



PEF OFFERS FUND FOR TEACHERS FELLOWSHIPS IN 2016

WHAT IS FUND FOR TEACHERS?

Fund for Teachers (FFT) is a national organization that invests in the personal and professional growth of preK-12 teachers as they pursue summer learning experiences that change careers and classrooms. Fund for Teachers partners with PEF in Chattanooga to extend this grant opportunity to eligible public school teachers in Southeast Tennessee. PEF in turn partners with the Hamilton County Department of Education in Chattanooga to offer these grants to its teachers specifically and also serves as a liaison for other interested teachers in the region. This will be the fifth year that PEF will offer the Fund for Teachers Fellowships in Hamilton County and SE Tennessee.

FFT and PEF believe that teachers know best what will make them better, so we invite them to design summer learning experiences that they believe will have the greatest impact on their practice, students, classrooms and school community. Our goal is to empower teachers as learners so that they return to the classroom with renewed energy and creative inspiration to spur powerful student engagement. We encourage teachers to be bold, creative and thoughtful in designing a meaningful learning experience that fulfills personal and professional aspirations and advances student learning.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE FELLOWSHIPS?

Fund for Teachers grants are open to any preK-12 public school teacher, including those in charter schools, who meets the following criteria: He/she must have at least three years of experience as a full-time classroom teacher, work at least 50% of the school day in direct instruction with students, and pledge to return to the classroom the following fall. Teachers may apply individually or in teams. They can access the application form at www.fundforteachers.org or through PEF at www.pefchattanooga.org/fundforteachers.

HOW MUCH IS AWARDED AND WHAT WILL IT COVER?

Fund for Teachers awards fellowship grants of up to \$5000 for individuals or up to \$10,000 for teams. The grants, administered through PEF, are intended to cover such costs as travel, tuition, food and lodging, materials, and related expenses.

WHEN WILL APPLICATIONS, SELECTION AND AWARDS HAPPEN? WHO DETERMINES RECIPIENTS?

The online application is available on the FFT website from October 1, 2015 through January 28, 2016. During that time, FFT hosts online webinars, and PEF holds information sessions in both downtown Chattanooga and Cleveland TN at convenient locations and times leading up to the application deadline, in order to help teachers with the grant-writing process. In late winter, PEF invites community representatives to serve on a Selection Committee that reads the applications and determines the recipients. The committee includes business persons, civic leaders, and union officials, in addition to former Fellows and other educators. FFT and PEF announce the 2015 Fellows on April 5, 2016.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF TEACHERS WHO RECEIVE A FELLOWSHIP?

Following their fellowships, grant recipients complete a narrative report describing their experience and insights, an expense report, and a description of the specific new student modules and school-wide activities resulting from their odyssey. Fellows also share their insights at a fall Celebration of Teacher Learning hosted by PEF and at information sessions for potential applicants the next year. PEF continues to involve Fellows as media spokesmen on behalf of teacher learning and provides them with additional opportunities to enrich their roles as teachers and school leaders.

Ultimately, PEF expects FFT Fellows to return to their classrooms with a renewed sense of purpose and an enhanced passion for teaching, and to then transfer the lessons they learned into enriched classroom applications that drive deep student learning. Our experience of the past four years is evidence that this is indeed what happens.

HOW DOES FFT HELP PEF AND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS MEET THEIR PRIORITIES?

PEF's mission is to improve student learning. We understand that great teaching is central to student learning. We know that effective, engaging teachers are learners themselves who seek opportunities to stay at the top of their game and rekindle the passion that led them to their profession. It is especially important to offer these opportunities to teachers now when they face a host of challenges related to higher student expectations, increased accountability, and new STEM content. This is the role that PEF plays for public school teachers and FFT helps us do it.

Since 2012, PEF has awarded 111 Fund for Teachers fellowships to educators representing approximately 40 public schools in Chattanooga and SE Tennessee.

WHERE ELSE DOES FUND FOR TEACHERS WORK?

Since 2001, Fund for Teachers has invested more than \$3 million in the learning of 6,000+ preK-12 teachers all across the US. With these grants, Fellows travel to every continent to attend seminars, conduct field research, volunteer with community organizations and deepen competencies. More information on Fund for Teachers is at www.fundforteachers.org, [facebook.com/fundforteachers](https://www.facebook.com/fundforteachers), or fundforteachers.tumblr.com.