

NRVHBA Constructing Careers Grant Program

Description and Guidelines

NRVHBA Constructing Careers Grant Program

The NRVHBA Constructing Careers Grant Program provides funding to support innovative projects, materials, and sustainable programs within elementary and secondary classrooms that align with the workforce development interests of the home building and construction industry. This program empowers teachers to enhance their curriculum, maximize opportunities for students, and encourage real-world interest and skill development in construction trades careers.

Teachers and/or CTE Directors are required, as part of their application, to describe how their project will:

- Raise awareness of careers in construction trades
- Provide students with practical, hands-on experiences in construction skills
- Integrate workforce readiness aligned with the construction industry
- Foster Virginia's 5 Cs: critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and civic responsibility

Grant Types

Starter Grants

Rolling, year-round funding (up to \$500) for consumables, classroom materials, and small-scale needs that spark student curiosity. These are ideal for launching new projects or supplementing lessons with resources that introduce students to construction careers. Applications are reviewed within 4-6 weeks of submission, with recipients receiving funding soon after.

Builder Grants

Annual, larger-scale awards for projects with significant student impact and immersive practical learning experiences. Builder Grants advance construction trades skills and career awareness. Projects are expected to include active involvement of NRVHBA members as speakers or mentors and culminate in a final report describing outcomes and student feedback. Each year, applications will open January 15 and close March 1; recipients are notified no later than May 1. Funding is provided prior to the beginning of the following school year. There is no set maximum award, as funding is determined by

NRVHBA's available budget and project scope each year. Applicants are encouraged to seek matching funds to maximize project impact, but it is not required.

Sustaining Grants

Awarded once per year, up to \$3,000, for innovative classroom or school-based programs designed to be self-sustaining and generate ongoing impact in construction education. Applicants must submit a business plan outlining a revenue model, projected outcomes, and strategies for growth. These grants support programs that will maintain themselves beyond the grant year, providing lasting workforce development opportunities for students. Sustaining Grant projects should actively engage NRVHBA members as mentors, partners, or guest speakers. Each year, applications will open January 15 and close March 1; recipients are notified no later than May 1. Funding is provided prior to the beginning of the following school year. Applicants are encouraged to seek matching funds to maximize project impact, but it is not required.

Application, Eligibility & Reporting

- Eligible School Districts: Montgomery, Giles, Pulaski, Floyd, Wythe, and Carroll Counties, and the City of Radford.
- Grant recipients must use funds within the awarded school year (unless otherwise approved).
- Upon completion, grantees must submit a report (with photos and/or videos) describing how the project achieved its goals and impacted students.
- What does not qualify for funding?
 - Parties
 - Stand-alone transportation costs
 - Projects that can be or are already funded in the school's budget
 - Projects that cannot be completed in the specified school year
 - Past winners who have not submitted a grant summary

Examples of Past Project Recipients

- Outdoor Classroom Construction
- Small Scale House Design and Building
- Introduction of Masonry Program
- Stage Riser Project for Elementary school play

Guidelines for Successful Builder and Sustaining Grant Applications

For the strongest application, consider the following:

- **Clear Alignment:** Demonstrate how your project supports construction trades education, workforce development, and NRVHBA's mission. Clearly connect activities to hands-on construction skills and career pathways.
- **Student Impact:** Articulate how students will benefit directly. Highlight plans for hands-on learning, practical skill-building, or real-world exposure to construction careers.
- **Quality of Design:** Present a well-organized plan with clear objectives, steps, and a realistic timeline. Define measurable outcomes you expect to achieve.
- **Integration of Virginia's 5 Cs:** Explain how the project will encourage creative thinking, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and civic responsibility.
- **Active Partnerships:** Describe how you will involve NRVHBA members, community partners, or industry professionals (as speakers, mentors, or collaborators).
- **Feasibility and Sustainability:** Outline your project budget in detail. For larger grants, include any matching support available. For Sustaining Grants, ensure your business plan is thorough and practical.
- **Reporting and Accountability:** Be prepared to document progress and submit a final report sharing outcomes, photos, and student feedback.

If your project involves building a structure, check if you need a local building permit. Include a brief plan in your application showing how you'll secure any required permits.

Projects that clearly address these priorities and provide specific details will score more highly in the review process.

For questions, please contact Kelsey Grow, Executive Director of the NRVHBA, at kelsey@nrvhba.com

To submit your application, please visit www.nrvhba.com/constructing-careers