



Robotics Education & Competition Foundation
Inspiring students, one robot at a time.

THE ROBOTICS EDUCATION & COMPETITION FOUNDATION

VEX Regional Grant

Sponsored by VEX Robotics

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

(RFP)

January 2019

Request for Proposal (RFP)

The Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation Regional Grant Program sponsored by VEX Robotics is explained in detail below. This RFP represents the first step in a process for school districts or regional partnerships to be considered for a grant supporting the creation of VEX Robotics Competition Teams. The Robotics Education and Competition Foundation's Regional Grant Program mission is to establish immediately sustainable VEX Robotics competition communities. The Regional Grant Program will inspire students to consider STEM-based career paths by being a significant contributor to the growth of VEX Robotics competition teams.

Summary and Background

The REC Foundation is currently accepting proposals to develop, design, and launch VEX IQ Challenge (VIQC) (focused on elementary and middle school aged students) and VEX Robotics (focused on middle and high school-aged students) programs within regions. Single school districts, a combination of school districts, or a combination of school districts and community agencies may constitute a region for purposes of this grant.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit proposals from various regions, conduct a fair and extensive evaluation based on criteria listed herein, and select the regions that can best develop, design, and launch robotics programs within their regions.

The REC Foundation intends to award regional grants to qualified applicants starting in Summer 2019. Please reference the guidelines below for more information regarding submission deadlines.

Proposal Guidelines

The RFP represents the requirements for an open and competitive process. Proposals will be accepted between January 5 and March 15, 2019. The possibility for proposals being accepted at other times during the year exists but is not expected. Interested parties are encouraged to submit their proposal as quickly as possible for inclusion in the review process. All proposals must be signed by the District Superintendent and Chief Business Officer (or equivalents).

Contract terms and conditions for specific grants will be negotiated after the review process is completed and successful applicants are identified. All contractual terms and conditions will be subject to review by the REC Foundation and will include scope, budget, schedule, and other necessary items pertaining to the project.

Program Purpose and Description

Program Description

Applicants should classify their proposals based on the tiered structure shown below.

Tier 1 Region (comprising 25 sites or less)

The REC Foundation and VEX Robotics seek regions to develop, design, and launch VEX IQ Challenge and/or VRC programs at each of their identified sites within one year. Interested applicants with less than 16 sites are encouraged to seek partnerships within the region to increase the number of sites prior to submission. All equipment provided through the grant will be disbursed after contract terms and conditions have been established through a proper Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and will remain available for use by the region as long as the region continues its participation in VEX robotics competitions. The equipment will be disbursed at training.

Tier 2 Region (comprising 26 –75 sites)

REC Foundation and VEX seek regions to develop, design, and launch VEX IQ Challenge and/or VRC robotics programs at each of their identified sites within a two or three-year period (minimum 33 percent within the first year). Multi-year implementation is preferred for most Tier 2 regions and equipment provided through the grant will be disbursed according to the planned implementation schedule as part of the terms and conditions outlined in a proper MOU. All equipment provided through the grant will remain available for use by the region as long as the region continues its participation in VEX robotics competitions. Some smaller Tier 2 regions may request single year implementation if the region is prepared to provide appropriate support.

Tier 3 Region (>75 sites)

REC Foundation and VEX Robotics seek regions to develop, design, and launch VEX IQ Challenge and/or VRC robotics programs at each of their identified sites within a three year period (minimum 50% within the 1st year). Multi-year implementation is required for Tier 3 regions and equipment provided through the grant will be disbursed according to the planned implementation schedule as part of the terms and conditions outlined in a proper MOU. All equipment provided through the grant will remain available for use by the region as long as the region continues its participation in VEX robotics competitions. Some smaller Tier 3 regions may request a two-year implementation if the region is prepared to provide appropriate support.

It is left up to each site in the region to determine how they start their team(s). Typically programs are either run:

- Within a school curriculum and during actual school hours
- As a before or after school hours club
- A combination of both A and B

Grant recipients are expected to work with the REC Foundation, or its designee, to support the collection of statistical and self-efficacy data related to the success of the project.

Project Scope

The grantee will be responsible for planning and executing a thorough implementation plan with the assistance of REC Foundation staff.

The following criteria must be met to achieve a successful project:

1. The region will assign a Program Manager to oversee and ensure the successful implementation and integration of the robotics program in the region.
2. The region will purchase a matching set of kits for each set awarded for teams through the grant and register two teams for every set of kits awarded.
3. All equipment (including matching equipment) will be ordered through the REC Foundation Regional Grant program.
4. The region will pay all team registration fees (VIQC and VRC teams). The Region will provide a roadmap of implementing programs at each of its sites over a 1-3 year period according to the tier structure outlined in section 4.
5. The Region will host at least 1 tournament each year for all teams from the individual sites.
6. The Region will identify at least 1 site to host competitions and designate “Event Partners” to host competition events in support of the teams started with their grant award.
7. Teams from the individual sites will participate in at least 1 local tournament.
8. Robot kits and its associated robotics tournament equipment will remain accounted for and maintained in a secure, clean location.
9. Applicants are required to demonstrate capability for long-term sustainability of their programs beyond the duration of the grant.
10. Pays all applicable shipping costs. **Free Shipping is available if the region receives all materials at a central location for distribution to sites and purchases matching kits for each VRC kit provided.**

In turn the REC Foundation and VEX will provide the following:

- a. Each VEX IQ site will receive:
 - ❖ 1 VEX IQ Grant Kit for every two teams valued 450.00 consisting of:
 - 1 VEX IQ Super Kit (P/N 228-2500)
 - 1 VEX IQ Competition Add-on (P/N 228-3600)
- b. For Support of VEX IQ tournaments:
 - ❖ Competition Full Field Kit & Materials, valued at \$300.00.
 - VEX IQ Challenge Full Field Perimeter and Tiles (P/N 228-2550)
 - VEX IQ Full-Field and Game Element Kit (specific to current game TBD)
 - * *Quantities determined by number of teams included in the grant.*
- c. Each VRC Site will receive:
 - ❖ VRC Grant Kit per team valued at 1400.00 consisting of:
 - 276-6600 V5 Competition Starter kit
 - 200.00 Dollar VEX Robotics Voucher

d. For Support of VRC tournaments:

- ❖ Competition Full Field Kit & Materials, valued at \$2,500*.
 - Competition Field Perimeter Kits
 - Competition Field Tile Kits
 - VEXnet Field Controller Kits
 - VEX Competition Field Monitor Stand
 - Competition Field Monitors (16”-19” LED Monitors)
 - Game objects and game elements (specific to current game TBD)
 - * Quantities determined by number of teams included in the grant.

e. Coach Professional Development (valued at \$12,000)

- ❖ 3 days intensive project based learning for participants
- ❖ Maximum of four (4) REC Foundation staff will lead each professional development
- ❖ Virtual refresher (webinar) session 6 weeks following on-site professional development
- ❖ Post training support for events and participants
 - Onsite support for first grant required tournament
 - Regional Support Manager will provide traditional support to district.

Request for Proposal and Project Timeline

Request for Proposal Timeline:

Proposals in response to this RFP are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants that wish to be considered for a summer 2019 award, should submit proposals no later than March 31, 2019. Note that applications will be considered as they are submitted and the number of grants awarded is dependent on available funding.

Please include in the proposal, complete contact information for the person(s) that will be responsible for working with the REC Foundation in developing an acceptable memorandum of understanding if the grant is approved.

Project Timeline:

Please create a timeline for the development and full implementation of the robotics program supported by this grant. Please use a simple table, like the one below, to list tasks and commitment dates for identified milestones associated with this project.

Task Description:	Completion Date:

Project specifics may be modified and updated during the initial planning and MOU development period. Please provide projections in the project timeline to allow a review of the applicant’s readiness to complete the work described in this RFP.

Budget

All proposals must include proposed costs to complete the tasks described in the project scope. Please include a table for the projected budget in the proposal. It is important to list direct costs to the REC Foundation, outlined in Section 5, in addition to in-kind and matching support committed to execute the entirety of the grant. Please don't forget to include a total cost of the project for the REC Foundation and for the applicant.

Regional Demographics

Regions should provide the following as part of their proposal for consideration:

- Total number of sites:
 - o Elementary Schools
 - o Middle Schools
 - o High Schools
 - o Community organizations
- Total number of Title I schools
- Total number of students within region
- Socioeconomic status of participating schools
- Project Management methodology

Sections of the Proposal

The proposal should include at a minimum the following sections:

Project Summary, Background information related to applicant, Purpose and description of project, Scope of project (including budget information), and any documents supporting the sustainability of the robotics program.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

REC Foundation and VEX will evaluate all proposals based on the requested criteria.

Each Region may submit their proposal in either hardcopy or email to the addresses below:

- Email electronic pdf copy to: grants@roboticseducation.org
- Mail a printed copy to:

REC Foundation
1519 I-30 West
Greenville, TX 75402