

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

A Service Sorority
Grand Chapter

February 2017

TO: Chapter Presidents

FROM: Beverly E. Smith
National First Vice President and
Chair, Scholarship and Standards Committee

RE: **CHAPTER SEED GRANTS**



To stimulate the development of innovative scholarship and financial aid programs, the Scholarship and Standards Committee will offer again for the 2017-2018 fiscal year a limited number of Seed Grants to chapters interested in developing creative programs. Chapters interested in applying for aid must complete and return the attached proposal form to National Headquarters **not later than April 8, 2017**.

Additionally:

- (1) Proposals will be reviewed by the Scholarship and Standards Committee at its spring 2017 meeting.
- (2) Chapters will be notified of the funding status of their proposals following that meeting. Grants to chapters whose proposals are selected will be issued in the fall of 2017.
- (3) The maximum amount that a chapter may apply for and receive is \$300.
- (4) Proposals will be reviewed for: (a) completeness of information; (b) innovativeness of the program and the potential benefit to the participants; and (c) the appropriateness of the budget.

These funds are not to be used for food nor awarded as individual/combined financial aid to an individual or group. Chapters are encouraged to use rental-free facilities, if at all possible. If resource personnel or consultants are required, chapters are encouraged to identify professionals whose time can be donated to the chapter's program.

- (5) Chapters receiving Seed Grants must submit a final report by **April 1, 2018** (for fiscal year 2017-2018), describing the effectiveness of the project. **IF A FINAL REPORT IS NOT SUBMITTED, THE CHAPTER WILL BE INELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION.**
- (6) Chapters may receive a Seed Grant for the same project only once.
- (7) Chapters are only eligible to receive one Seed Grant per year.
- (8) **Programs related to national initiatives (i.e., Delta Gems, Embodi and Financial Fortitude, etc.) are not eligible for a Seed Grant.**

Following is a suggested listing of workshops and special program areas that chapters may wish to consider:

Δ Financial Aid Workshops

One approach toward reaching a wider segment of parents, youth, adults and others who are changing careers or returning to training would be toward the workshop approach and workshop resources. This may be a one-day approach, or it may be a series of sessions on a weekly or monthly basis.

Focus might be on the types of federal and state aid: grants, scholarships, loans and jobs. The availability of funding and the appropriate application processes required by various colleges and universities and by the different funding programs should be an important part of a financial aid workshop. Contact the appropriate funding sources in your respective cities and states.

Δ Special Situation Funding Programs

One emphasis of the local on-going program may be concentration on special situation programs, i.e. by numerous employers, labor unions, foundations, religious organizations, organizations and civic groups. What are the special sources of financial aid that may be available to the following? (If you are not aware of the specific sources, investigate local/community support in these and other areas.)

- Single Parents (Male or Female)
- Economically Disadvantaged Students
- Physically Handicapped Students
- Veterans
- Teenage Mothers
- Persons Incarcerated or Ex-Offenders
- Ethnic Groups or Nationalities
- Financial Assistance and/or Services Available for Senior Citizens

(If you have additional sources, please send this information to my attention at National Headquarters.)

Δ Admissions Testing

The purposes of and the deadline dates for the numerous tests, i.e. ACT, PSAT, SAT, all get to be rather confusing. Chapters may come up with some new ways of helping the students/parents/any others affected to understand the testing jargon, the why of necessary tests and the interpreting of the results as well as the effect of the results on admissions and placement.

Δ Other Student Service Programs

Sessions may be held and resources prepared to familiarize persons with library resources, application and interview procedures, and many other related activities. Sessions may be devoted to the more mature student in helping them to improve their skills in communicating and/or to retool their job-hunting skills so as to move to higher internal levels.

Programs to prepare displaced homemakers or other unemployed or underemployed persons for re-entry into the labor market would be a valuable service to the community. You may also want to write the U.S. Department of Education, the Secretary, for copies of the latest edition of THE STUDENT GUIDE (which tells about federal student aid programs and how to apply for them) or their latest student financial aid guide.

Please return to National Headquarters by April 8, 2017.

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**CHAPTER SEED GRANT APPLICATION FORM
2017 – 2018**

Chapter

Chapter #

Region

Chapter President

Project Coordinator

Title of Project

Applications will be reviewed by the National Scholarship and Standards Committee during its spring meeting and chapters will be notified of the funding status of their proposal(s) following that meeting. The maximum amount that can be granted is \$300. When completing your application, please be mindful of the following: completeness of information; innovativeness of the program and the potential benefit to the participants; and the appropriateness of the budget. Chapters are only eligible to receive one (1) Seed Grant per year. Programs related to national initiatives (i.e., Delta Gems, Embodi and Financial Fortitude, etc.) are not eligible for a Seed Grant.

(1) Describe what need your plan is designed to address:

(2) Briefly state project objective(s):

(3) Describe plan of action and timelines:

(4) Estimate the involvement of your chapter's membership, target group and other participants from the community:

(5) Briefly describe how you plan to evaluate the effectiveness of this project:

(6) Briefly itemize the complete budget for the project:

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Chapter President Signature _____ Date _____
Address—Street or PO Box _____
Address—City/State/Zip _____
Telephone Day _____ Telephone Evening _____

NOTE: Chapters receiving Seed Grants MUST submit a final report to National Headquarters or the National Scholarship and Standards Committee by April 1, 2018 (for fiscal year 2017 - 2018), describing the effectiveness of the project. If a final report is not submitted, the chapter will be ineligible for future consideration.

(Please Use Additional Sheets If Necessary)

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TYPED APPLICATION via CERTIFIED MAIL TO:

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
ATTN: Membership Department (Seed Grant Application)
1707 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20009