



## **Investing in the Power of Families 2026 Grant Challenge Application Instructions**

Thank you for your interest in applying for a 2026 Challenge Grant. Parents as Teachers National Center is pleased to be able to offer these one-time grants to support affiliates with projects in the following categories: Combatting Maternal and Infant Mortality, Family Leadership Development, Workforce Development, Program Quality Improvement, and Community Responsiveness.

**Parents as Teachers Affiliates from five countries** – United States, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, may apply for the grant. (State Offices, MO curriculum partners, Curriculum partners, and curriculum subscribers are not eligible.) All grant funds will be awarded and disbursed in United States Dollars (USD)

**These competitive grants will be allotted in the following one-time monetary increments;** \$5,000, \$15,000, \$25,000, and \$50,000.

**Applications are due March 8, 2026.**

**These are one-time only funds,** and they are not to be used for ongoing operations. Funding from other sources must be sought by the affiliate to sustain ongoing or initiated projects. The grant is not for salaries but can be used for staff stipends (such as longevity or family retention).

**Affiliates may submit more than one application, but only one project will be funded.**

Affiliates who have been awarded a Challenge Grant in the past are not eligible to apply in 2026.

**Examples of projects that fit within each category are provided here.** These are suggestions and projects need not be limited to these ideas.

**Combatting Maternal/Infant Mortality** (For example: mental health, lactation specialist training, doula training, safe sleep training or supplies, lactation supports, stipends for parent educators or staff who participate in additional training, or other projects that address reducing maternal and infant mortality.)

**Family Leadership Development** (For example supports for Parent Nation or other parent training, advocacy training for parents and parent educators (includes stipends for parents and parent educator’s time, resources for participating), home visiting state coalition building or any other parent leadership development project.)

**Workforce development** (For example: professional development opportunities, stipends for performance or meeting certain benchmarks, completion of digital badges through the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals, or other projects that raise the professional level of parent educators and supervisors)

**Program Quality Improvement** (For example: outcome measure tools training, depression screening supports and interventions such as Mothers & Babies, fatherhood initiatives, mindfulness training, Infant Mental Health credentialing, or other project that improves program quality.)

**Community Responsiveness** (For example: professional development, language access supports, translation matches)

**Affiliates must upload a letter of support from a community partner, family, and/or PAT advisory council member directly to the platform.** Upload letters and financial documents to the Good Grants platform under the “Other Tab.”

If \$5,000 or \$15,000 is requested, one letter is required.

If \$25,000 or \$50,000 is requested, two letters are required.

**If awarded, an affiliate must upload a W-9 and a copy of the financial audit or review.**

Instructions on how to submit these documents will be in the award letter.

### **Questions?**

Parents as Teachers will host a Challenge Grant Question and Answer Session on January 26, 2026, or February 12, at 1:00PM, CST, and the recording will be posted on our website.

If you would like an Outlook invitation to this meeting reach out to Ann Young at [ann.young@parentsasteachers.org](mailto:ann.young@parentsasteachers.org)

**Applications will be completed and submitted through the Good Grants platform.** Be sure to answer each question completely and descriptively. Make the case for your proposed project. A committee of reviewers will be evaluating each question based on their understanding of your project.

**To obtain access to the Good Grants platform, to** create an account, visit [www.goodgrants.com](http://www.goodgrants.com), enter your email address, and select “**Forgot password.**” You will receive an email with instructions to set up your account.

**A PDF of the application can be found [here](#).**

**If you have questions about the grant process,** please plan to attend the grant Q&A meeting on January 26 at 11:00AM, CST or February 12, at 1:00 PM, CST or reach out to

Ann Young at [ann.young@parentsasteachers.org](mailto:ann.young@parentsasteachers.org)

**Affiliate applicants should reflect upon and answer the following questions / statements**

thoroughly when submitting their applications:

- Project area and funding amount sought.
- What is the main goal or objective of the proposed project and what need do you hope to address?
- Explain the methods to determine the need for this project. Describe how you addressed the needs of the community during your process.
- Provide a summary of the project's significance and potential impact.
- What specific activities or tasks will be undertaken as part of the project? Include a timeline. (Funds will be awarded in May of 2026 and a final report will be due to Parents as Teachers by July 15, 2027.)
- How will the success of the project be measured and evaluated?
- What are your plans for sustainability of a funded project?
- Provide a breakdown of how funds will be allocated to different project components.
- Letters of support from a family, advisory committee member, and/or community partner.
- An additional optional video about the project.

A Challenge Grant Committee will review all applications and determine the winners within each dollar amount category. Applications will be due **March 8th**. Awards will be announced in May with projects to begin July 1, 2026. Grants will be sent as a single payment. Affiliates will have one calendar year to use the funds with a final report due **July 15, 2027**.