



## ANNOUNCEMENT

# The Vietnam Education Foundation Alumni Small Grants Program

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The U.S. Mission to Vietnam invites alumni of Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) student and scholar fellowships to submit proposals to the VEF Alumni Small Grants Program. These grants aim to strengthen the VEF Alumni community in Vietnam by creating opportunities for alumni to work together on a shared vision of a brighter future for Vietnam and the U.S. - Vietnam relationship by addressing shared concerns. Alumni teams, which can include alumni of other U.S. Government (USG) sponsored programs, can submit proposals as a group of individuals or under the auspices of a non-profit organization in which alumni are working. Project budgets cannot exceed **\$20,000**. Proposals must be in English. Proposals may be submitted on a rolling basis between February 5 and July 31, 2018 with submission deadlines as follows: **March 31, May 31 and July 31**. Leaders of winning grant proposals will be contacted approximately two weeks after each deadline.

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligible group projects must **be led by a VEF alum, if not then an alum of a USG sponsored program AND include substantial participation of at least two VEF alumni**. All project team members must be at least 18 years old. [Note: This does not preclude the use of volunteers under the age of 18.]

### TOPICS OF ADVANCEMENT

We would like to encourage projects that support the following themes:

1. STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine)
  - Promote the study within STEMM fields, and STEMM career
  - Encourage the participation of women in STEMM fields
  - Support cross-pollination of STEMM and non-STEMM disciplines
2. Educational Cooperation
  - Enhance quality education and assist with reform, alliances, and partnerships
  - Promote U.S. higher education

3. Regional Security
  - Supports an issue of regional importance
  - Strengthen ties between the U.S. and Asia Pacific
4. Reconciliation/Removal of War Legacy Issues
  - Build trust
  - Encourage investment to enhance people-to-people ties
5. Entrepreneurship and Innovation/Reciprocal Trade and Investment
  - Expand mentoring and training
  - Create or deepen the work of Social Enterprises
  - Promote women's leadership in businesses
  - Advocate for free, fair, and reciprocal trade and investment policies
6. Respect for fundamental freedoms, human rights, and social inclusion
  - Enhance media/internet freedom
  - Expand disability rights
  - Address civil society and/or environmental concerns
7. Alumni Network.
  - Encourage connections and collaboration among alumni
  - Strengthen the VEF alumni association

## SELECTION CRITERIA AND REVIEW PROCESS

**All projects must begin by September 2018. Projects should be completed within one year. All projects must be completed by December 31, 2019.**

A panel of Embassy personnel will review and select finalists.

Priority will be given to projects that have:

- Relevance to the themes noted above
- Include alumni of other U.S. Government-sponsored programs if value-added.
- The greatest geographic and/or demographic reach
- A high level of cost-sharing (any cost shared by alumni instead of being requested from the Embassy, e.g.: venue rental, voluntary contribution of time, travel, accommodation, coordination, etc.)
- Implementation in underserved locations

Grant funds can be used to:

- Initiate activities for an alumni-run group
- Initiate a public or community service program
- Launch a pilot program at a non-governmental organization or academic institution

- Organize training programs or workshops for professional colleagues and/or other alumni
- Develop and publish curricula, textbooks, or related reference or educational materials
- Conduct alumni networking-related activities and events
- Conduct community development projects judged by the grants selection committee to be in the interest of the above program goals
- Award only a reasonable amount of honorarium/stipend to trainers

Grant funds **CANNOT** be used to:

- Cover excessive costs related to meals, drinks (no alcohol is allowed), gifts, etc.
- Support individual research projects of alumni
- Pay salaries or administrative overhead
- Support for-profit entities

## HOW TO APPLY

Alumni are invited to **submit proposals and budgets online** at: <https://goo.gl/CX7TtH>. U.S. Mission Vietnam will **not** accept proposals submitted via fax, the postal system, or delivery companies.

Proposal form: <https://goo.gl/XXQc1c>

Budget form: <https://goo.gl/t6Z1ZZ>

Should you have any questions or need support in inviting alumni members to join your project, please contact your alumni coordinators:

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