FIRST Robotics Team Grants

Bayer Fund supports FIRST Robotics teams in communities where Bayer employees live and work to inspire and nurture students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Eligible communities are listed on the FIRST Robotics grant program webpage. The application period begins August 15 and closes September 30 at 11:59:59pm Central Time (CT).

Eligibility

What types of teams are eligible to apply for FIRST Robotics grants from Bayer Fund?
- School Districts or Organizations who hold a 501©3 tax exempt status and have been operating as a 501©3 for a minimum of two years
- School Districts or Organizations who are units of government under Section 170©(1), such as public schools, libraries, villages and municipalities
- Organizations must be located within about 55 miles of one of the eligible site communities (list available by selecting "Request a Code" in the "How do I get started" box above).

What types of teams will be considered for funding?
- FRC Teams
- FTC Teams
- FIRST LEGO League Challenge Teams (FLL Challenge)
- FIRST LEGO League Explore Teams (FLL Explore)

What types of requests are not eligible for FIRST Robotics grants?
- Teams that are not yet registered through FIRST as an official team.

Are School Districts or Organizations limited to the number of applications they can submit?
- No, but there is a limit to the number of winning applications per school. We will award up to three grants per school or organization.

Process & Timeline

What is the process for applying to Bayer Fund?
- FIRST Robotics applications are accepted on an invitation only basis. To apply, applicants must obtain the invitation code from the Bayer site contact in the team's local community. All eligible teams must be located within approximately 55 miles of a Bayer eligible site community. If you do not have a contact at the Bayer site, you may submit a summary of your team and select your eligible site community through the "Request a Code" link on the Contact Us page of this website. The Bayer site contact will get back to you with a response if they are interested in inviting your team to apply.

What is the deadline for grant applications?
- Applications are accepted once per year. Grant seekers can apply **August 15 – September 30**. Access to the online grant application will close at **11:59:59pm CT on September 30**. No grant applications will be accepted after the window has closed.

What additional information will I need to submit with my grant application?
- All grant applicants are expected to upload an [Expense Template](#) with a description of expenses associated with the project.

How do I apply?
1. Log into the application via the links provided on the Grant Programs page and click the "Continue" link located at the bottom of the Welcome page under the "Applications Requiring Action" heading.
2. Within each section of the application click the "Save and Proceed" button at the bottom of each page until you reach the end of the application, or click the last link in the timeline at the top of the page.
3. You are brought to the "Review Your Application" page. (You cannot proceed to this page until you have completed all required fields on each page.)
4. Click the "Submit" button. Once submitted you can no longer make any changes.
5. If you have questions, click the "Need Support" button located at the bottom of the page.

When and how will we be notified if we will be receiving a grant?
- Grant decisions will be communicated by email in November.

If we are not selected, will Bayer Fund provide feedback on our application?
- Due to the high volume of applications received and the Bayer Fund's small staff, we are unable to provide feedback on individual applications.

Program Information

All teams must be registered with FIRST. How do I become a registered FIRST team?
- To register a FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team, grades 9-12, click here
- To register a FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) team, grades 7-12, click here
- To register a FIRST LEGO League Challenge (FLL Challenge) team, grades 4-8, click here
- To register a FIRST LEGO League Explore (FLL Explore) team, ages 6-10, click here
- To learn more about team registration and frequently asked questions, click here

What types of requests will Bayer Fund NOT fund?
- Activities that directly support Bayer marketing programs
- Projects in which Bayer or Bayer Fund has a financial interest or could derive a financial benefit through cash or rights to intellectual property
- Organizations that discriminate based on race, creed, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or national origin.

What is the maximum grant size we can apply for?
- A FRC Team can apply for a $3,000 grant
- A FTC Team can apply for a $1,000 grant
- A FLL Challenge Team can apply for a $500 grant
- A FLL Explore Team can apply for a $500 grant

If our team receives a grant, how will payments be made?
- All grant funds will be provided directly to FIRST and applied to the appropriate team account. Once payment has been made for any competition fees, teams can request a re-grant from FIRST through their standard process to utilize any remaining funds.

Can we apply for a multi-year grant?
- No, these are one-year grant commitments.

Must the team we are applying with be a rookie team or can it be a veteran team?
- You can apply as either a rookie team OR a veteran team. If it is a veteran team, please describe previous successes as well as information on funding in the past and why you need funding from Bayer Fund at this time. If you are a rookie team, provide as much information as you can in regards to funding need and plans for fundraising.

If our team does not have a Bayer employee as a mentor, are we still eligible to apply?
- Yes. Teams are encouraged to have Bayer employees involved, but this is not a requirement.

What do reviewers look for in applications?

Team Description
- Clear team goals
- Clear team details

Team Participants
- Clear description of who will be on the team including mentors, with numbers of participants and diversity of participants

Project Impact
- Clear and realistic team goals
- Clear description of how the team's activities and impact may continue beyond the life of the grant

Project Budget
- Clear description of how the grant will be used, including clear calculations and relevant cost explanations

Reporting

What are the specific reporting requirements?

Grantees will be asked to report to Bayer Fund at the end of the grant period. An online template will be provided to grantees to report the outcomes of team goals and report financial expenditures. Grantees will be notified by email when impact reports are available and when reports are due. For a sample impact report, click here.