

## I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

*One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.*

*Note: If Philanthropy Network of Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the Community Foundation's Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)*

Date: August 9, 2017

### Contact Information

Organization Name: Literacy Access Fund, Director & President Name: Deborah B. Sorgi, Ed.D.  
 Address: 2501 Seaport Drive, Suite 410-SH, Chester, PA, 19013  
 Chair, Director & President E-mail: [sorgid@literacyaccessfund.org](mailto:sorgid@literacyaccessfund.org)  
 Phone: 610-833-6400 Board of Directors Chair Name: Deborah B. Sorgi, Ed.D.  
 Website: [www.literacyaccessfund.org](http://www.literacyaccessfund.org) Primary Contact Name: Nicholas "Duke" Doblack  
 Year Incorporated: 2016 Primary Contact E-mail: [doblackd@literacyaccessfund.org](mailto:doblackd@literacyaccessfund.org)

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes \_\_\_ No X Not Sure\_\_\_  
 Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes \_\_\_ No X Not Sure\_\_\_  
X Donor Advised Fund(s) \_\_\_ Fund for Chester County \_\_\_ Don't know/Not sure

### Field/s of Interest:

\_\_\_ Arts, Culture & Humanities \_\_\_ Environment/Animal Welfare X Education  
 \_\_\_ Health \_\_\_ Human Services \_\_\_ Religion

### Organization Information:

**Geographic Area Served** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Chester County

**Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:** Literacy Access Fund's grant awards will serve children ages 2-12 who will utilize library learning resources for school-readiness, early literacy skills, and enhanced school curriculum knowledge. There are no children served yet through the efforts of Literacy Access Fund.

**Mission:** To support literacy and early childhood education by providing financial support to community-based organizations so they are able to purchase quality educational resources.

**Proposal Summary:** Our goal is to engage forward-thinking partners who are passionate and compelled to help underwrite the education of America's youth, the leaders of tomorrow. These financial contributions lead to grants for cash-strapped, underserved libraries, enabling them to purchase resources to enhance children's early literacy skills.

### **If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:**

\_\_\_ Mission, Vision & Strategy \_\_\_ Governance & Leadership \_\_\_ Strategic Relationships  
 \_\_\_ Fundraising & Development Other: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Annual Budget</b> \$ <u>977,142</u>	<u>1</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>87</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>3</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>3</u> % of budget for administrative expenses		# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>10</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses		# of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>		

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** AWE Acquisition, Inc., dba AWE Learning, contributed \$25,000.

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$ 10,000



August 9, 2017

Beth Briglia  
Vice President of Philanthropy Services  
Chester County Community Foundation  
The Lincoln Building  
28 West Market Street  
West Chester, PA 19382

Dear Beth,

It was a pleasure to meet you this week, and thank you for inviting Literacy Access Fund™ to submit a formal grant proposal to the Chester County Community Foundation for funding consideration under the Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds area. Literacy Access Fund is a promising, 501(c)(3), non-profit, based in Chester, PA, with the sole purpose of providing grants to under-served libraries to acquire both digital and traditional resources that will empower children ages 2-12 with a love of learning and enhanced literacy skills.

In order to make funding from Literacy Access Fund available to libraries, we have set a modest goal to build our resources to the \$100,000 level, and then open the grant proposal process. We have already received a generous \$25,000 gift to start the fund from AWE Acquisition, Inc., dba AWE Learning. Literacy Access Fund is now concentrating on contacting and requesting partnerships and support from the corporate, foundation, and individual sectors. Since May of this year, Literacy Access Fund has generated over \$300,000 in pending grant requests from foundations and corporations who share the foundation's vision of education for this country's youth. We're asking the Chester County Community Foundation to partner with Literacy Access Fund and contribute \$10,000 to help us on the way to our initial grant making goal.

The foundation's contribution to Literacy Access Fund can be restricted and facilitated for deserving, cash-strapped libraries located in Chester County, PA.

The following pages will provide the required information that you outlined for me, to give your donors a better idea of our mission and purpose to help kids learn. I would be happy to provide any additional information for your review. I can be reached at 610-833-6411, by cell at 302-757-6095, or [doblickd@literacyaccessfund.org](mailto:doblickd@literacyaccessfund.org). I appreciate your help in facilitating a favorable response from the Chester County Community Foundation.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duke", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Duke Doblick, CFRE  
Director of Fundraising



## **GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE**

The mission of Literacy Access Fund™ is to support literacy and early childhood education by providing financial support to community-based organizations so they are able to purchase quality educational resources. Literacy Access Fund was created by AWE Acquisition, Inc., dba AWE Learning, which provides digital learning solutions in 47% of libraries nationwide. We know that early on, access to quality educational resources helps children gain the literacy skills they need to be successful in school and in life. By supporting Literacy Access Fund, you can help provide these needed educational tools and literacy programs for children ages 2-12.

The importance of literacy skills is growing, but the funding for literacy initiatives is not. Literacy Access Fund was founded to change that. With support from the Chester County Community Foundation, grants from our organization will help Chester County libraries be better prepared to help reduce these compelling statistics compiled from the Public Citizens for Children & Youth (PCCY) 2016 Report on *Left Out: The Status of Children in Chester County*:

- Quality child care for a low income family could easily consume half of their budget;
- Four out of every five children couldn't access high-quality, affordable Pre-K;
- The share of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders failing the state reading assessment jumped to 16.8%;
- 13.7% of those same students were below grade level in mathematics;
- An estimated 430 girls were teen parents in Chester County-equal to the graduating classes of Great Valley and Downingtown STEM Academy High Schools.

An American tragedy is happening right before our eyes in Chester County, yet it's hard to see and comprehend. Literacy Access Fund is passionate and committed to providing the necessary resources to libraries in this county, while engaging the Chester County Community Foundation's help to make an impact locally and remedy this situation.

While Literacy Access Fund does not endorse any one resource for grantees to acquire, our research has found that content aligned to Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STREAM) and academic standards is preferred.

Once a grant is awarded from Literacy Access Fund to a deserving library, the organization will work closely with the library staff to make recommendations on all desired resources to acquire that will enhance the overall ability of the library to provide a more robust community hub for education.

The anticipated grant awards will be in the \$10-\$15,000 range, which will allow a recipient library to purchase both digital and traditional resources. The expected timeline from grant application to actual implementation of the new resources is projected to be between 4-6 months.

## **SHORT- AND LONG-TERM OUTCOMES**

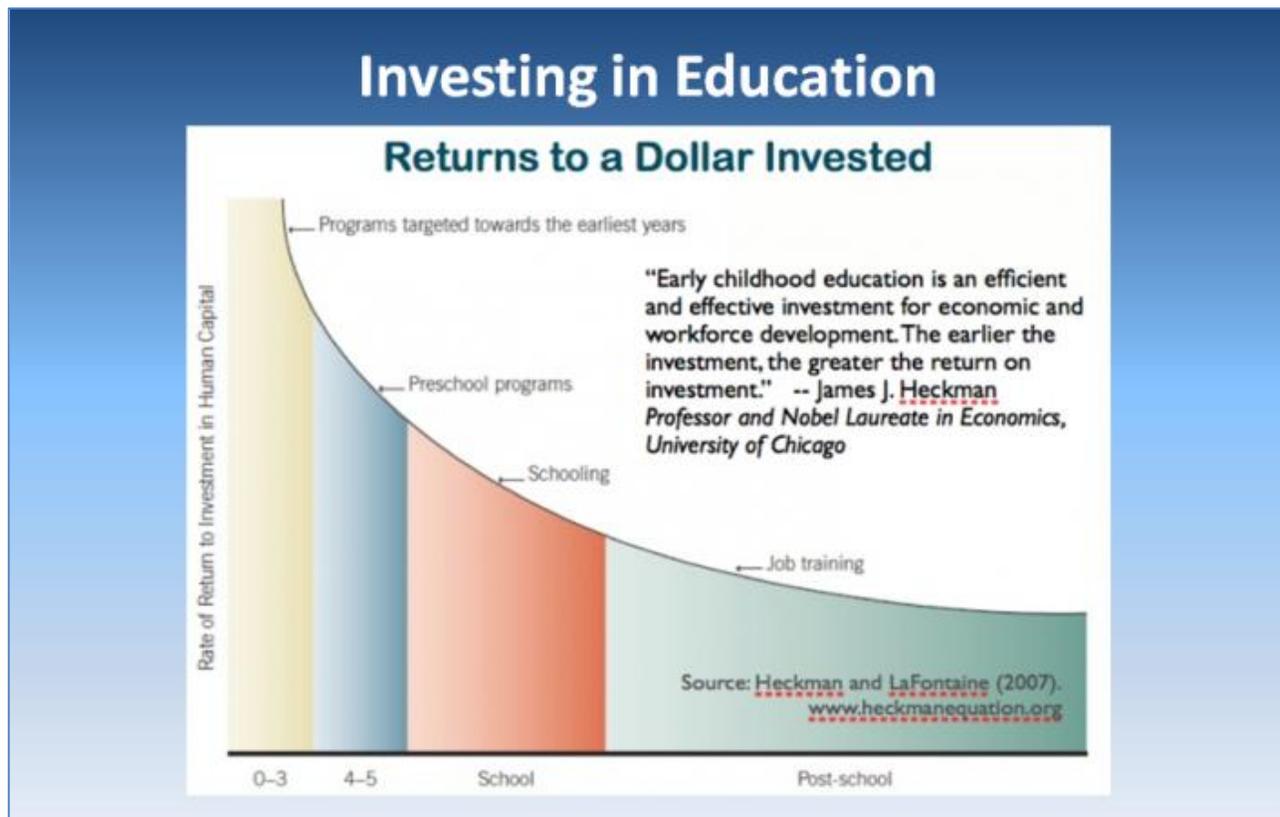
This project is intended to help children ages 2 to 12 attain both early literacy and school readiness skills. Literacy Access Fund believes these skills are fundamental to a child's success in school and life. Many studies have shown that individuals that are not reading on grade level by 3rd grade are likely to fall behind and not meet their grade level peers. Therefore, our goal is to set young learners on the right path at an early age.

# LITERACY ACCESS FUND™

The grants Literacy Access Fund awards will help libraries introduce children to early literacy skills through the use of fun, interactive resources in a low-stress environment. Studies have shown that learning materials that focus on inter-related STREAM disciplines are the most effective. By using collaborative and explorative learning methods, libraries and similar end users can achieve measurable gains, engagement, autonomy, focus, and confidence.

## SUMMARY

The goal of an investment in education with Literacy Access Fund is to provide a safe and fun learning environment for young children who may or may not have access to these learning methods at home. By empowering children with a love of learning and enhanced literacy skills, we are working to ensure that this statistic, **“One in four children in America grows up without learning how to read,”** ceases to exist. With your assistance and support, we can make a difference and help kids learn!



*Children’s literacy technology greatly enhances our ability to provide fun, interactive, and educational experiences to kids at our branches. STREAM focused games are engaging and popular with our young library users.”*

*- Tara Carpenter, Youth Services Manager, Maricopa County Library, Arizona*