

# COLLABORATIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

**IMPACT**  
**WOMEN & GIRLS**  
**STEAM career mentorship**  
**Workforce Development**

**Sponsors:** STEAM Funders  
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics)  
**Strategy:** Mentorship & Technology  
**Funding:** \$110,000 funding goal, \$77,500 committed  
**Timeline:** Two years

**Funds will pilot a mentor matching program for girls in STEM, with an awareness campaign and training for mentors in four cities.**

Research shows that girls and boys do not significantly differ in their abilities in mathematics and science, but do differ in their interest and confidence in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects. Girls Scouts of America dug further and found that girls are interested in math and science, but lack the information and guidance they need to continue in the fields of study that lead to STEM careers. Mentors, trained to be effective with young people, can make all the difference. Girls need to see examples of women who succeed in the field and enjoy it. In a survey of San Diego's STEM landscape, 87% reported that they sometimes find a shortage of role models and--at the same time--47% report a shortage of opportunities to become a STEM role model. **To ensure a skilled future workforce and thriving families, our tech- and innovation-driven region needs strong role models who support our girls in STEM topics & careers.**

This grant pool supports a new approach to connect girls and populations traditionally underrepresented in STEM with STEM supportive individuals throughout their lives.

**Participating funders:** Cox Communications, JW Sefton Foundation, Nordson, Northrup Grumman, STEM Next Opportunity Fund, San Diego Gas & Electric, Viasat