

# Inspiring Western Australia STEM Grant Guidelines 2026

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## Overview

Inspiring Western Australia (Inspiring WA) is offering **grants of up to \$8,000** to support community-led STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) events across Western Australia (WA).

These grants aim to increase STEM engagement opportunities among historically underrepresented communities in science, including:

- First Nations communities and projects that highlight First Nations contributions to STEM
- Regional and remote communities
- Women and girls (including projects that highlight their achievements in STEM)
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) people
- People with disability
- Neurodivergent people
- People from low socio-economic backgrounds
- LGBTQIA+ people
- People facing age-based discrimination

Events can be new initiatives or expansions of existing programs, and must take place between **July 2026 and January 2027 (excluding August)**.

## Key Dates

Date	Activity
Monday 2 March 2026	Expression of Interest (EOI) opens
Monday 30 March 2026	Expression of Interest closes (5pm AWST)
Monday 13 April 2026	Full application opens
Friday 8 May 2026	Full application closes (5pm AWST)
Friday 5 June 2026	All applicants notified of outcome
Friday 26 June 2026	Successful applicants submit tax invoices
July 2026 to January 2027	Events delivered
<u>No later</u> than 15 February 2027	Post-event reports due

## Grant Process

Inspiring WA is committed to ensuring that organisations with valuable, community-driven event ideas aren't discouraged from apply. To make the process more accessible, we have introduced a two-step application process:

### 1. Expression of interest (EOI)

- Complete a short form outlining your event idea
- Receive feedback to strengthen your application for the full application

### 2. Full application

- As needed, receive guidance and support in completing your full application
- Submit a more detailed application

Please note that submitting a full application **does not guarantee funding**. Despite guidance and support, we cannot guarantee success.

## Eligibility

To be eligible, your organisation must:

- Be a **registered organisation** (ABN or auspice required)
- Uphold the **National Principles for Child Safe Organisations**, comply with all relevant Western Australian child safety laws and provide documentation upon request.
- Engage an **underrepresented community in STEM**
- Run your event **between July 2026 and January 2027** (excluding August)
- **Not** run a **school-only** event\*
- Provide a **clear budget**
- Collect participant feedback and meet reporting requirements
- Have appropriate **insurance** coverage for your event

*\*Your event should benefit the **wider community**, not just school staff or students.*

## Assessment Criteria

Applications that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed on:

- An overview of the event, including planned activities, timeline, and who will be involved.
- How the event will actively involve your target audience(s), including partnerships, consultation, or tailored activities.
- Evidence of collaboration or engagement with the identified community or communities, such as letters of support or documentation.
- The STEM content of the event and how participants will connect with and take part in STEM activities.
- The expected benefits or outcomes for participants, your organisation, and the wider community.
- The experience, skills, and resources of your organisation to successfully deliver the event.
- How you will promote the event to your target audience.

- How attendance and participant feedback will be collected and tracked.
- Potential challenges and the strategies you will use to address them.
- How the budget demonstrates effective use of funds and value for money.

## How to Apply

1. Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)
  - Complete the **EOI form** before the closing date.
  - Your submission will be reviewed, and you will receive feedback to guide your application.
2. Review and Feedback
  - If the feedback provided falls outside your scope, if there are changes to your capacity, or if you decide not to proceed, you have the option to withdraw before submitting a full application.
3. Complete Full Application
  - Complete the full application that will be sent to you via email before the closing date.

## Budget Guidelines

You can apply for up to **\$8,000 (excluding GST)** to cover costs like:

- Consumables (e.g., lab materials, art supplies for STEM workshops)
- Speaker/contractor fees
- Marketing and promotion (e.g., posters, social media ads, radio ads)
- Catering (a suggested 15% of budget towards catering)\*
- Project officer salaries or wages (a suggested 20% of budget towards salaries and wages)\*

*\*Inspiring WA invites budgets that demonstrate clear value for money. If your budget exceeds the suggested amounts for catering or wages but can justify the additional expenses, we encourage you to submit it.*

## Successful Applicants

If your application is successful, you must:

- Sign a **grant agreement** outlining key requirements.
- Submit **photos** from the event to Inspiring WA and provide photo consent forms.
- Collect and submit **participant feedback** (survey templates provided).
- Complete a **final report** by **16 February 2027**.
- **Notify Inspiring WA within 10 business days** of becoming aware of any major changes to your event.
- **Return funds** within one month if the event cannot proceed.
- Present a 5-minute overview of your event at a virtual meeting with other recipients (optional).

Failure to meet reporting requirements may impact eligibility for future grants.

## Accessibility & Inclusion

Inspiring WA is committed to ensuring our grants are accessible.

We understand that applying for funding can be challenging, and we want to support you throughout the process. If you:

- Have questions about the application process
- Require additional accessibility support
- Need an extension due to unforeseen circumstances

Please contact [wainspiringaustralia@scitech.org.au](mailto:wainspiringaustralia@scitech.org.au).

## Resources

Below are resources to assist you in your application.

### Application Support Materials:

- [Example of Grant Budget](#)
- [Example of Application Responses](#)

### Past Grant Recipients:

- [Inspiring WA STEM Grant Recipients 2024](#)
- [Inspiring WA STEM Grant Recipients 2025](#)
- [National Science Week Grant Recipients 2024](#)
- [National Science Week Grant Recipients 2025](#)

### Event Videos from Previous Grants:

- [WA Gould League: \*Beyond Boundaries: Expanding Access to STEM and Nature\*](#)
- [Victoria Park Community Centre: \*WOMEN ROCK!\*](#)
- [ICRAR: \*Connecting to Science through Stories and Sky\*](#)

If you have further questions, please contact [wainspiringaustralia@scitech.org.au](mailto:wainspiringaustralia@scitech.org.au).