



**The Dow Chemical Company Foundation
Dow Gives Community Grants Program and
Dow Gives Education Grants Program
Texas Operations, Freeport, TX**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Dow Gives Community Grants Program?

The Dow Gives Community Grants Program is an annual competitive grant program designed to support social, economic, or environmental projects that contribute to long-term success in the communities in which Dow operates and in which the majority of Dow employees live. Applicants must be charitable or non-profit organizations (have a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax designation) or be municipal or government agencies. Faith-based organizations are welcome to apply provided their projects benefit the community as a whole and not just their organization membership, and do not promote one religion over others. A committee of Dow employees and community members will select the successful projects. Non-profit organizations applying for a community grant are eligible to apply for up to \$20,000.

What is the Dow Gives Education Grants Program?

The Dow Gives Education Grants program is an annual competitive grant program for K-12 public schools in the following districts: Angleton Independent School District (AISD), Brazosport Independent School District (BISD), Columbia- Brazoria Independent School District (C-BISD), Danbury Independent School District (DISD) and Sweeny Independent School District (SISD). Private and Parochial schools in the Brazosport area are also eligible to apply. Schools can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 for local school programs or projects that increase interest and excellence in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields of study.

Why is Dow providing this program?

Dow values the opportunity to provide financial support to communities in which the Company has a presence. With great demand for contributions, Dow wants to target its funding in the areas that will have the greatest long-term, positive impact for community members.

Who may apply for the grants?

Certified 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, municipalities, county, governmental or state agencies or faith-based organizations in Southern Brazoria County communities within 30 miles of the Freeport site. This includes Angleton, Brazoria, Clute, Danbury, Freeport, Jones Creek, Lake Jackson, Oyster Creek, Quintana Beach, Richwood, Surfside Beach, Sweeny and West Columbia. K-12 public schools in the following districts can apply for a Dow Gives Education Grant: Angleton Independent School District (AISD), Brazosport Independent School District (BISD), Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District (C-BISD), Danbury Independent School District (DISD) and Sweeny Independent School District (SISD). Private and Parochial schools in the Brazosport area are also eligible to apply.

How will organizations apply for the grants?

Interested applicants can go to:

<http://www.dow.com/locations/texas/freeport/community/donations.htm> and click on Submit an Online Grant Application to access the application. You will be asked to create an account if you are a first time user of the online system, or you can log in using your email address and password if your account already exists. **NOTE: K-12 schools applying for an education grant MUST note "Education Grant" in the project title to ensure it gets included in the appropriate selection process.**

Applications will be accepted beginning Monday, August 13th.

The deadline to apply is Sunday, September 30th at 12 a.m. EST (11 p.m. CST)

What kinds of projects are most likely to be funded?

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Are one-time project costs
- Provide long-term, measurable community benefits
- Meet an identified community need, particularly in the areas of Classroom to Career, Educator Empowerment, Community Well-Being, Energy Efficiency and Affordable Housing, Increase Food Productivity & Prevent Waste and Water Access & Reuse.
- Are from organizations that are financially well administered and organized
- Demonstrate good planning and support from the community
- Encourage the participation and involvement of Dow employees and retirees
- Provide a well-researched budget
- Can complete the project with the funds from Dow – do not need to continue to do additional fund raising

It is EXTREMELY important to provide a complete budget that specifies the costs for which the community grant would be used. Without this information, the application will be considered ineligible.

What type of projects may be submitted?

This funding is directed at specific project costs that relate to long-term sustainable initiatives. It is not intended to provide ongoing operational funding. Projects must provide positive community impact in at least one of the following areas: Classroom to Career, Educator Empowerment, Community Well-Being, Energy Efficiency and Affordable Housing, Increase Food Productivity & Prevent Waste and Water Access & Reuse.

- **Classroom to Career** - Ignite interest and enhance preparedness for students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields through employee engagement and strategic partnerships. Support successful career pathways, from university partnerships to skilled trades to leadership development.
- **Educator Empowerment** - Partner with educators to build STEM teaching and leadership skills. Support educators through employee engagement inside and outside of the classroom.
- **Community Well-Being** - Enable economic development, sustainability, and education leading to socially healthy and resilient communities, while also encouraging self-sufficiency.
- **Energy Efficiency & Affordable Housing** - Increase the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings to reduce energy consumptions; and ensure access to safe affordable shelter for those in need.
- **Increase Food Productivity & Prevent Waste** - Increase agricultural yields and productivity, and provide value chain solutions to preserve food and prevent waste.

- **Water Access & Reuse** - Provide safe, clean drinking water to populations who currently lack access; preserve, clean-up and reuse precious water resourced through innovative solutions.

What type of organizations are ineligible to apply and compete for community grants program funding?

Ineligible organizations include: for-profit businesses, organizations with restricted memberships, individual sports teams, political organizations or candidates, labor unions, homeowners associations or individuals.

I received a Dow Gives Community Grant last year. Can I apply again this year?

Yes, as long as your project meets the eligibility requirements and you have completed your previous Dow Gives Community Grants project.

My non-profit group is trying to build a new community center. We need a total of \$100,000 and Dow is the first organization we've approached for funding. Are we eligible?

Not at this time. When you secure the remaining funds required, you may apply for consideration in the Community Grants Program. This helps ensure that the funding provided through this program will be utilized as outlined in the project proposal and the funds go to community groups that have researched their project and already secured other community support as required.

Can schools apply?

The Dow Gives Education Grants Program, K-12 public schools in the following districts can apply: Angleton Independent School District (AISD), Brazosport Independent School District (BISD), Columbia- Brazoria Independent School District (C-BISD), Danbury Independent School District (DISD) and Sweeny Independent School District (SISD). Private and Parochial schools in the Brazosport area are also eligible to apply. **NOTE: K-12 schools applying for an education grant MUST note "Education Grant" in the project title to ensure it gets included in the appropriate selection process.**

What kinds of things should I refrain from including in my Dow Gives Community Grant program application?

Do not apply for expenses or costs that requiring ongoing funding, including:

- Rent and utilities
- Salaries – including labor and consulting fees (e.g. engineering, architecture)
- Food
- Office supplies and equipment
- Travel expenses
- Advertising
- Fund raising events, giveaways or prizes
- Scholarships
- Dues and memberships
- Training expenses
- Lobbying expenses
- Other non-tangible, non-reusable costs that require ongoing funding in order to continue the project
- In accordance with the guidelines of The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, vehicles and other modes of transportation do not qualify for funding

Why doesn't Dow fund operating expenses?

The Dow Gives Community Grants Program and Dow Gives Education Grants Program is subject to the guidelines of The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, which requires that funding be provided to sustainable community projects and not those that require on-going operational funding. This allows Dow to spread out the benefits of the Dow Gives Community Grants Program and Dow Gives Education Grants Program to a variety of organizations annually and avoids the possibility that an organization has to suspend an important program if it does not secure Dow funding through this competitive program.

Can organizations with religious affiliations apply?

Yes, provided the benefits of their projects are available to all community members and not restricted to the organization's membership or congregation. As well, projects cannot promote one religion over others. For example, a community food bank construction project may be eligible, but the construction of a youth center associated with a particular church or religion would not.

My organization needs a new van. Would we be able to apply for funding?

No. The Dow Chemical Company Foundation guidelines do not allow for the funding of projects related to transportation.

How are the recipients selected?

The recipients are chosen by a Selection Committee made up of both Dow employees and community members. Each committee member reads all the applications and scores them based on how well they meet the grant criteria. Then they meet to discuss their scores and determine the funding allocations.

I'm a volunteer with my organization and not a professional grant writer. Will we have any chance of getting funding?

As long as you complete the application fully and provide all the information needed for the Selection Committee to make a decision, it doesn't matter if you are a professional grant writer or not. The most important thing is to read the application carefully, fully answer all the questions and provide a detailed budget of how the funds will be spent.

If we are successful, how long do we have to complete the project?

All projects must be completed by August 1, 2019 and a report must be provided to Dow. If the project cannot be completed within this time frame, a discussion with Dow representatives must be conducted to determine next steps. As well, organizations with unfinished grant projects are not eligible for further Dow funding until the project is complete.

What is the maximum dollar amount I can apply for?

For community grant applications your organization can apply for a maximum of \$20,000. For education grant applications your school can apply for a maximum of \$10,000

What if my organization only needs a portion of the total grant available? For example, what if we only need \$13,500 instead of \$20,000?

Funding requests that are less than the total amount of the available grants are welcomed, as they allow Dow to increase the number of projects that can be funded.

In addition, the Selection Committee may choose not to give an organization the full amount they have requested if they feel there are portions of the request that do not meet the program criteria.

Is there a limit on the number of grants for which an organization may apply? Why?

Dow will accept only *one application per organization*. If an organization applies for more than one grant, regardless of grant amount, the organization will be disqualified for consideration for all grants for which it has applied. This is because the Community Grants Program and Education Grants Program is intended to maximize the distribution of funding from Dow to the areas in which it provides the highest value to communities. Each submitting organization, therefore, is asked to prioritize its projects and submit only one application per year for the program that provides the greatest impact and meets the greatest need.

What is the deadline for submission of an application?

Application submission deadline is Sunday, September 30, 2018 at 12 a.m. EST (11 p.m. CST)

How do I obtain additional information about the CGP?

Additional questions about the Dow Gives Community Grants Program may be directed to Dow Community Relations at (979) 238-4159 or 979-238-0846.