Small Awards 2026

We're excited to announce applications are open for awards up to $5,000 for the IF/THEN® Champions Network! These new awards provide more flexibility to think bigger and cover more costs than previous offerings. There are two requirements: 1) be an IF/THEN Champions Network organizational member, and 2) incorporate the IF/THEN Collection, which can also include the Project Library, into a program, activity or display, or engage with IF/THEN Ambassador(s) for an event. Ideas may include, but are not limited to:

- Update an existing program or exhibit with IF/THEN content

- Deliver a program or event that features IF/THEN content

- Invite an IF/THEN Ambassador to speak

- Create a new program or activation featuring IF/THEN

- Disseminate IF/THEN for use by teachers or librarians

Apply by March 15

TIMELINE:

- Applications due March 15, 2026
- Recipients notified by April 1, 2026
- Funds should be spent by December 1, 2026

AWARD DETAILS:

- Funding up to $5,000 (20 – 25 awards anticipated)
- Applicants agree to terms and conditions at time of application submission
- Full amount disbursed at time of award
- No final report but submission of the Champions Network Activity Report is required (will be sent to members in late 2026)

ALLOWABLE COSTS INCLUDE:

- o Staffing
- o Travel
- o Materials
- o Consultants
- o Food
- o Honoraria

SPENDING RESTRICTIONS:

- o No indirect charges/administrative overhead
- o No capital expenditures
- o No purchase of alcoholic beverages
- o Not used for admission fees
- o No purchase of stock photos

APPLICATIONS INCLUDING ANY OF THESE ELEMENTS WILL BE PRIORITIZED FOR FUNDING:

- Creatively incorporate content from the IF/THEN Collection or engage with an Ambassador
- Encourage awareness and use of the IF/THEN Collection by new audiences such as librarians and teachers
- Develop shareable assets for others in the network to use e.g. Ambassador trading cards, activities, posters, etc.

FAQ:

1. What types of projects are allowed?

They may be new programs or activities, or existing programs or activities that are updated to include IF/THEN content; funds may also be used to supplement larger projects such as exhibits as long as IF/THEN is a component of the larger project.

2. Can projects include something that already exists in the IF/THEN Project Library or the IF/THEN Collection?

Yes, you can replicate a project in the Project Library or develop something that complements your current IF/THEN programs or displays using content from the Collection.

3. Are organizations that have previously received funding such as the Programming Stipend ($750) eligible for this award?

Yes, all organizational members are eligible to apply, regardless of past funding.

4. How competitive are these awards?

We anticipate 20-25 awards, meaning that 40-60% of eligible applications will be funded.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

How will the IF/THEN® Collection or Ambassador(s) be featured in your project or program? (check all that apply)

- ☐ Update an existing program or exhibit to include IF/THEN content
- ☐ Deliver a program or event that features IF/THEN content
- ☐ Invite an IF/THEN Ambassador to speak at an event
- ☐ Create a new program or activation featuring IF/THEN content
- ☐ Disseminate IF/THEN Collection resources for use by teachers or librarians
- ☐ Other (please describe)

Will you use this funding to complement one of the exhibit kits or other IF/THEN materials that you've received previously? If yes, please name the content or exhibit kit.

> *Example: We are adding supplementary content to enhance our This is What a Scientist Looks Like banners.*

Describe the program, project or event this funding will support and its connection to the gender equity goals of the IF/THEN® Initiative. Include how you will use the IF/THEN Collection or engage with Ambassadors, and whether you will include other women in STEM. (200-300 words)

Estimate how many people you will reach and describe how you came to this number.

> *Example 1: We plan to deliver our new IF/THEN program once a month over the next 6 months to approximately 30 students each time for a total of 180 people reached.*

> *Example 2: We estimate 1,200 visitors will attend this event, a 5-10% increase from our last community science night in 2024 when we had no funds for promotion.*

How much are you requesting (up to $5,000)?

Upload a PDF or spreadsheet of expenses and description of each. You may use this template.

Questions? Contact us at IfThen@astc.org.