Infy Makers Awards 2023 FAQs

What are the Infy Makers Awards?

Infosys Foundation USA's Infy Makers Awards is open to educators from K-12 schools, universities, colleges, libraries, museums, makerspaces and youth-serving non-profit organizations using maker education to promote equitable and inclusive pathways for K-12+ students in computer science. Ten winning educators will receive a $10,000 grant and the opportunity to participate in the Making CS Inclusive Cohort, a professional learning experience facilitated by Digital Promise from January to August 2024. The grant is flexible funding that can be used for materials, projects, research, community engagement and more.

Who is eligible to apply for an Infy Maker Award?

Individuals that are eligible to apply are formal and informal learning educators. The educator's school,school district, organization or institution will be granted the Award. An organization should be registered as a 501(c)(3) or 170(c)(1).

When are applications being accepted for Infy Maker Awards 2023?

Organizations can submit their applications online beginning at 8:00 a.m. Pacific Time on September 19, 2023 and ending at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time on October 27, 2023.

What do you need to do in order to apply for an Infy Maker Award?

To apply online, visit www.infymakers.com. The application consists of a few short questions about your project (a project description and a budget outlining what you will spend the grant on), a 90 second video and one letter of support from your school or school district leader or organizational or institutional leader. The Infy Maker Awards application is on the Submittable platform, where you can work on a draft of your application and save it before submitting it.

What should the support letter include?

If you are a teacher at a school, the support letter should come from your school leader (principal or vice principal) or school district leader (superintendent). If you are an educator at an organization or institution, the support letter should come from the Executive Director or Director or the Dean of your department. The letter should demonstrate his/her/their commitment to engaging students in maker education as a pathway to computer science and his/her/their support of your proposed project and participation in the Making CS Inclusive cohort if you're chosen as an Infy Maker Award winner. Please feel free to use this support letter template as a guide.

What should the budget include?

The budget should include high-level line items. Examples of these line items include program/curriculum development, equipment/materials, marketing, travel, staffing and events. This does not have to be a completely itemized budget, but should give us an idea of what the funding will go towards. Please feel free to use this budget template as a guide.

What does a winning school, organization or institution receive?
Each winning school, organization or institution will receive a $10,000 award. The $10,000 award is flexible funding which can be used in a variety of ways, including to develop maker-oriented projects for students, conduct impact & assessment research and engage the broader community through new collaborations or partnerships. A winning school or organization must have at least two individuals participate in the Making CS Inclusive multi-month professional learning experience facilitated by Digital Promise, although the winning school or organization is permitted to have a total of three individuals participate in the cohort. The professional learning experience will run from January 2024- August 2024 and consist of virtual monthly 'full cohort' sessions and 1:1 coaching sessions.

Where can I find the complete contest rules?
The contest rules can be accessed at www.infymakers.com. All entrants should review the contest rules thoroughly before submitting their applications.

What if I still have a question about Infy Maker Awards after reviewing the contest information online?
Please send an email to foundation.usa@infosys.com and someone from the Foundation team will follow up promptly.

What is the judging criteria?
Each application can receive a total of 25 points. The judging criteria that you will use to review and score applications are:

Need (9 points)
Is the Eligible Organization working with underserved or under-resourced students? This includes being a Title I school or working with Title I school(s), working in a rural community and/or serving students who are either neurodiverse or with disabilities.
- Working with or in a Title I school or working with low-income students (3 points)
- Working with an underrepresented community, e.g., ELL students, Native American, African-American, Latinx students (3 points)
- Serving students who are neurodiverse or with disabilities (3 points)

Strength of the proposed plan and budget to use the award (5 points)
- Does the project description, budget and video together indicate a well thought out idea that is strongly needed, ambitious and feasible?

Entrant's perspective (5 points)
- Does the entrant share a clear and strong perspective around what motivates him/her/them?

Innovation (5 points)
- Does the proposed plan (the project description, budget and video combined) demonstrate creativity and resourcefulness?

<u>Support Letter (1 point)</u>
- Does the letter come from a leader within the organization (director or executive director), school (principal or vice principal) or affiliated school district (superintendent) which demonstrates his/her/their commitment to engaging students in maker education as a pathway to computer science and his/her/their support of the proposed project and the Entrant's participation in the professional learning experience if chosen as an Infy Makers Awards winner?

When are the winners for Infy Maker Awards 2023 announced?

Winners will be publicly announced online no later than December 23, 2023.