



One World, Many Voices Call for Projects - 2013

The American Chamber of Commerce in the Czech Republic (AmCham) opens a grant competition for projects beneficial for communities.

Why is AmCham opening the grant competition?

We would like to support:

- Engagement of children and youngsters in the public life of their local community through realization of publicly beneficial projects
- Pupils and students in trying to be active citizens
- Close cooperation between children and elected representatives of municipalities or regions, and thus show importance of civic participation in democracy
- Communication skills in English language
- Application of theoretical knowledge in practice

AmCham is an association of more than 400 companies doing business in the Czech Republic. The Chamber aims for continuous improvement of business environment in the Czech Republic. Quality and stability of public administration is very important for running a business and prosperity of the country. Therefore we would like to encourage people to be interested in public matters and to participate as active citizens in running their municipalities and state.

Who can compete for grants?

Classes (or other school groups) of public basic schools and public high schools in the Czech Republic can submit their project proposals.

What kind of project can you submit?

- Project has to be **beneficial for wider local community / public** (not only for the class or school). You may map some issue in your town, come up with solution in cooperation with others and then realize it thanks to the grant.
- Pupils or students who will realize the project have to **cooperate** not only with their school, but also with **public / local community** and with **elected representatives** of the municipality or the region (or other government representatives). If the project does not include cooperation between children and elected representatives, it will not be evaluated by the Commission. It would be good to engage various groups of people and the local public in preparing the project and coordination meetings already. Do not be afraid to discuss your proposals with the mayor or other representatives of your town, and to gain their interest in the beginning of your project. If you want to win a grant, you have to cooperate with someone from municipal government (and it cannot only be mayors' opening speech ☺)
- Try to come up with something that will have big impact, something what **changes life** in your town **for the better** and for long time
- Projects should have a **positive effect in long term and be sustainable**. It means that after spending the grant the activity will continue or develop in upcoming years (without need to repeat the grant). The grant should be used as an impulse to starting or developing a project that will be beneficial in long term. Do not forget to mention who will continue in the project when you leave the school – who will be your successor?
- **Budget items** of your project have to be **linked to the purpose of the project**, and this link has to be clear in the project proposal. If you need some equipment, you should write the reasons why you need it to reach the project objectives. We expect the work on the project will be done voluntarily; therefore projects should not include compensation (salary) to implementers of the project. In exceptional cases, with good reasons, compensation can be covered from the grant, but only for unique or expert works which could not be ensured in other way.
- **Write the project in English** and do **not be scared** of some mistakes. You can consult it with your English teacher, but they should not write the project instead of you – students. By doing this, you will try to formulate your thoughts in foreign language and convince others, that you have a great idea.
- **Main initiators and realizers of the projects should be children or students**



How much can you get?

You can get CZK 10.000-100.000 for your project. In 2013 AmCham will allocate CZK 537.000 in total.

How should you submit a project?

To submit a project you should **fill in the form attached**. Projects in the filled form should be sent by email to echvalkovska@amcham.cz by **June 17, 2013**.

A project proposal should be written by pupils or students in English language (teachers can assist children of the 7th classes and younger).

Project should not be longer than 3 pages (A4 format)

Projects should contain mainly:

- Purpose and clearly defined objectives of the project
- Who will be involved in the project and what their roles will be (class, school, local community, public, local government or other government representatives)
- Time schedule of realization
- How long the project will last after its realization, project sustainability
- Breakdown of expected budget, including amount of requested grant
- Contact

For more details please see the blank form attached.

Communication

Teams winning the grants will also ensure communication about their project realization. Among others, this communication should bring inspiration to other classes and schools, it should show, how children can be engaged in public life, how they can change the world around them and how they cooperate with town or region representatives. List of communication output will be requested in the final report. We recommend using mainly: school website, website of the school founder (town or region), local newspapers or municipal newsletter, regional newspapers, or radio and TV. News about project realization can be also posted on Facebook page of the grant program www.facebook.com/OneWorldManyVoices

Awarding a grant

Grants will be awarded to individual projects as a donation contract with a school.

The project has to be realized within 12 months from receiving the money.

The final report

The final report in English language has to be submitted to AmCham up to 2 months after the project realization. It has to be written by pupils / students (teachers can assist children of the 7th classes and younger).

The final report will include:

- Evaluation of the project realization (fulfillment of the project objectives and expectations, involvement of individual groups of participants, future usage of the project)
- Media monitoring – list of media outputs about the project
- 3-5 minute video about the project and its realization (in English or with English subtitles)
- Breakdown of all the expenditures spent and their receipts

Evaluation of the project proposals will be done by a commission composed from AmCham representatives and based on following criteria

- Purpose and objectives of the project, positive effect for the community / public
- Level of cooperation between pupils / students and school, local community/public, municipal government, region or other public representatives
- Long term benefits of the project and its sustainability in next years
- Value for money (reasonability of costs)
- Commission will decide about awarding grants by the end of September 2013

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact program coordinator Eva Chvalková at echvalkovska@amcham.cz or at mobile phone 739 357 951.