

GRANTMAKING GUIDELINES

The Lemelson Foundation, through our partners, celebrate and support inventors and entrepreneurs to strengthen social and economic life.

- We recognize and celebrate accomplished inventors,
- We inspire and mentor young people, grassroots inventors and entrepreneurs,
- We disseminate technologies that improve people's lives and generate entrepreneurial opportunity,
- And we research and share information that elucidates the societal value of invention.

The Foundation grants or loans funds to support invention and innovation directed at promoting sustainable economic and social development. The Foundation **does not directly grant to individual inventors**, but will support organizations with charitable objectives (such as U.S. 501(c)(3) organizations or the equivalent in other countries). For-profit entities that pursue objectives closely aligned with the Foundation's mission may also be eligible for grants or program-related investments (e.g., loans or equity investments).

Grant proposals that support invention education or development of grassroots inventors and entrepreneurs working to advance the broad objectives of sustainable development are currently being considered.

Funding is being allocated to the following three core portfolio areas:

1. Education and Inspiration Portfolio

The Foundation funds leading educational institutions and non-profit organizations in the U.S. that create and implement invention education programs. At the middle and high-school levels, the Foundation partners with established organizations that have the potential to scale their programs regionally or nationally, with a focus on reaching underserved students.

The Foundation also supports university-level invention education; however, we are not accepting proposals for university-level programs at this time.

If you believe your middle or high school program has relevance to our education work, and your organization is a qualified a non-profit organization (NGO), a for-profit social enterprise, or a government affiliated agency, please answer the following:

1. How does your program relate to invention education?
2. What are the characteristics of the student population you target?
3. Describe the scope of your program's coverage and any plans for program growth.

Responses to these questions may be submitted to: info@lemelson.org

2. Inventor Support Portfolio

The Foundation funds organizations in the U.S. and in developing countries that mentor and support students and grassroots inventors and entrepreneurs who work to advance prosperity through the startup and scaling of invention-based social enterprises. The support of student or grassroots inventors and entrepreneurs is of particular interest. The Foundation also works through developing country institutions to implement Recognition and Mentoring Programs (RAMPs), which - through a competitive process – identify, recognize and provide support to inventors and entrepreneurs.

If you believe your work has relevance to the mentoring and support of inventors, and your organization is a non-profit organization (NGO), a for-profit social enterprise, or a government affiliated agency, please answer the following questions:

1. How does your work contribute to invention for sustainable development?
2. How is your work relevant to mentoring for students and grassroots inventors?
3. Where is your work based?
4. Please describe your plans to scale your program.

Responses to these questions may be submitted to: info@lemelson.org

3. Technology Dissemination Portfolio

The Foundation funds U.S. and developing country organizations that design and disseminate new and existing technologies that positively impact poor people's lives. Funded projects use innovative technologies to address critical needs in water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity. These projects also often have an income-generating component.

If you believe that your project has relevance to our technology dissemination work, and your organization is a non-profit organization (NGO), a for-profit social enterprise, or a government affiliated agency, please answer the following:

1. Describe your project including the problem or need, the solution (the technology-centered innovation), as well as your plan for developing and disseminating it.
2. Who will benefit directly from this project? Will it improve the lives or livelihoods of poor people or other underserved groups?
3. How will this project stimulate entrepreneurship and income generation in the community?
4. How can the project be replicated in or adapted to other regions or countries?
5. What is the time frame for developing the innovation (if in early stages of development) and what are your budget requirements; what other partners and/or sources of funding would be involved at this or later stages?

Responses to the above questions may be submitted to: info@lemelson.org