

## 50 States. 50 Grants. 5000 Voices. Overview + Guidelines

### 50 States. 50 Grants. 5000 Voices.

The It Gets Better Project, the world's largest storytelling effort to uplift LGBTQ+ youth, launched a new school-based grant initiative, 50 States. 50 Grants. 5000 Voices. Grants up to \$10k will be awarded from a \$500K fund to middle and/or high school students in every U.S. state, including U.S. territories, with an aim to support projects that prioritize the empowerment and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth while at school. The grant opportunity is made possible with support from American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. (AEO) and the American Eagle and Aerie brands.

Below are examples of projects, and not limited to the following. Projects could include:

- *School-wide Projects*
  - Build an LGBTQ+ section for books and other resources in your school library (For example: [Build an Inclusive Library w/ Welcoming Schools](#))
  - Paint a mural or other art installation in your school highlighting local LGBTQ+ history (For example: [Install History Panels w/ ONE Archives Foundation](#))
  - Provide LGBTQ+ inclusive training for your entire school staff (For example: [Support Professional Development w/ GLSEN](#) or [Provide LGBTQ+ History Webinars for Educators w/ ONE Archives Foundation](#))
- *Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Projects*
  - Launch your school's first GSA
  - Install a school garden or gender affirming closet that supports the GSA
  - Provide leadership training for your GSA student leaders (For example: [Provide LGBTQ+ History Webinars for Students w/ ONE Archives Foundation](#))
- *Community Projects*
  - Organize a school float for your city's Pride Parade
  - Help establish a student-focused program with a local LGBTQ+ center or nonprofit
  - Establish a partnership between the LGBTQ+ students at your school with LGBTQ+ seniors in your area

Grant recipients have up to one year to utilize funding and to report back on impact. Grants do NOT fund research, political activities, scholarships, or individual needs. Grants can NOT benefit only one student.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All grant applicants **must** demonstrate the following criteria in their application:

- School is a public and/or charter secondary (middle/junior or high) school listed by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) that serves students between 13-18 years old.
- Clear demonstration that funding will effectively support the school's LGBTQ+ students and educators.

- Clear student/youth participation in the planning and execution of the proposed project; all applications must include at least one student leader and one faculty advisor as signatories.
- Unique project plan that must be executed within one school year, demonstrating a clear understanding of the needs of LGBTQ+ students at that school, as well as measurable objectives/impact.
- Limited to one application per school.

Grants will be **prioritized** to schools that demonstrate the following additional criteria:

- Established (1 yr+) Gender & Sexuality Alliance (GSA), or similar club.
- Diverse student population (ex. 50% or more of all students are students of color).
- Federally recognized Title I status (i.e. 40% or more of students come from low-income homes).
- Documented support of LGBTQ+ students (including trans students, queer students of color, queer students with disabilities, etc.) through policies, curriculum, and more.
- Project plan that incorporates broader community impact and involvement.

### **APPLICATION TIMELINE**

Below is the estimated timeline for the entire grant process, from application through the final report:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
November 10, 2021	Application Portal Opens
November 2021 – February 2022	Community Webinars
February 10 2022	Application Portal Closes
February – April 2022	Application Review
May – June 2022	Notify Grantees of Final Decisions
July – August 2022	Disbursement of Funds
October 2022	Q3 Check-in w/ Grantees
January 2023	Q4 Check-ins w/ Grantees
April 2023	Q1 Check-in w/ Grantees
July 2023	Final Reports Due