



# Hunter's Grant Guidelines

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***1. Who is eligible to apply for a Grant?***

Age - Applicants must be at least 16 years old and not more than 26 at the time of submission of an application

Location - Must be a legal resident of the US, UK, or St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Not-Eligible - Must not be a family member or relative of Hunter Watson's family, nor family of the Hunter Watson Founders Committee or Board of Directors.

### ***2. What types of Grants are funded?***

Preference is given to applications in the areas of music, performing arts, computer science, and entrepreneurship. Examples of past Grants that have been funded appear in the newsletter archive on our web site.

### ***3. What Grant amounts are available?***

We accept applications for projects needing funding between \$500 and \$5,000. The average award is \$3,500. Applications requesting a full \$5,000 are subject to additional review and may be delayed to the next Grant cycle.

### ***4. How many Grants are awarded each cycle?***

To recognize new ideas as they emerge, Hunter's Fund reviews Grant applications twice a year, with closing dates of June 15 and November 15. The number and amount of Grants awarded depend on the quality and number of Grant applications received, in addition to funds available.

### ***5. How are Grants selected for each Grant Cycle?***

The Hunter's Fund Grants Committee reviews all applications that meet the stated requirements. Each application is assigned a score for each answer. Each reviewer's scores are added together to achieve an overall ranking for the application. Therefore it is important to answer every question and submit two recommendations to achieve the highest score. The top candidates are sent to Hunter's Fund Board of Directors, who makes the final decisions. Applicants receiving the five highest scores may be asked to submit a 1 to 2-minute video to personally describe their project and passion.

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### **6. How can I improve my chances of being awarded a Grant?**

This program was founded for awarding Grants to students like Hunter, who had an insatiable curiosity about things in the area of music, performing arts, computer science, and entrepreneurship. Most applicants benefit from knowing something about Hunter, which you can easily find in the section “About Hunter” on our web site at [www.hunterwatson.org](http://www.hunterwatson.org). These are the things the Grants are based upon. Also, take time to review the newsletter archive to learn more about what has been previously funded. Previous Grant winners have used this information to improve the possibility of their Grant being funded.

### **7. Can I use the funding to support my college tuition?**

No. The mission of Hunter’s Fund is to enable young entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams, and we are deeply committed to following this model. Therefore, unless there is a compelling reason why some tuition is needed to complete a project, we do not accept applications that request financial assistance for tuition purposes.

We do, however, understand that financial aid is important and thus encourage you to apply to several scholarship organizations to put together a financial package to assist with tuition and other needs that you may have that Hunter’s Fund does not finance.

### **8. How thorough is the application?**

Applications must contain a detailed explanation of the project, timeline, and budget, including any other sources of funding you may be receiving. Your budget should list only the essential and necessary components needed to complete your project. All Grant funds must be used for the specific purposes described in the application and not be used for any other costs or expenses without prior written approval from Hunter’s Fund.

### **9. What types of expenses should NOT be included in my budget proposal?**

Carefully budgeting your proposal is a key part of the application process. Any expense that is not properly justified may delay the review and selection process. The following are a list of items that are not supported through this Grant: new computers, business development supplies (i.e., business cards), membership in organizations, social media platforms, or obtaining patents before a project has been development and has proof of viability. Most laptop computers and music instruments/equipment can be rented or available through schools, libraries, or specialized stores. If your application requires these supplies, include a budget line for rental expenses. If you feel a purchase is necessary, please include a clear and thorough justification in your proposal and expect your application to require additional examination.

### **10. How important are grades and leadership to the application?**

Applicants’ GPA, community service, leadership roles, or religious affiliation will neither benefit nor negatively impact an application. School transcripts are requested only as evidence that the applicant has attended school and is in good standing.

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### ***11. What about references?***

All applicants must identify two references who can speak to their character and passion. Hunter's Fund will notify the references and request they upload their recommendation letter to the grantee's profile by the application deadline. References must be professional contacts or teachers. Relatives and friends are not accepted. Applications lacking references will not be considered.

### ***12. What about a presence on the Internet?***

It is becoming increasingly important for applicants to have material available online to help our Grants Committee get a feel for your work. Musicians post their material, performing arts applicants post video, entrepreneurs may have web sites related to their ideas, and computer science applicants may have LinkedIn, Facebook, or other postings where they refer to their passion.

### ***13. When is the best time to complete my application?***

Our online application platform allows you to save your data as entered so you can work on it up to the deadline date to completely finish your application. Deadlines are June 15 and November 15 each year. Uncompleted applications are removed after those dates. Critical items to gather ahead of time to be sure they can be uploaded are photos, transcripts, and contact information for your references.

### ***14. Do I need to attach a photo?***

Yes, a photograph (headshot only). If you are awarded a Grant, the photograph will be used by Hunter's Fund in press releases and publicity materials. The photograph should be one you would be pleased to see with announcements of your award. If you are already working on a project related to your Grant request, we also encourage you to include photographs of that work with your Grant application.

### ***15. What if I have a browser or computer problem?***

If you have difficulty with our online application working on your computer platform, you should switch to another platform or email a description of the problem, along with your contact information to [grants@hunterwatson.org](mailto:grants@hunterwatson.org).

## **If You Are Awarded A Grant**

### ***1. How will the selected Grant winners be announced?***

Grant winners will be announced on our website on the Grant Winners page. Given the high number of applicants and our all-volunteer Grants Committee and board, applicants not selected for funding will NOT be individually notified or offered recommendations on how to improve their future applications. However, we hope all applicants, whether selected or not, continue to find creative ways to pursue their dreams.

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## ***2. What happens if my budget needs change in the course of implementation?***

All Grant funds must be used for the specific purposes described in the application and not be used for any other costs or expenses without prior written approval from the Hunter's Fund. If the budget needs change, you must contact the Grants administrator with Hunter's Fund for direct approval before using funds. If Hunter's Fund determines that the recipient has not met the terms and conditions of these Grant Guidelines, Hunter's Fund may take all reasonable and appropriate steps to recover Grant funds.

## ***3. What if I change my mind about my project after being awarded a Grant?***

Once funded, projects must be completed unless our Grants Committee approves changes to the original project funded. If it is decided that the recipient has not met the terms and conditions of Grant guidelines, Hunter's Fund may take all reasonable and appropriate steps to recover Grant funds.

## ***4. How does the Fund monitor my progress?***

Upon award of a Grant, Mentors are assigned to each grantee. This will be your principal contact to receive advice and make sure funds are distributed properly and offer opportunities for continued engagement as a Grant alumnus at the end of your project period. You will be expected to submit a one to two-page report with pictures and a 1-2 minute video or your work six months after the Grant is awarded or within one month of a project's completion (whichever comes first). Reports should include the following:

- 1) A description of your project.
- 2) How you have used the funding from the awarded Grant.
- 3) What effect being awarded a Grant has had on you personally.
- 4) How Hunter's Fund was recognized for supporting your project.
- 5) Photos from your project.

## ***5. Can I opt-out of being featured on Hunter Watson's online platforms as a grantee?***

If awarded a Grant, you agree to allow us to use your full name, story, pictures, and other details for publicity purposes. We are sensitive about personal privacy and would not disclose personal contact information such as phone numbers or addresses without your permission. However, we reserve the right to share your story and highlight Hunter's Fund work to uplift the next generation of creative innovators and generate more support for this work.

## ***6. Why do I have a mentor, and how often should I be connecting with my assigned mentor?***

At the Hunter's Fund, we believe that to pursue your dreams, you need support of all kinds. Your mentor is specifically selected to fit your interests and is meant to offer input, guidance, and support to meet your goals. We ask that you check in with your mentor regularly, or at least monthly by email, text, or phone to update them on your progress.

Over, please.

## **7. What if I have additional questions?**

Our Grants Committee consists of all volunteers and cannot answer questions by phone. Questions will be answered when time is available and should be sent to [grants@hunterwatson.org](mailto:grants@hunterwatson.org).

## **8. How long do I have to complete my project?**

Funding for your grant must be completed within 12 months of receiving notice that you have been awarded the grant. If you are delayed or unable to begin the project you will need to re-apply for a grant. If funds are awarded you are expected to complete the project unless circumstances beyond your control occur that prevent you from doing so.

## **Expectations of A Grant Winner**

### ***If I am awarded a Grant, what will be expected of me in return?***

1. *Advocacy* - You will be expected to be an advocate for who Hunter was and what Hunter's Fund represents whenever opportunities arise.

2. *Speaking Opportunities* - You must share your funded project during one public event (or more) to a relevant audience (i.e., club, church, community, target audience, classmates, etc.) during which you are also expected to speak a minimum of one minute about Hunter's Fund and Hunter Watson's character during this presentation. Please share your event with your mentor and Grant administrator.

3. *Media Interviews* - Because of the uniqueness of our Grant winners, many are interviewed by media. Some Grant winners are so excited about talking about their project they forget to mention they received a Grant from Hunter's Fund. We ask that you make direct reference to the Hunter's Fund Grant and share links to media reports with your Grant Administrator and mentor to show this.

4. *Printing or Website Material* - You are expected to recognize Hunter's Fund support wherever possible by including our name or logo on any brochures, flyers, PowerPoint slides, web pages, or social media posts you publish. The simple description "Made possible by a Grant from Hunter's Fund" is a minimum.

5. *Awareness* - Once a year, Hunter's Fund hosts Hunter Fund Social Media Day to build awareness of our Grants and Safe Driving programs. If awarded a Grant, you agree to participate with other Grant Winners along with Hunter's Team to simply post to your social media - Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, the importance of Hunter's Grants and Hunter's Pledge to End Distracted Driving and encourage donations to support the Grants and safe driving programs. This campaign will only take about 30 minutes of your time.

6. *Video Testimonial* - Several months after receiving your Grant, you will be asked to record a 1 - 2-minute testimonial of what your Grant has meant to you and the community.

7. We ask that you also share this on your personal social media platforms. and follow us on the following:

- Social Media - Follow us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.  
Tag us in posts about your project #huntersgrant

### ***Will I be required to pay the Grant back?***

No. However, some Grant winners who have achieved financial success after receiving a Grant have often contributed the amount of their Grant back to help someone similar to them explore their dreams.