AAAS awards funds to NAAS-affiliated Academies of Science for programs to stimulate and improve research in the sciences by middle and secondary school students. The AAAS distributes the funds based on proposals from academies to the AAAS. The AAAS funds may be used to support and encourage student research in all fields of science.

Historically the endowment funding the program yields less than $10,000 for these awards. Under the terms of the bequests to AAAS from which the funds derive, the AAAS grants may be used only for research or activities that support and encourage research at the precollege level. The grants cannot be used for purchase of major equipment, for indirect costs (overhead), travel, living expenses, or similar purposes.

The intent of the awards is to support as many students as possible with these very limited funds, so proposals to support several students at very modest levels will be most competitive. Evidence of successful fund-raising activities and/or commitment of Academy funds to support the proposed program will also be a positive factor in this competitive atmosphere.

Proposal must answer the following questions:

- What are the goals of the proposed program? What kinds of impact on students, teachers, schools, etc. are you seeking?
- How many students will the Academy reach by this effort? Who will the students be? How will students be recruited to participate in the program?
- How will Academy members participate in the program, including the actual research activities?
- What local science and engineering resources (individuals, organizations, museums, businesses, etc.) will be involved in the activity?
- By what criteria will the Academy judge whether the proposed program is successful?

If the program was funded in the previous year, AAAS would like a summary report of the activities and outcomes related to that funding. The report should include:

- a brief description of what was intended,
- a report showing how the grant funds support the program,
- demographic details about the students involved, mentoring activities, a description of the research project, and where results have been presented,
- an assessment of the success and problems (other than financial) of the program.

Awards will be announced by the end of April and funds made available to the State Academy shortly thereafter.