Grant Title: SPARKPLUG FOUNDATION GRANTS PROGRAM

Funding Opportunity Number: N/A

Agency/Department: Sparkplug Foundation.

Area of Research: Supports projects in three areas of focus: music, education and grassroots organizing.

Release and Expiration: N/A

Application Deadline: First a telephone call must be made for a talk through of a proposal to determine eligibility. The deadline to telephone is 6:00 PM EST on Friday, October 7, 2011.

Amount: The amount of the grants awarded in 2010 varied between $2,000 and $10,000.

Length of Support: One year.

Eligible Applicants: 501(c)3 organizations and non-501(c)3 organizations with fiscal sponsors. Occasionally individuals as well.

Summary: Sparkplug aims to support projects that deal with "the whole student" and with learning as a community activity. In the past, this has included literacy projects that bring parents & kids together to learn, projects that use a neighborhood as a classroom, projects that help teachers share ideas about creative, relevant curricula, etc. The Foundation is especially interested in supporting critical and investigative thinking, and projects that address class disparities in education. The focus is very specific: the Foundation tries to fund community-based education as empowerment. In some cases, this means offering programs within schools that address disparities among students. In other cases, this means teaching basic skills like reading and math to youth who are not adequately served by schools. In yet other cases, this means teaching parents and kids together, so that the learning they start in the classroom continues at home. The Foundation also funds efforts by teachers to improve the education system, by organizing and networking themselves. This may include materials for dissemination, websites, etc.

Detailed Information: http://sparkplugfoundation.org/