



7973 E. Grand River Ave.
Portland, Michigan 48875

phone: 1-800-562-8232
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www.homeworks.org

2025-26 Touchstone Energy Classroom S.T.E.A.M. Grants

HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for our 2025-26 Touchstone Energy Classroom S.T.E.A.M. Grants Program. Classrooms that serve children of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric members can receive a grant of **up to \$2,000** to fund innovative programs, particularly those involving Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and/or Math.

Teachers, staffers, and administrators of public or private PreK-12 schools may apply. Multiple projects within the same school district may be funded, so districts do not need to limit applications. The total amount given to any one project (except under special circumstances, at our discretion) in a grant year will not exceed \$2,000. **Grant funds must be claimed by Oct. 1, 2026.**

We reserve the right to take pictures of the winners and they may be printed in *Michigan Country Lines*, our member magazine; on our Facebook page; and/or appear on our website or other electronic media.

Preference will be given to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and/or Math projects and programs involving use of technology or tangible equipment that enhance learning and are not currently being funded through the school's budget.

For more information, please contact HomeWorks Communications Manager Charly Markwart at grants@homeworks.org or 517-647-1210.

Please email your completed Classroom S.T.E.A.M. Grant application to: grants@homeworks.org

DEADLINE: Your grant application must be received by Friday, Nov. 14, 2025

- **A list of eligible school districts - page 2**
- **Grant application and instructions - page 3**



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Who is eligible for a Classroom S.T.E.A.M. Grant?

Public or private schools that have children of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric members enrolled may apply for a Classroom S.T.E.A.M. Grant. The school or school district does not need to have electricity supplied by HomeWorks Tri-County Electric.

Most public school districts that serve children who live within the HomeWorks Tri-County Electric service area are listed on this page. If your school is not listed, please contact us to determine eligibility. Each separate school within a school district may apply for a grant.

For more information, please contact Charly Markwart at cmarkwart@homeworks.org, or 517-647-1210.

We serve areas of these 13 counties: Barry, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Mecosta, Montcalm, Osceola, and Saginaw.

Public school districts include: Alma, Ashley, Beal City, Big Rapids, Carson City-Crystal, Central Montcalm, Charlotte, Chippewa Hills, Clare, Dewitt, Eaton Rapids, Ewart, Farwell, Fowler, Fulton, Grand Ledge, Ionia, Ithaca, Lakeview, Lakewood, Leslie, Maple Valley, Mason, Montabella, Morley-Stanwood, Mt. Pleasant, Oneida, Ovid-Elsie, Pewamo-Westphalia, Portland, Potterville, Reed City, Saranac, St. Johns, Shepherd, Stockbridge, Vestaburg.

Note: The total amount given to any one project in a grant year is \$2,000.

Some examples of previous grants:

- Classroom software licenses for 3-D CAD/CAM software
- Mobile iPad or laptop labs
- Interactive document cameras (ELMOs)
- Video camera with high-quality audio for a band program
- A soil erosion demonstration table and rock tumbler
- Leap Frog/Leapster reading units
- Electronic balance scales for a science classroom
- Electric wiring kits for an Industrial Arts classroom
- A used telescope
- Laptop hardware upgrades
- Web-based social studies and math programs



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Touchstone Energy Classroom S.T.E.A.M. Grant Application

Applicant's Name: _____

Title: _____

School Name: _____ District: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Specific amount requested \$ _____ Today's Date: (mm/dd/yy) _____

BRIEF description of project: _____

*By completing and submitting this form, I give consent for HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative to take photographs and give permission for the photos to be published as part of any media coverage of the Grant program, if I am selected as a grant recipient. I further agree to claim grant funds by **Oct. 1, 2026**.*

Your application should include typed responses to the following questions, on a separate sheet, along with this form. If there are multiple projects within your grant application, please respond separately for each project. Responses for each project should not exceed 3 pages. You may also include photos and/or supporting data if you wish. *Please avoid references to your school's name, mascot, town name, or any other identifying descriptors in your answers.* You must have your school administration's approval for the project(s) and this application.

- Briefly describe the proposed project/program and what purpose would it accomplish?
- What is the estimated cost of the project/program? Please include an itemized list if appropriate.
- Why are outside funds needed?
- Who and how many would benefit from this project/program?
- How would you determine the success of the project/program?

Email your completed Classroom S.T.E.A.M. Grant Application to:

HomeWorks Communications Manager Charly Markwart - cmarkwart@homeworks.org

DEADLINE: *Your grant application must be received by Friday, Nov. 14, 2025. Include this completed cover sheet and your responses to the five questions above on a separate sheet (do not include any references to school name, district, town, or other identifying descriptors).*



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Here's what to expect:

Once all applications are received (by Friday, Nov. 14, 2024), it will take a few weeks for review (depending on how many applications are received) and selection. **ALL applicants will receive a letter or email with a "yes" or "no" answer.** You should hear back from us no later than Nov. 30, 2025.

Successful applicants will be asked to schedule a time for a "grant presentation" photo with our big check. We love to include students and/or administrators in these photos, which will be published throughout the year in *Country Lines* magazine, on homeworks.org, and on our Facebook page, among other places.

To get the actual money, **your school should purchase the items** listed in the grant application and submit the purchase invoice, order confirmation, or other proof of purchase (including total cost and the supplier's name and address) to Charly Markwart at HomeWorks for reimbursement. Invoices received by Monday will usually be paid on the following Thursday - we try to be quick about getting your money to you.

Please note: If you purchase the grant materials yourself, you should seek reimbursement from your school, and we will reimburse the school when we receive copies of the invoices. **We cannot make direct payments to individuals.**

If availability of equipment or software becomes an issue, or your plans change after we notify you of the grant, please contact Charly Markwart as soon as possible. Generally, as long as the cost is the same or less than the original request, we're happy to modify the grant; we just would like to know for accurate reporting of the project.

The deadline for submitting your purchase invoice(s) is **October 1, 2026**. This should give you some flexibility in when the purchase is made and the materials put to use in your classroom. (We start reminding any applicants who have not sought reimbursement in August or September.) Funds not claimed by Oct. 1 may be offered to a previously unsuccessful applicant.