

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date 10/12/17

Contact Information

Organization Name: Tick Tock Early Learning Center
Address: 694 Baltimore Pike, Avondale, PA

Phone: 610-268-8134

Website: www.ticktockelc.org
Year Incorporated: 1964

Executive Director Name: Jackie Neidigh
Executive Director E-mail:
Jackie@ticktockelc.org
Board of Directors Chair Name:
Michael Horak, CFA
Primary Contact Name: Jackie Neidigh
Primary Contact E-mail:
Jackie@ticktockelc.org

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

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organization Information:

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

Kennett Consolidated School District and Avon Grove School District, serving the following communities: Avondale, Chatham, Kennett Square, West Grove, Landenberg, Toughkenamon, Lincoln University, Chadds Ford, Oxford, and some communities in Delaware.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: Tick Tock serves up to 98 students from 18 months through 14 years; 98% of our students come from low income families. 95% are from Latino families, many of whom come to Tick Tock with little or no English language skills.

Mission: Our mission is to prepare children from working families for school and life in a loving environment at affordable rates.

Proposal Summary: Our request is for funding for our capital campaign to build a new classroom, renovate our kitchen, and create sustaining funds for educational improvements and future capital repairs/renovations.

Annual Budget \$976,716	<u>21</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>79</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>10</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>19</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>50</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>2</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>400</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>		

Top 3-5 funding sources: Government subsidies; parent fees; contributions; grants.

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: Our campaign goal is \$1 million. To date, \$509,000 has been raised from local individuals and foundations. Campaign contributions of any amount would be gratefully received and can be designed for specific campaign components, if desired.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

Tick Tock Early Learning Center provides pre-school and before and after school and summer programming for 98 students from 18 months through 14 years. 95% of students are from Latino families; 75% come from families where only Spanish is spoken in the home; an additional 20% come from families where some English is spoken as a second language. Students are prepared by teaching basic skills, with an emphasis on school readiness, in an English language immersion program. The curriculum parallels the expectations of the public-school system, giving students the quality start that is necessary for success in school. 90-95% of Tick Tock's students transition successfully to Kindergarten, equipped with sufficient English language and the other intellectual and social skills needed for success. ***This is particularly significant, since so many of our students come to Tick Tock speaking very limited English.***

Tick Tock is designated as a STAR 4 Program by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Keystone STARS Quality Assurance Initiative, the Commonwealth's program to improve and support early learning programs. Four is the highest rating possible. Very few early learning centers in Pennsylvania have achieved this quality designation; almost all that have are private, for-profit or corporate centers. In fact, only five centers in southern Chester County are rated level 4 and only 5% of all eligible children in Pennsylvania have access to a STAR 4 program. Tick Tock is inspected and licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and it is inspected and certified by the Chester County Health Department.

Tick Tock also offers a before and after school program for 32 students from Kindergarten through 8th grade including homework assistance, tutoring and access to computers and school supplies. Tick Tock's 10–12 week Summer Camp Enrichment Program supports and extends the elementary and middle school curricula. The Camp's overall goal is to help students maintain the academic and social gains they made during the school year, while giving them time to relax, recharge, and have fun in the summer, so they may begin the school year refreshed and ready to learn.

Tick Tock is much more than a pre-school for our families. We offer free flu shot and immunization clinics; dental check-ups twice a year on-site including cleanings and x-rays; vision screenings; and free winter coats through Operation Warm. We also offer free or low-cost used books, toys, clothing, baby items, household furnishings, and electronics, which come to us through donations. We reach out to our lowest income families to provide food baskets for major holidays and gifts in December. Because quality nutrition is so essential for the healthy development of children, our collaboration with the Chester County Food Bank supplies a supplemental bag of food for each eligible family every other week.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

We are requesting funding toward Tick Tock's capital campaign, Campaign for the Future. With the assistance of a robust team of current and past Board members and other community volunteers, Tick Tock launched the campaign in spring 2017 to raise \$1 million to make upgrades in seven critical areas. Together, the improvements included in the campaign will help our students to thrive and grow, intellectually, emotionally, and physically today and for years to come.

• Specific needs and issues to be addressed

The campaign includes the following components:

- **\$250,000 to construct a new classroom and learning center:** Currently, the Before and After School Program occupies the space that doubles as the cafeteria and an area for morning/afternoon pick-up. The area becomes noisy and distracting, filled with parents, younger students and teachers, and this interferes with the students' ability to complete their homework assignments. Constructing a quiet, purpose-built classroom for study will enable students to focus more effectively on homework, ultimately enhancing their learning and grades. The new classroom will be equipped as a school classroom with desks, computers, printers, and white boards. This is particularly important because most students from low income families do not have access to computers, books and other educational materials at home. Homework tutoring will also occur in the new classroom, helping the students to focus on assignments with the guidance of teachers in a space equipped for school age students.
- **\$250,000 to upgrade and expand our kitchen and equipment:** An integral part of our program is providing our students nutritious meals and nutrition education. Because many of the children experience food insecurity in their homes, we offer a balanced breakfast, lunch and snack to our students every day. Expanding our kitchen to include a walk-in refrigerator and freezer will enhance the nutritional offerings to include more fresh produce and a diversity of food options. This will also make our food purchasing more efficient and cost-effective.
- **\$150,000 to create a much-needed operating reserve** fund to protect Tick Tock from funding fluctuations from government contracts and fund raising revenues.
- **\$150,000 to create a building fund** for future essential repairs and renovations.
- **\$100,000 to provide staff training and programming** today and in the future to sustain our high quality educational programs and maintain Tick Tock's "Star 4" status;
- **\$50,000 to enrich Tick Tock's curriculum** through purchasing additional books and materials, computers and other learning tools, and expand its summer camp programming; and
- **\$50,000 to build a handicapped-accessible hallway** to connect the new classroom to the rest of the building and to the outside play area.

- **Organizational impact if initiative is undertaken**

Our Building Brighter Futures capital campaign will improve Tick Tock's physical and financial infrastructure to sustain the center for many years to come. The capital improvements will significantly improve the 50+ year old building, making it a higher quality early learning environment. The reserve and building funds will improve Tick Tock's fiscal sustainability, and the staff training and curriculum enrichments will enhance the educational opportunities available for the students and help maintain Tick Tock's "Star 4" status, an essential credential.

- **Activities to implement the initiative. Please include a description of the expected activities; timeline and costs to implement the initiative.**

- Architectural services have been donated by Wayne Simpson, Architects.
- An RFP for contractors will be developed by the architect and sent to three qualified bidders in November 2017. The contractor will be selected in January 2018 by a sub-committee of members of the Board of Directors who have expertise in construction and building design.
- Construction will begin in early spring, 2018 and will be completed by the end of June 2018. Construction oversight will be provided by the Wayne Simpson, Architects.

- **Why it is important to fund this now**

Research shows that low income households (95% Tick Tock students come from low income families) often have negative influences on a child's social and cognitive development. These challenges are then exacerbated when a child grows up in a home where English is not spoken or not spoken fluently, and/or where the parents are illiterate in English, such as many Hispanic families living in southern Chester County today.

A recent study by the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics noted the following concerns pertaining to Hispanic children and education:

- by age 2, Hispanic children have poorer expressive vocabulary skills than their non-Hispanic peers;
- 40% of Hispanic children are not reading adequately when they enter third grade;
- 25% of Hispanics will not graduate high school; and
- Only 20% of Hispanic children are enrolled in early learning programs;

A 2017 report recently published by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Education noted:

- When low-income children have access to quality early care and education before age five, they can often make up for setbacks in their lives, *enabling them to enter kindergarten on par with their peers.*
- Children who are encouraged and supported through high-quality early care and education demonstrate significant progress in acquiring early learning skills, which can save money in special education and remediation costs. *These children are also more likely to graduate from high school, to attend postsecondary education or quality job training programs, and be valuable members of the workforce.*

Early learning programs such as Tick Tock's are effective interventions that supplement family life and give vital support for children from disadvantaged families. In fact, they increase motivation among young children by providing richer, more interactive environments that successfully engage children, making them more receptive to learning, thereby increasing achievement. Early learning programs like Tick Tock's also build social and emotional skills that help children to relate appropriately with adults and peers, and thus succeed in a school environment and in life.

Because Tick Tock teaches students basic skills using an English language immersion program, 90-95% of our students transition successfully to Kindergarten. *This is particularly significant, since so many of our students come to Tick Tock speaking very limited English.* And, as noted above, this reduces the need for special education and remedial programs for these children.

3. How impact and results will be demonstrated

We anticipate the following outcomes will occur within 12 months as a result of completing the renovations made possible by the campaign:

- The renovations will be considered a success if they are completed within the estimated timeframe and within the anticipated budget.
- The before and after school students will report the new classroom is a better learning environment and makes it easier for them to do their homework, as measured by interviews with students.
- The classroom teachers and tutors will report that the new classroom enables students to focus and concentrate better and complete their assignments more efficiently, as measured by interviews with teachers.
- Staff and volunteers who assist with meal preparation will indicate that the new kitchen is an improved, expanded facility, and that the expanded refrigerator, freezer and storage capacities have produced greater efficiencies.

III. ATTACHMENTS

E-mail or mail this support information

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. Most recent annual report and financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.

E-mail completed proposals to grants@chescofc.org

Please contact Kevin Baffa or Beth Harper Briglia at (610) 696-8211 or grants@chescofc.org if you have any questions. Thank you.