

Funder Research Report: Hewlett-Packard Philanthropy

PREPARED BY QUINN WARNICK

Mission

HP Philanthropy's website states that its "grant programs support K-12 schools and non-profits, primarily in communities where our employees live and work, as well as institutions of higher learning, through annual grant initiatives that are launched at the beginning of each fiscal year. In addition, HP U.S. employees make a difference to schools and communities through HP's U.S. employee giving programs."

Types of Grants

Although HP makes grants all over the world, in the U.S. the organization operates two main grant programs:

HP Scholars:

- Encourage African American, Latino and American Indian students to complete degrees in technical fields.
- Scholarships are awarded to a select group of high-school seniors who have elected to pursue engineering studies at the university level. These grants are renewable each year for students who stay in engineering and meet minimal academic standards. Awards are \$ 12000.
- HP Scholars are also offered paid summer internships at HP during the three summers between their engineering studies. Each HP Scholar is matched with an e-mail mentor who helps them prepare a resume, get ready for interviews and prepare for their summer internship experience.

HP Technology for Teaching Grant Initiative:

- Designed to support the innovative use of mobile technology in K-16 education, and to help identify K-12 public schools and two- and four-year colleges and universities that HP might support with future grants.
- A list of the schools that got the grant the previous year is displayed.
- Total investment of \$30 million since 2004. Total commitment for teaching program for 2004-2006 is more than \$ 36 million worldwide.

Eligibility

HP limits its philanthropic efforts to the educational arena, focusing on K-12 and higher education. In addition, the company tries to target its giving to organizations in communities where HP has a physical presence. Despite these guidelines, the website doesn't specifically disallow applications from organizations with a noneducational focus or organizations in other communities.

Application Process

HP's website contains thorough information about the grant application process. Grant guidelines and the process are listed on the site, along with links to specific focus areas. This year's "grant initiatives" are listed on the site along with an invitation for organizations to apply, and applicants can download samples of successful past grant applications by looking under the "reports" heading.

Recommendation

I would recommend HP Philanthropy as a potential funding source if your team's scenario is focused on education. HP's grants seem narrowly focused on educational programs, and specifically on K-12 schools and school districts. Obviously, HP would also be most interested in technology-focused grants, as these relate directly to the mission and goals of the company. Outside of this narrow focus, however, I would hesitate to recommend HP Philanthropy as a funding source for most nonprofit groups.

HP at a Glance

HP Philanthropy is funded by Hewlett-Packard, a "technology solutions provider" that is ranked #11 on the Fortune 500 list. The company employs approximately 150,000 people, and its annual revenues for 2005 totaled almost \$90 billion. During the same year, HP Philanthropy donated \$45 million to charitable causes.