



The Simple Gifts Fund • Post Office Box 2087 • Clinton, North Carolina 28329 • www.simplegiftsfund.org

The Sampson County Teacher Fellowship Grant Program

The Simple Gifts Fund is pleased to announce the continuation of the Sampson County Teacher Fellowship Grant Program. This teacher enrichment program will support projects that are personally renewing and intellectually revitalizing to individual teachers. **Projects may include summer graduate studies and research.** The Simple Gifts Fund supports lifelong learning among educators by enabling them to pursue dreams and passions, explore new areas of interest, expand existing talents and develop new ones. Fellowships are not vacations but opportunities for intentional exploration and reflection that will result in renewed energy, enthusiasm and creativity in teachers and thereby in classrooms and schools.

Project proposals will be judged on substance, clarity, feasibility, and research. Evidence of imagination and creativity is also important in proposals. It is important that applicants seek to expand their realm of knowledge and experiences through projects that are of a different scale and character than they might otherwise pursue. If the proposed project will contribute to the students' engagement and learning, applicants are encouraged to discuss that aspect in their application. Proposals that demonstrate that the teacher has engaged in substantial thought and planning will be given preference. The foundation believes engaged teachers help produce engaged students. The expected direct or indirect benefits of a proposal to the educator and her or his students must be described in the project proposal.

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements are:

- Must be a licensed teacher, administrator, guidance counselor, or library media specialist in the Clinton City school system or the Sampson County school system
- Have a minimum of two years experience as a teacher, administrator, guidance counselor or library media specialist
- Administrators and principals must first get approval from their school administrative board
- Must be North Carolina certified in K-12 and currently employed full time
- Past Fellowship recipients who continue to meet these requirements and received their first grant before 2021 may also apply (later recipients are not eligible)
- An individual may receive up to two Fellowship grants during his or her lifetime

Time Commitment and Reporting

Applicants must commit to a six-week full-time project during the summer of 2026. The six weeks must be completed by August 15, 2026. However, the grant period will run through May 31, 2027. Therefore, recipients will have extra time beyond their concentrated, six-week summer commitment to do additional work, expand their original projects, or develop connections to classroom teaching and/or student learning. The possibilities for expansion and implementation in the classroom are as varied as the projects themselves. Applicants must intend to remain employed in Sampson County Schools or Clinton City Schools through June 1, 2028.

Final narrative and financial reports are due by June 30, 2027. Reporting guidelines will be sent to the winners after the awards are announced.

Application Procedures

The online application can be found on the Simple Gifts website. Online applications close on November 1, 2025. Online application: <https://simplegiftsfellow.scholarshipapps.org/index>.

Items in a complete online proposal:

1. *Online application*
2. *Resume*
3. *Description of proposed project:* Proposals should include sufficient detail to demonstrate that 1) the applicant is knowledgeable about the topic; 2) the applicant has the skill necessary to complete the project; and 3) the project is feasible. Each project needs a title and a 50 word summary of the proposed project. Other components of the proposal should address the following:
 - * Describe the rationale for your project, including why it is important and meaningful to you.
 - * Describe your specific project goals. What do you hope to accomplish?
 - * Describe the specific activities in which you will engage to accomplish your goals.
 - * Describe how this project will be creative and intellectually stimulating for you.
 - * Describe your vision for how this project will result in renewed energy, creativity and enthusiasm for you as an educator.
 - * Describe how your renewed energy, creativity and enthusiasm will have an impact in your school or classroom.
4. *Budget:* You must submit a budget. Each grant will be made for precisely \$10,000. The summer six-week project is the primary focus of the grant funding. The budget should reflect out-of-pocket expenses (transportation, lodging, supplies, mileage, taxes, tuition, etc.) After budgeting out-of-pocket expense, remaining funds may be designated as a personal stipend. Please note that because this grant will be subject to federal and state income taxes, you are encouraged to include a line item to cover tax liability as needed.
5. *Timeline:* Include a detailed, comprehensive, six-week summer schedule of activities, school based activities and follow-up activities that will be completed by May 31, 2027.
6. *Statement of future plans:* Please submit a statement affirming your present intention to remain employed in Sampson County Schools or Clinton City Schools through June 1, 2028.
7. *Recommendation letter(s):* Please upload signed letter(s) in pdf format of professional recommendation on official letterhead from a recognized authority or otherwise qualified person who can speak for your general ability and capacity to complete the proposed project. You may submit up to three recommendations. Reviewers spend considerable time on letters of recommendation and view favorably letters that reflect a person's familiarity with you and your proposed project.
8. *Copy of valid NC teaching license*

*Please note if the application is a group application, the group applicants should submit the group's proposal with a joint description of the project, budget, and timeline. Personal information, future plans, letters of recommendation, and licenses are specific to each individual but must be included in the group proposal.

Selection and Payment

Please note the proposal deadline date. **Online applications close on November 1, 2025.** An impartial panel will review the proposals and notify recipients by January 5, 2026. Payments are scheduled to be made after January 2026. The foundation will pay the \$10,000 award directly to the grant winners and will issue an IRS income reporting 1099-MISC at the beginning of 2027.

Questions to:

Vevlyn Lowe, Simple Gifts Fund
P.O. Box 2087 Clinton, NC 28329

Website: www.simplegiftsfund.org | E-mail: vlowe@anonymoustrust.org | Phone: 910-590-8570