Hosting Successful Author Visits - Sources of Funding

Amber Brown Grant
http://www.scbwi.org/Pages.aspx/Amber-Brown-Grant
Two schools will be rewarded annually with an all expense paid visit by a well known children's author or illustrator. The chosen schools will also receive a $250 stipend for the event and $250 worth of books by the visiting author. Applications accepted between November 1st and April 1st.

Maureen Hayes Author/Illustrator Visit Award
http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/102/apply
An annual award of up to $4,000 to cover the honorarium and travel expenses for a visiting author or illustrator. Applicants must be personal members of ALSC as well as ALA. Applications accepted through December 1, 2013.

Target Grants
https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/grants
Early Childhood Reading grants are grants awarded to schools, libraries and non-profit organizations that support programs like after-school reading events and weekend book clubs. Arts, Culture & Design in Schools grants supporting schools in bringing more arts and culture into the classroom. Each grant is $2,000. Applications are accepted March 1st through April 30th.

Barnes & Noble Local Sponsorships
http://www.barnesandnobleinc.com/our_company/sponsorship/sponsorship_local/donations_local.html
B&N offers a limited number of sponsorships and donations to organizations that meet their mission (pre-K-12 schools and not-for-profit arts and literacy organizations). Opportunities must be located in the community or communities in which stores operate, and serve the greater good of the local community or region. They seek partnerships that offer in-store events, visibility, and reach a wide audience. For donations and sponsorships, submit your proposal to the community relations manager or store manager at your local Barnes & Noble store. The proposal will be reviewed to see if it meets the criteria, and a limited number of proposals will be forwarded to the district manager and regional community relations manager for approval.

Other Ways to Fund an Author Visit:
1. Friends of the Library or PTSA. If you plan ahead, you may be able to get a yearly fund from your PTSA/PTO to support visiting authors or illustrators.
2. Set aside some money from a book fair.
3. Make it part of your school library budget, perhaps funded by the lost/late books fine. Many schools put the visits into their cultural affairs budget.
4. Ask a local business or service club to sponsor the visit.
5. Partner with other schools or libraries in your area to share fees. If you are hosting an author or illustrator from out of town you could share on travel and hotel fees. Ask people to donate airplane or hotel miles.
6. Online fundraising sites like http://www.adoptaclassroom.org/, http://www.donorschoose.org/, http://www.indiegogo.com/, or http://www.kickstarter.com/.