

UPDATE July 1, 2016

In FY16, over \$235,000 in Program Development Grant funds were awarded to SWE to assist in fulfilling the mission of SWE through various advocacy projects, both internal (professional development events) and external (K-12 and adult outreach events). In FY17, \$100,000 is available for PDG awards.

FY16 Results

This past year, approximately 75% of awards went towards external advocacy (outreach), of which the majority of award dollars (55%) went to professional grade members, including sections, affiliates and members-at-large (vs collegiate sections). Over 80% of awards were less than \$5,000, with nearly half less than \$1,000. Grants were awarded in every region, including International.

Although nearly a third of the submittals were 90 days or more in advance of their events (Thank you!), another third of the submittals had an event date occurring within 45 days of the first of the review month after its submittal. Awards are made no later than the 4th Monday, with roughly two business weeks required afterwards for necessary approvals, disbursement, and mailing as required. Oftentimes, event expenditures must be made well before the event, with no guarantee of approval, which is at the local SWE organization's fiscal risk.

FY17 Plan

In FY17, due to the reduction in available funds from FY16, we will implement across-the board funding limits and prioritization, in addition to addressing 'at-risk' awards.

At-Risk Awards

To reduce the 'at-risk' awards mentioned earlier, we will systematically reject grants which have less than 45 days between the event date and the 1st of the month in which the request is to be reviewed.

- For example, if the event requesting funding *occurs in the same month as the review*, it will be systematically rejected.
- If the event occurs *within the first two weeks of the month following the review*, it will be rejected.
- Any request which meets the 45 day requirement, but is submitted after the 1st of the month, may be reviewed the following month, so the submitter may be at risk for funding from PDG until the 4th week of the month following submittal.

This is intended to support sections who plan in advance. The optimal event date is between 60 and 90 days from the month in which the review is completed, especially if seed money is required for the event.

Funding Limits

Our goal is to support as many events as possible which meet the Society's mission of getting more females interested in engineering and technology (along with the adults who influence them) and promoting the professional development of members as it applies to their advancement in the field of E & T.

Specifically, we will be capping awards at \$5,000 while we are in constrained mode, and expect 50% of grant awards to be \$1,000 or less. While we will not reject any requests out of hand that exceed \$5,000, the rationale for awarding more than \$5,000 will have to be compelling enough to justify the exception.

Budget Allocation

Additionally, based on history since FY10, we will be allocating the \$100,000 FY17 budget by month as shown in Figure 1. Any funds not awarded in a specific month will automatically roll to the next month.

Prioritization

Finally, we may be forced in any month to evaluate requests in a somewhat competitive process, and it is very feasible to say that PRIORITY will be given to requests as follows:

1. The requesting section has not received funding for more than one other request in the fiscal year. Those with multiple prior awards in the fiscal year will be prioritized lower.
2. The event charges a registration fee which will be applied to defray costs, including collegiate professional development. Financially-based fee waivers are allowed for K-12 outreach. Requests without participation fees will be prioritized lower.
3. The event is > 60 days away. Requests in excess of 120 days may be moved to the next month's review cycle. Requests between 45 and 60 days away will be prioritized lower in the month reviewed.
4. The submitting SWE organization's unrestricted assets/operating budget ratio is between 1 and 2 (lower is better). Ratios higher than 2:1 will receive lower priority.

Please contact the committee chair at pdg-chair@swe.org if you have any questions.

Figure 1.

