

Call for Proposals: Improving Access to Quality Education for Marginalized Groups *Revised on 23 May*

The LIN Center for Community Development is calling for proposals from local, not-for-profit organizations (NPOs) who are working to improve access to education on behalf of vulnerable groups located in Ho Chi Minh City or nearby Provinces. This is LIN's second grant round of 2014 and the fourth time grants are to be focused on a specific theme. Participation in LIN's thematic grant round offers the following key benefits to participating nonprofits:

- **FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** In September, three grants will be allocated to three projects in the amount of **VND 600 million, VND 400 million and VND 200 million.**
- **VOLUNTEER SUPPORT:**
 - **Production of a Photo Album** – Interested applicants will have an opportunity to be paired with an amateur photographer to create an album of photos that will help the NPO to communicate about its work during.
 - **Communications:** Six semi-finalists will be introduced to a communications professional who will work with them, one-on-one, to prepare project information and visuals for an online vote and community event.
 - **Project Consultation:** Three finalists will receive a complimentary project consultation, prior to the Community Event, designed to strengthen the project rationale, framework and/or evaluation.
 - **Skilled Volunteer Matching:** During implementation of their projects, all grant recipients will be prioritized to receive skilled volunteers to support staff with implementation of their projects.
- **PUBLIC EXPOSURE:** Participation in the second grant round offers NPOs a chance to introduce their work to a new network of prospective donors and volunteers. Applications will be reviewed by a volunteer panel of community members, six semi-finalists will be announced online and via LIN's network of over 9,000 local contacts and three grantees will connect with donors to the *Narrow the Gap* Community Fund during the August event and via LIN's *Narrow the Gap* page on Facebook.

LIN's objectives in offering this grant include:

- To raise awareness and draw attention to the needs of marginalized groups and to local nonprofit organizations that work to support those groups.
- To invest in projects helping to remove barriers and/or promote access to a quality education for marginalized groups who are living in and near Ho Chi Minh City.
- To support local not-for-profit organizations who are working to meet the needs of the marginalized people in our communities and to promote equal access to opportunities.
- To increase the capacity of local not-for-profit organizations through skills building during the application process and throughout implementation of the funded projects.
- To connect resourceful people who want to share with organizations in order to improve effectively the communities in which we live and work.
- To bring people together for a common cause.

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Location(s):** HCMC or nearby Provinces (including the HCMC metropolitan area, Binh Duong, Dong Nai, Long An, Cu Chi, Ben Tre etc).
- **Cause:** **EDUCATION** – The proposed project must work to improve access to quality education for marginalized groups. Projects incorporating ideas generated during the *Narrow the Gap* Ideas Contest will be given preference.*
- **Beneficiaries:** Marginalized groups include undocumented migrants, people with disabilities, the urban poor, ethnic minorities, women and children in especially difficult circumstances and other groups that are vulnerable to discrimination.

** From 14 to 30 April, as part of the Narrow the Gap campaign for education, LIN solicited stories and ideas from the general public that could help to improve access to quality education for marginalized groups. More than 93 ideas were submitted, of which are short-listed and summarized as below:*

- **Alternative Education Platforms:** Distance Learning; Online Resources, such as MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) for Vietnam; Mobile/Flexible Classrooms (to reach the Disadvantaged Children); Online Resources/Work-Study Programs (for those that have to continue working)
- **Platform Linking Various Learning/Tutoring Centers with Marginalized Students and Donors to:** (1) Provide Discounted or Subsidized Education for Marginalized Groups and (2) Help Donors to Sponsor Individuals in Need, with Confidence/Transparency
- **Education for Parents:** Learning to Talk with Your Children About School/Careers; Improving and Managing Children's Health and Nutrition
- **Build Leadership Skills:** Empower Marginalized People to Support Other Marginalized People (train four students, who train four students, who train four students, etc...)
- **Health & Safety:** Access to Regular Health Care Services; Improve Students' Nutrition (e.g., free breakfast for vulnerable children); Affordable After-School Care Programs
- **Integrated Classrooms:** Sensitization Training for School Staff (faculty, administrators, students) and for Society (parents, schools, peers and community members) towards the Needs of Marginalized Students; Networking/Social Events To Reduce Marginalization
- **Interactive Classrooms:** Applied/Practical Learning (Learning by Doing); Apply New IT/Technology and Teaching Techniques for Education; TV programs to offer education to the region
- **Job Placement Services:** Internships to Gain Practical Knowledge and Experience
- **Practical Skills Training:** Teach Practical Skills (e.g., writing an email, keeping a schedule, making presentations...); Teach Computer Literacy; Teach How to Code (e.g., software, Apps); Offer Vocational Training
- **Life-Skills Training:** Offer Courses on Building Self-Confidence/Positive Attitude; Being a Good Human Being; Mapping out the Future/Dreaming About the Future; Encourage Imagination; Provide Extracurricular Activities (e.g., languages, martial arts, computers, outdoor activities)
- **Loans/Scholarships/Subsidies for Education:** Eliminate/Reduce Financial Barriers Through Support Programs; Persuade Parents to send their Children to School (e.g., each month that a child attends school every day the parents will receive a small stipend)



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- Mentoring: Organize Student-to-Student Mentoring Program (Students from Different Schools or Classes); PenPal Program; Pair Students from Marginalized Backgrounds with Young Adults or Adults (e.g., Big-Brother, Big Sister Program)
- Student Exchange / Study Abroad: Peer Sharing To Help Overcome Difficulties; Gathering of Peers in an Academic Community.
- Teacher Training: Professional Development for Teachers; Improve Benefits for Teachers; Strengthen the Spirit of Teachers
- Individualized Support Services: Psychological Support for Individuals in Difficult Circumstances; Social Workers in Schools; Career Guidance / Educational Counseling Services
- Reading: Reading Programs; Reading Centers with Volunteers who Read Out Loud; Pleasure Reading
- Facilities to Improve Access: Improve Facilities for Special Needs Students; Support Transportation to/from School; Improve Public/Private Libraries
- Learning Tools: Provide Tools for Students with Special Needs; Quality Books; System for Sharing/Upgrading Books; School Supplies (e.g., "Learning Tools Day" where, at the beginning of each school year, all students get to buy the school supplies they need)

NPOs that integrate one or more of these ideas into their proposed projects will be prioritized in preference during evaluation. You can view the original ideas, in full, on LIN's Narrow the Gap page on [Facebook](#) and LIN's [YouTube Channel](#).

Grantee Application Process:

- Step 1. Check out details of this Call for Proposals.
- Step 2. Attend the Call for Proposals Workshop on **20 May 2014** at LIN (Optional)
- Step 3. Contact LIN for any questions/concerns (Optional)
- Step 4. Download the Grant Application Form (click [here](#) to download the form from LIN's website)
- Step 5. Complete the Grant Application Form by **17:00 on 26 June 2014** (Note: *In order to be eligible for the grant, applicants must be a LIN NPO Partner and/or submit an application to become a LIN NPO Partner along with their grant application.*)

Electronic submission is more preferred, please mail to: npo@LINvn.org. NPOs may instead mail or hand-deliver their applications to LIN Office:

LIN Center for Community Development
180/47 Nguyen Huu Canh, Phuong 22
Quan Binh Thanh, T.p. Ho Chi Minh
(848) 3512-0092

This Call for Proposals and the [Grant Application Form](#) are both available for download via the LIN website at: <http://linvn.org/news-events/item/236-call-for-proposals-improving-access-to-education>

Additional information about LIN's Narrow the Gap Community Fund past grantees is available [here](#).



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Grant Selection Process:

This Narrow the Gap Grant is designed to provide funding, build capacity and expand the support networks of local nonprofit organizations. For this reason, LIN designed the following process for reviewing applications and selecting grantees:



Phase One: Grant applications are first reviewed by the LIN team for eligibility (e.g., the application to meet the three criteria: location, cause and beneficiaries)

Phase Two: A volunteer committee reviews and evaluates applications using an evaluation form and scoring sheet provided by LIN, with following criteria:

- *Clarity/Relevance:* The project is clearly explained, proposed activities are relevant to project objectives and the project itself fits within the mission of the organization.
- *Need Analysis:* The proposal provides a clear analysis of the challenges faced by the target beneficiaries and how this project will help them to overcome one or more of those challenges.
- *Budget:* The costs for proposed activities are broken down clearly. Also to be considered is the valuation of local assets that may be contributed to the project.
- *Sustainable/Scalable:* Interventions that demonstrate the potential for replication and/or expansion, beyond the life of the grant, will be prioritized.
- *Impact:* Clear indicators and a plan for measurement of impact will be considered. Proposals introducing long-term solutions will be preferred over projects addressing short-term needs.

Up to six (6) projects will be selected as Semi-Finalists by 6 July.

Each Semi-Finalist will be given the opportunity to pair with a Volunteer specializing in Communications/PR to prepare for the next two phases of the evaluation process. Moreover, Semi-Finalists will be able to receive consultation from LIN staff and/or industry expert to strengthen any part of the project proposal (e.g., activities, indicators, evaluation plan, timeline).

Phase Three: Online Vote & Expert Review (22 July to 3 August)

LIN will create a webpage where community members can view and rank all of the six Semi-Finalist projects in the order of preference. NPOs will be requested to prepare their own online project briefs, with support from their communications volunteer and include photos or videos to introduce their project and/or past work.

The rankings from the online vote will be passed along to a panel of experts who will review all six of the semi-finalists. The panel will consider the online vote as one part of their evaluation. By 3 August, the Expert Panel will select three project proposals to advance to the final round. **The other three projects, which are not selected for the final round, will each receive a small grant – valued at VND 42 million – to be applied to one of their projects or organizational development.**

Phase Four: The three (3) finalists will have an opportunity to present their projects during an August community event, with over 300 residents who will vote for the project they like best. The number of votes each project receives during this event will determine the size of each grant to the three projects. **The finalist with the highest number of votes will receive up to VND 600 million to implement their project. The project with the second highest number of votes will receive up to VND 400 million. And the project with the third highest number of votes will receive up to VND 200 million.**

These three finalists will be supported with resources to prepare an information booth during the event. In addition, there will be time for them to present their projects to the event audience and address any questions/concerns raised herewith.

Additional information about LIN's Narrow the Gap Community Fund past grantees is available [here](#).

LIN Website: www.linvn.org

LIN Fanpage on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NarrowTheGapFund