
50 States. 50 Grants. 5000 Voices.
2023 U.S. Application Questions

Application Notes

- All of the following questions are required unless otherwise stated.
- Sections 1 through 3 should take about 30 minutes to complete.
- Sections 4 through 6 should take about two hours to complete.
- As a reminder, you can always save a draft of your application and return to it later.
- Your application will be graded by the following:
 - School Environment – 15%
 - Project Vision – 50%
 - Project Budget – 15%
 - Overall Review – 20%
 - Priority Criteria – +10% BONUS
- All answers must include collaboration with student leadership and demonstrate how students will be involved. Students can be invited to work on the application as a collaborator. You can find more information in [this article](#).

Eligibility Questions

1. Is your school located in the United States of America or one of its territories?
2. Is your school a public or charter secondary (middle or high) school?
3. Will this grant support LGBTQ+ students and educators at your school?
4. Will your grant project successfully include student/youth participation in the planning and execution of the proposed project?
5. Do you have a project plan that can be executed within one school year?
6. Will this grant fund research, political activities, scholarships, or the needs of a single student (NOTE: These types of activities will NOT receive funding.)?

Priority Criteria

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

1. Diverse student population (ex. 50% or more of all students are students of color).
2. Federally recognized Title I status (i.e. 40% or more of students come from low-income homes).
3. Supportive environment for LGBTQ+ students (including trans students, queer students of color, queer students with disabilities, etc.) through resources, policies, curriculum, and more.
4. Project plan that incorporates broader community impact and involvement.
5. Project plan demonstrates longevity or the ability to keep making a positive impact on LGBTQ+ students beyond the grant year.

Application Questions**SCHOOL INFORMATION (Section 1 of 6)**

1. City, State – Project Name
 - a. Please follow this format. For example: Los Angeles, CA – Gender Inclusive Closet
2. Have you received a grant from the It Gets Better Project previously, including a previous cycle of 50 States. 50 Grants. 5000 Voices.?
3. Upload a screenshot from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) of your school information.
 - a. Locate your school at <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/>. School name, city, and state should be sufficient to find your school. Once the results show, please click on the link for your school. This will take you to a page that provides all of your school information, such as address, Title 1 status, and total school population.
4. School Name
5. School State
6. School City
7. School Website

CONTACT INFORMATION (Section 2 of 6)

Below, please provide the name and contact information for the main faculty advisor and student leader directly overseeing the grant project .

1. Faculty Advisor Name
2. Faculty Advisor Title
3. Faculty Advisor Email
4. Faculty Advisor Phone Number
5. Student Leader Name
6. Student Leader Email

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT (Section 3 of 6)

The following questions will be used to understand your application. If your school does not have a supportive administration or school environment, this will not be counted against you.

1. Does your school have a Gender and Sexualities Alliance (GSA) or similar club?
 - a. *If your school does not currently have a GSA or similar club, don't worry. This will not penalize your application.*
 - b. Yes
 - i. Tell us about your GSA or similar club. Describe the history of your club, if you have a leadership structure, what your goals and objectives are, and previous activities and campaigns. (300 word limit)
 - c. No
 - i. Tell us about any obstacles your school has encountered in establishing a GSA or similar club. (300 word limit)
2. What are the greatest challenges and needs of LGBTQ+ students at your school? (350 word limit)

3. How does your school currently support LGBTQ+ students, such as providing resources, anti-bullying or harassment policies, inclusive curricula, faculty-training, etc.? (350 word limit)
4. On a scale of 1 to 5, what level of support do you expect to receive from administration at your school for your grant project? Please explain your selection. (350 word limit)

PROJECT VISION (Section 4 of 6)

Up until now, you have been showing us how your school currently stands. Now, share your vision for the future of your school.

1. **UPLOAD A PDF (2 page limit):** Describe the project you would accomplish with a grant from the It Gets Better Project. Please provide a project narrative, which must include:
 - a. a thorough breakdown of your proposed project
 - b. objectives you hope to achieve with this project grant
 - c. a timeline executable within one school year
 - d. methods and metrics used to measure success of your project
 - e. how your project justifies the need for this grant based on the challenges and needs of LGBTQ+ students at your school.
2. What challenges or barriers do you foresee for a successful execution of your project? How will you address the above challenges and barriers? Please explain thoroughly. (400 word limit)
3. How could your project incorporate broader community involvement, if any? (Optional)
 - a. *Please note that grants will be prioritized to project plans that incorporate broader community impact and involvement. Any community involvement must be school-based and student-focused. For example, projects can include establishing a partnership between LGBTQ+ students at your school and LGBTQ+ seniors in your area.*
4. How would your project continue to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ students at your school beyond this grant year? (Optional)

FUNDING & BUDGET (Section 5 of 6)

1. How much is the total amount of funding you are requesting?
2. **UPLOAD A PDF:** Provide an estimated budget for your project.
 - a. *List any estimated professional services, materials, or other costs anticipated with your project. An example budget can be found at the end of this PDF.*
3. Does any of your school's funding currently go towards supporting LGBTQ+ students specifically? Please explain your selection. (350 word limit)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. If you were to receive this grant, what is the process for receiving and spending the funds? (350 word limit)
 - a. *For example, some schools require that the funds go to a school and/or district bank account, while others allow for funds to be sent to a nonprofit fiscal sponsor (some schools refer to this as a booster organization).*

CONCLUSION (Section 6 of 6)

1. **UPLOAD A VIDEO:** Why would your school and this project make you the best recipient for this grant? While we'd love to see educators and faculty involved, this video is really the chance for your student leaders to shine. (3 minute limit)

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- a. *You can include clips that show us the personality of your school, what you hope to achieve, people involved in your club, or showcase a few students and their passions.*
 2. Are you comfortable with this video being shared on our website or social media channels? (Optional)
 - a. *If yes, we will reach out to you to get a media release form for all video participants.*
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Example Budget

Below is an example of a budget to accompany your project plan. A budget is required for your application. List any estimated professional services, materials, or other costs anticipated with your project.

We understand this might be the first formal budget many of you may be creating, so it does not have to be perfect. We are not as much looking at a dollar-per-dollar breakdown, but more of a demonstration that you understand how to spend and access these funds effectively.

Proposed Budgetary Breakdown

Requested Grant Amount: \$10,000

Project: Los Angeles, CA – Pride Year Round at It Gets Better High

Expense	Amount
Reusable decorations (flags, bunting, banners, etc)	\$1,000
Mural installation (artist, workshop for students, supplies)	\$2,000
Speaker series (4-6 guest speakers)	\$2,000
Student mixers/workshops (4 total) (crafting supplies, curriculum, food, etc.)	\$1,250
Kick-off party (food, giveaways, etc.)	\$250
Dedicated Safe Space/GSA room (decorations, minor renovations)	\$1,000
Swag supplies (button maker, sticker maker, etc.)	\$1,500
Printing (posters, pamphlets)	\$500
New LGBTQ+ books for school library	\$500
TOTAL	\$10,000