



Advisor Guide: Supporting Students in the Grantmaking Process

Student Application Review Period:

Advisors play a critical role in helping students navigate the grant review process while ensuring the work (and the decisions) remain student-led. Below are key ways you can support your group during this phase.

Time & Organization

- **Plan ample review time.** The number of applications varies by school, so plan for more time than you think you'll need to ensure thoughtful, thorough review.
- **Help students stay organized.** Support them in tracking applications and confirming that each one is reviewed carefully.
- **Monitor deadlines.** Keep students on pace to submit final decisions by March 31.
 - *Utilize the Grant Decision Worksheet provided.*

Mission & Alignment

- **Reconnect to the needs assessment.** Regularly remind students of the priorities they identified earlier in the year and encourage them to align funding decisions accordingly.
- **Track the budget.** Help maintain a running total to ensure grant awards stay within the **\$5,000** allocation.

Discussion & Decision-Making

- **Facilitate (not direct) conversation.** Ask thoughtful, open-ended questions that encourage critical thinking and reflection on impact.
- **Promote equitable participation.** Ensure all student voices are heard and that multiple perspectives are considered.
- **Provide context when helpful.** Offer insight into the nonprofit landscape if needed, while allowing students to remain the primary decision-makers.

Student Leadership First

- **Support without steering.** Resist the urge to influence outcomes; this process is designed to help students practice leadership, collaboration, and real-world grantmaking.
- **Empower ownership.** Advisors' role is to guide the process, not the decisions.

Thank you for supporting students during one of the most meaningful—and exciting—phases of Youth in Philanthropy. Your guidance helps turn thoughtful learning into real community impact.

