

SCAACE 2026 Quarter-Grand Mini-Grants

The South Carolina Association of Adult & Continuing Education invites you to apply for a **\$250 mini-grant** to support your work with Adult Education students. Whether it's a new idea or that little extra you need to make your lesson plans great, you can brighten your classroom with help from SCAACE.

Who?

Full-time and part-time Adult Education Teachers, College & Career Navigators, Administrative Assistants/Paraprofessionals and Directors throughout South Carolina are eligible to apply. ***You must be a current SCAACE member.*** You may submit only one application per person, and grants are limited to one per class or project per year.

What?

Grants can be up to \$250 for specific projects or programs including: program enhancement that meets curriculum guidelines, expanding an existing curricular unit, student awards, special events, professional development, or classroom materials.

Grants MAY NOT be used as incentive awards (such as food) nor to purchase gift cards for students or staff.

When?

Applications must be received by SCAACE by **Friday, FEBRUARY 20, 2026** and will be reviewed beginning February 23, 2025. Grant awardees will be notified during the week of March 2, 2025.

Grant Period: The \$250 Mini-Grant may be used during the 2026 calendar year and must be expended before December 31, 2026.

How?

Mini-grant projects will be evaluated based on such criteria as clearly stated objectives; clarity of purpose and intended outcomes; cost-effectiveness; potential to support student learning and/or student outcomes; number of persons served; and/or student review or feedback.

Teacher mini-grant applications should be electronically submitted via the [SCAACE Mini-Grant Application Form](#). Please direct all questions to **Brandi VanGorder** at **vangorderb@bcsdschools.net**. An evaluation and photos will be required for each mini-grant that is funded.

Please see the **scoring rubric** on the back of this sheet.

Scoring Rubric	4	3	2	1
Project Description	Description is clear, concise and easy to understand. The proposed project contains original, innovative or creative aspect(s).	Description depicts the project well, but uses some jargon or is otherwise hard to understand. Project contains original, innovative or creative aspect(s).	Description does not explain the project concisely, or does not give a general picture of the proposed activities. The project contains no or few original, innovative or creative aspect(s).	Description is hard to understand, verbose or utilizes a lot of field-specific jargon. It is not clear that the project is creative or innovative.
Objectives	The objectives of the project are clearly stated in alignment with all 5 SMART goal aspects: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely.	The objectives of the project are clearly stated in alignment with at least 4 SMART goal aspects: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely.	The objectives of the project are not clearly stated and are not in alignment 3 or more SMART goal aspects: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely.	The objectives of the project are not clearly stated and are not in alignment with SMART goal aspects: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely.
Budget and Cost-effectiveness	Budget is clearly explained, is cost-effective and is appropriate for the activities proposed.	Budget is not clearly explained OR is not cost-effective but is appropriate for the activities proposed.	Budget is clearly explained AND/OR is cost-effective but is NOT appropriate for the activities proposed.	Budget is not clearly explained, not cost-effective, and not appropriate for the activities proposed.
Clarity of Purpose, Organization and Outcomes	Proposal is well written, ideas are well developed and explained, outcomes are clearly defined.	Proposal effectively communicates ideas, some sections lack clarity, and/or outcomes are not clearly defined.	Proposal communicates ideas adequately, many sections lack clarity, and/or outcomes are vague.	Proposal is poorly written and confusing, and outcomes are not clear.
Potential to Support Student Learning	Appropriately identifies and thoroughly describes important / meaningful learning goals.	Generally identifies and describes important / meaningful learning goals.	Identifies and/or describes learning goals that are vague, verbose or questionable.	Does not appropriately identify or describe important / meaningful learning goals.

Total Score _____ / 20