



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I apply for the SPARK Equity Awards?

- Visit our Equity Awards landing page, www.sparkpe.org/equityawards.
- Download and read the instructions document explaining the application process.
- Complete the online application form.

2. When are the applications due?

- By 11:59pm Pacific Standard Time on February 25th, 2026.

3. What are the funding categories?

- **Individual Award**
 - A single teacher/provider can apply for 1 SPARK program which includes curriculum, professional development and equipment.
- **Organization Award**
 - Organizations can apply for curriculum, professional development and equipment for multiple teachers, providers, or sites within their organization.

4. Who is eligible to apply for the Equity Awards?

- The School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences at San Diego State University is looking to award funding to individuals/organizations who serve students/youth in low-income and underserved communities. Eligible applicants include:
 - Individual PE teachers from both public and private schools
 - Public/Private School district s Members of both public and private schools
 - Organizations that provide physical activity for children.
 - Individuals/Organizations who were awarded a SPARK Equity Award the previous year.

5. What are the main criteria for selecting awardees?

- The goal is to fund multiple applicants in each of the 2 categories to support as many youth and programs as possible. The committee will evaluate applications based on:
 - Needs of the district/organization and the students/community.
 - Ability to effectively implement the SPARK program.
 - Number of students/youth that will be directly impacted by the grant.
 - The amount of money requested per student served.

6. What is the total amount of money available and how much can I apply for?

- The foundation has a total of \$140,000 to distribute to awardees.
- **Individual applicants** will not request a specific monetary amount; instead, you will select the resource bundle for the program that you choose valued at a set amount.
- **Organization applicants** do not a maximum dollar amount you can apply for. As a reminder, the goal of the equity awards is to support as many students/youth as possible. Please keep this in mind as you choose the amount for your grant proposal as it is a priority to award to multiple deserving organizations.



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7. Can we submit more than one application?

- Unfortunately, no. Only 1 application per individual or organization. Please connect with others in your organization to confirm who will submit.

8. How will applications be reviewed & scored?

- A review team with expertise in SPARK programs, childhood physical activity, and health equity will rate the eligibility, documentation of need, and responses to the application items.

9. When will awards be announced?

- SPARK Equity Awards will be announced by April 6, 2026.

10. How will we be notified if we receive grant funding?

- All applicants will be notified by email from Dr. Matthew Mahar, Director of the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences at San Diego State University, by end of day on April 6, 2026.
- A list of awardees will also be posted on the SPARK Equity Awards landing page, sparkpe.org/equityawards and shared via social media - follow @SPARKPhysEd.

11. If I am awarded a SPARK Equity Award, when will I receive the check/ money?

- You will not be receiving a check or money – the award is for the “goods & services”. The “goods & services” you receive will all be processed and paid for by the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences at San Diego State University.

12. How can I learn more about the application process and ask questions?

- **Read the instructions document**
 - Document can be downloaded from the SPARK Equity Award landing page.
- **Attend our live webinar**
 - The live webinar will be held on December 10th, 2025. 7pm-8pm EST/4pm-5pm PST.
 - Link to register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8341867627926893917>.
- **Watch the webinar recording**
 - The video link will be posted on the SPARK Equity Awards landing page.

13. As an awardee, is it required for the individual or the organization to do anything after receiving the SPARK “goods & services”?

- SPARK Equity Award recipients will be asked to complete a short survey after use of the SPARK materials and are encouraged to post about their program implementation and successes on social media using the hashtag #SPARKequityawards.