Washington State Genealogical Society
1901 S 12th Ave, Union Gap, WA 98903-1256

Education Assistance Fund

The Washington State Genealogical Society (WSGS) created the WSGS Education Assistance Fund in 2015. The fund is designed to support WSGS-member societies' abilities to provide quality genealogical educational events such as conferences, workshops, seminars, and programs for their members and the public. Financial support, up to $500, is available for each funded project. The number of EAF awards is limited to available funding.

The Education Assistance Fund (EAF) is a perpetual revolving fund underwritten by WSGS. The EAF was created so that any WSGS member society could take advantage of this offer of financial assistance for an educational event in the future.

Guidance:

1. Applicant societies and organizations must be a member in good-standing of the Washington State Genealogical Society before applying for funding. If a society is not a member, click here to join.

2. The planned event must be open to everyone, including the general public.

3. WSGS may ask the sponsoring society to host the WSGS annual meeting during the event.

4. WSGS expects repayment of the funds within three months after the event in order to allow continuance of the EAF. WSGS recognizes the financial risks associated with holding an event and accepts part of that risk up to the amount of the funded support.

5. EAF funds must be used only for the planning, logistics, presenters/speakers or other event-related purposes.

6. The event must be completed within two years of the society's being awarded funding.

7. A society may receive only one Educational Assistance Fund award per year.

8. Applicants must complete all parts of the application form, including information about the event and proposed budget.

9. The submitted application will be evaluated by a committee appointed by the WSGS Board of Directors. Applicants may be contacted during the review period for more information. The committee will recommend events deemed worthy of funding to the WSGS Executive Committee which will make the final funding decision. The review committee or Executive Committee may elect not to fund any events, if, in their opinion, none is deemed appropriate. The Executive Committee's decision is final.

10. The review committee will evaluate the Education Assistance Fund applications using the following criteria:

    a. Has the society held other educational events such as conferences, seminars or programs in the recent past? Preference will be given to support small- and mid-sized societies who have not recently held a conference or seminar.
    b. Does the event proposal and budget appear reasonable and workable?
    c. Does the event have a specific goal, e.g. increase membership, raise awareness, education, etc.?
    d. What is the likelihood the society will be able to reimburse the Education Assistance Fund?

11. There are limited funds in the Education Assistance Fund. Therefore, a pre-determined number of awards will be available each year. The number of awards available will be announced prior to the application period.

12. The WSGS Educational Assistance Fund will undergo periodic evaluations to evaluate its purpose, its effectiveness in supporting local societies and organizations, and its impact on the WSGS annual meetings.

For more information, please contact Roxanne Lowe, WSGS Recognition Chair, roxanne@thekeeffes.com.