



Request for Applications

Plugging into Power

*A Partnership Grant for Engaging Families in
Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Education*

Issued by: UCLA Center X Computer Science Project

Application Deadline: February 1, 2026

Award Amount: \$50,000 per year for up to 2 years

Start Date: Spring 2026 (*April 12-13, 2026* IN-PERSON Kick-off meeting at UCLA)

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APPLY HERE (<https://bit.ly/PIPgrant>)

BACKGROUND

The UCLA Center X Computer Science Project consists of several major research, program, and policy initiatives focused on expanding access to high quality K-12 Computer Science education, inclusive of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Our work addresses the interaction of structural inequalities (access to courses, teachers), belief systems (stereotypes about what type of student can excel in CS), classroom pedagogy, and larger educational policies that impact which students do (and do not) learn CS.

The “Plugging into Power” project seeks to address the problem of limited and unequal access to CS education in California. Currently, only 40% of California’s schools offer CS, despite 90% of parents wanting CS in their students’ schools. Statewide, only ~5 % of secondary students enroll in CS classes, despite California being home to Silicon Valley and the nations’ technology hub.

Our solution is to build the capacity of parents and families to understand the power of CS and AI education and to advocate for increased opportunities at three levels: 1) in their local school community, 2) at the state policy level, and 3) at home with their kids. This project aims to develop and test methods for increasing access to high quality K-12 courses in CS and AI that will prepare young people to think critically in college, build skills for lucrative careers, and ethically engage with technology in their communities.

PURPOSE

With generous support from Google.org and Siegel Family Endowment, we are seeking primary partners (“Team Lead”) to assemble a local team of parent, caregiver, family, and educator stakeholders committed to fostering a learning community to advance PK/TK-12 CS and AI education in their local context.

QUALIFICATIONS

We are seeking a California-based Team Lead representing an LEA, NGO, Higher Ed org, or Community Organization who will be responsible for assembling a diverse team of local parents and educators in California that will work in collaboration with UCLA researchers to co-create workshops for parents.

Team leads will:

- Submit a budget and manage all fiscal responsibilities. More specifically, the budget should include payments for parent/educator participants to cover their time at meetings, project events, leading workshops, in addition to other projected project costs such as: childcare, food, space rental, supplies, travel, etc. (based on local interests/needs).
- Assemble a leadership team of local parents and educators to include at least 3 parents and at least 3 educators/community members (e.g., teachers, administrators, counselors, TOSAs, local business partners, etc.) interested in learning about what CS and AI are and why teaching and learning about CS and AI are important in K12 education.
- Learn from others and share new knowledge with fellow parents and family leaders and decision-makers in your local community.
- Commit to proactively advocating for inclusion in CS education.
- Share equitable and identity-inclusive practices to support the achievement of young people historically underrepresented in computing.

All partner team participants will be required to:

- Commit to participate for 2 years (March 2026 - March 2028).
- Attend a 1-2 days in-person kick-off meeting at UCLA (April 12-13, 2026)
- Attend two 1-hour virtual meetings per month (e.g., workshop planning sessions, community of practice meetings, etc.)
- Help plan and co-deliver two 1-hour workshops (in-person or virtual) with our team for other parents and community members in your local area (year 1)
- Help plan and co-deliver two 1-hour trainings (in-person or virtual) with our team for other parents and community members that prepare parents to lead their own workshops (year 2)
- Participate in at least one interactive educational workshop, seminar, and/or webinar about CS or AI each year of the project for a total of 2 professional learning events.
- Participate virtually or in-person in at least one conference presentation
- Contribute to project research by completing three 15-minute surveys annually, participating in two 1-hour interviews annually, and supporting access to local school data regarding CS enrollment, etc.

We are especially looking for partners in communities that have low participation in CS, as we seek to broaden participation to those historically underrepresented in computing. We also encourage team leads to consider broad representation from parents, family members and/or caregivers, classroom teachers (TOSAs and/or coaches), school leaders in district and county offices, local industry representatives, community college, and parent/family organizations.