static stick decals.
- **Who:** Students in grade 4, 5, or 6
- **Deadline:** January 15

ILA Awards

How to Find ILA Awards

- Go to the ILA Homepage (www.literacyworldwide.org)
- Click on “Get Involved” along the top banner
- Choose “Awards & Recognition” from drop down menu
- Click on “Awards & Grants”

ILA Exemplary Reading Program Award

- **What:** The ILA Exemplary Reading Program Award is sponsored by the International Literacy Association to recognize outstanding reading and language arts programs at all grade levels (elementary, middle, and high school).
- **Who:** Schools with at least one ILA member
- **Deadline:** December 31

Advocacy Award

- **What:** The Advocacy Award annually recognizes state and provincial chapters that demonstrate how they are working to affect educational policy and legislation through effective advocacy at the local, state/provincial, and/or national levels.
- **Who:** Local and special interest councils
- **Deadline:** December 31

Award of Excellence

- **What:** The Award of Excellence is presented annually by the International Literacy Association to state and provincial chapters that have distinguished themselves through organizing and implementing a wide range of programs and activities in their state or province that (a) serve and support chapters and members, (b) contribute to education, and (c) coincide with and support ILA's programs and goals.
- **Who:** Local and special interest councils
- **Deadline:** December 31

Celebrate Literacy Award

- **What:** The Celebrate Literacy Award recognizes organizations, institutions, and individuals that have made significant literary contributions at the local, state, or provincial level. The hope is that the celebration will familiarize the public with literacy activities in the community and call attention to the work that is being done by the schools and the International Literacy Association to promote literacy worldwide.
- **Who:** Local and special interest councils
- **Deadline:** Rolling

Honor Award

- **What:** The Honor Award annually recognizes local, student, and special interest chapters that organize and conduct well-rounded programs serving the chapter members, the community, the state/provincial chapter, and the International Literacy Association. Chapters are recognized for accomplishments of the previous year.
- **Who:** Local and special interest councils
- **Deadline:** December 31

Local Chapter Community Service Award

- **What:** The Local Chapter Community Service Award honors a local, student, or special interest ILA chapter for outstanding service to its community and literacy. Many unique ideas have been realized through such community projects. Examples include information packets for parents of newborns, programs and materials for children and adults living in shelters, and reading promotion activities for the local library. These projects reach beyond their immediate community and become models that others can adapt to meet literacy needs outside the classroom.
- **Who:** Local and special interest councils
- **Deadline:** December 31

William S. Gray Citation of Merit

- **What:** The most prestigious award in the field, the International Literacy Association (ILA) William S. Gray Citation of Merit is a nonmonetary award reserved for those ILA members who have made outstanding contributions to multiple facets of literacy development—research, theory, practice, and policy.
- **Who:** ILA Members
- **When:** March 15