

2025 Grant Submissions

Upstate New York MCAA Funding Request

Upstate NY MCAA has been extremely active promoting the use of masonry and educating masons, mason contractors, architects and engineers in code based installation and design methods. These efforts have resulted in a renewed interest in the use of masonry, an improvement in the quality of work and an improvement in masonry designs throughout Central New York. The demand for our educational and promotional services has outgrown our chapters ability to fund these activities. As a result, we are requesting funding of \$25,335 to support this program. Based on the success of the program, we are also asking for an additional \$10,800 to write and expand the number of learning units our Chapter provides.

The objective of this funding request will be to support Upstate NY MCAA's lunch and learn program. The lunch and learn program has been instrumental in developing technical learning programs that are provided as lunch and learn units to architects and engineers. The learning units have helped designers increase their knowledge of masonry systems, thereby giving them the confidence to use masonry on their projects. Improving the design of masonry systems allows masons to provide better quality masonry and eliminate common issues.

Upstate NY MCAA's interaction with design professional's and mason contractor members indicated a need to improve the quality of masonry work and masonry designs in Upstate NY. To address this, our chapter developed Top 5 learning units that addressed the most common issues reported on projects. The Top 5 units show the code-based design and installation methods for each of the commonly reported issues. The Top 5 units are available as on the job training programs and as lunch and learn units for architects and engineers. Each Top 5 unit provides at least 1 AIA LU/HSW credit for designers. The Top 5 units created to date include Top 5 ACMU Single-Wythe Wall Checklist, Top 5 Clay Brick Veneer, Top 5 Masonry Cost Savings Ideas for Designers and Masonry 101 that is a three part series for young designers.

The scope of this project includes funding for technical equipment needed to provide the Top 5 presentations. This includes a laptop computer capable of handling graphics and online hosting. A projector for use in seminars and related programs needed by the chapter to provide a central location to run its administrative duties. The funding will also cover costs associated with the lunch and learn programs. We are also seeking funding to secure a professional photographer in order to develop a catalog of masonry projects throughout central New York that can be used during our presentations.

Qualified individuals who create content and perform lunch and learn programs are as follows. Each of the individuals listed is also a board member of Upstate NY MCAA.

David Biggs - Biggs Consulting Engineering

Rick Roach - Barnes & Cone (Concrete masonry producer)

Anthony (TJ) Di Pessa - President, Di Pessa Contractors

Jacob Bock - Bock Brick (Brick and masonry products supplier)

Brett Sherman - Alliance Masonry (Former founder & President. Retired)

The impact of this program will be in the increased use of properly designed and installed masonry in Upstate NY. The impact of the program is already being recognized by the large increase in requests for the lunch and learn programs from architects and engineers. Because of our program, designers will gain knowledge in how to properly design masonry on their projects.

https://masoncontractors.org/Public/Files/Surveys/345_MCAAFundingBudget.pdf



UPSTATE NEW YORK MCAA FOUNDATION FUNDING REQUEST BUDGET

		Cost Per Each
Lunch & Learn Programs:	Prepare/Update Presentations	\$150
	Printing Costs	\$200
	Cost to Provide Lunches	\$200
	Reimbursement for Travel Expense	\$100
	Presentation Provider Cost	\$150
	Sub-Total	\$800
Estimated (20) Presentation per year @ \$800 Each		\$16,000
		Budgeted Cost
Technical Equipment:	Computer	\$1,500
	Projector	\$370
	Drop Box Account	\$120
	Teams Account	\$75
	Tradesman Software***	\$3,000
	Misc. Costs	\$270
		\$5,335
Photographer Cost:	Lump Sum	\$4,000
Total Request for Funding		\$25,335
Cost to Expand Number of Learning Units:		
	Reaserch Technical information: 8hrs each @ \$75/Hr	\$2,400
	Write Presentation Tech Note: 12hrs each	\$3,600
	Create PowerPoint Presentation for Lunch & Learns: 16hrs each	\$4,800
Total Request for Funding		\$10,800

*****Tradesman software will allow the chapter to provide modeling and cost analysis for designers who are looking at masonry as an option in the early design stages of a project. The chapter provides budget pricing to help in the decision making process.**

We will also be able use the software to improve our learning presentations by showing mock-up scenarios. The software will not be used to provide bids for projects.

Funding for the technical equipment would be requested immediately. Funding for the lunch and learn program would be requested quarterly throughout the year. Funding for photography would be requested once a contract is in place with a photographer. Funding to expand the learning units will be requested at completion.

Currently, the only funding source for our program is the membership fees paid by our chapter's members. The Uptsate NY Chapter has created a paid Director position. The Director is responsible for marketing the educational programs, scheduling lunch & learn programs and coordinating all of the Chapter's educational programs. In this way, the Chapter will continue to financially support a portion of the educational program in addition to any funding awarded through The MCAA Foundation.