

**CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

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

Date: August 22, 2019

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Stroud Water Research Center
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Year Incorporated: 1998 ; operating since 1967

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes X No__ Not Sure__
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes X No__ Not Sure__
X Donor Advised Fund(s) ___ Fund for Chester County ___ Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served: The Stroud Water Research Center is situated on the banks of White Clay Creek in West Marlborough Township, PA. The White Clay Creek, which flows southeast to the Christina River and on into the Delaware River Basin at Wilmington, is the primary source of drinking water for several communities. The Stroud Water Research Center also has a research station on the Stroud Preserve in East Bradford Township, as well as another at Maritza Station in the Costa Rican rain forest.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: More than 15 million people annually through our scientific research, environmental education, and watershed restoration efforts regionally and globally.

Mission: To advance knowledge and stewardship of fresh water through global research, education, and watershed restoration.

Proposal Summary: Stroud Water Research Center is a premiere scientific institution in the world devoted entirely to understanding the ecology of fresh water and how streams and rivers sustain life. We need funding support to make the Stroud Center sustainable and enable it to continue to pursue new scientific knowledge of fresh water.

If Capacity Building Proposal:

X Mission, Vision & Strategy ___ Governance & Leadership X Strategic Relationships
X Fundraising & Development X Operations ___ Other: ___

Annual Budget \$ 7,836,483
88 % of budget for program expenses
8 % of budget for administrative expenses
4 of budget for fundraising expenses
100 % total

42 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
25 # of Board Volunteers
120 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
480 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: National Science Foundation, William Penn Foundation, several individuals and companies.

Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: \$5,000 + or any level deemed appropriate through support from individuals and entities for our Future of Fresh Water Capacity Building Initiative to reach the Stroud Center's \$20 million goal that has \$11 million remaining to achieve.



CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

Stroud Water Research Center (hereafter "the Stroud Center") was established in 1967 as a field station of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia with a mission to understand how natural streams and rivers work in order to guide the cleanup and restoration of polluted streams and rivers. Fifty years later, we are an independent 501(c) (3), not-for-profit, non-advocacy organization recognized worldwide for our freshwater research, education, and watershed restoration.

The Stroud Water Research Center is a leading hybrid environmental institution. We conduct highly advanced, cutting-edge science focused on understanding how freshwater ecosystems function. We collaborate with academic institutions to teach undergraduate courses, mentor and teach graduate students, and train interns to help develop the next generation of scientists and environmental managers. We are a teaching institution, contributing to curriculum development and education of adults and grade students. We describe and curate biological specimens by housing one of the largest collections of aquatic insects in eastern North America. Similar to an environmental consulting firm we work with corporations, individuals, and government agencies (local, state, and federal) to solve environmental obstacles and help manage and protect our fresh water resource. We develop and implement environmental restoration and mitigation projects that assist landowners, legislators, and environmental managers to improve water resources management practices to conserve, protect, and sustain clean fresh water for future generations.

During the past 50 years, the Stroud Center has influenced the focus and direction of freshwater science, education, and watershed restoration. Our original publication of the River Continuum Concept in 1980 remains the most cited and highly regarded foundational concept describing a stream's ecological functioning, worldwide. We are the new hosts of the Center for the North America Taxonomic Certification Program for identification of aquatic insects and other invertebrates, which underpins water-quality assessment in the United States. Our environmental education programs, like the Leaf Pack Network[®], www.Wikiwatershed.org, and their curricula, are used throughout the United States and globally.

"We must work together with landowners, local and regional planners, and decision-makers to protect and restore our freshwater ecosystems. Engagement and financial investments from the community in support of the Stroud Center's mission are vital to our success and to the future of clean fresh water," said David B. Arscott, Ph.D., executive director and research scientist, Stroud Center.

2. Funding request: Infrastructure support is needed to sustain our cutting-edge programs (specifically, technical equipment, field vehicles, computing systems, archive facilities, visitor housing, etc.). Project-specific grants and contracts typically cover proof-of-concept research, time spent planning and writing grant funded projects, communication of our mission and research to the public, or covering our time to participate in outreach conferences and meetings. In the Stroud Center's current strategic plan, the board and staff concluded that one of the most critical elements to sustain the success of the Stroud Center is to increase our "capacity" to assure that the future of clean fresh water is sustainable. The goal is to increase the capacity of the Stroud Center to sustain and elevate our competitive advantage, to continue cutting-edge contributions to freshwater ecology, and to ensure that the center remains a third party, non-advocacy, not-for-profit organization. ***Funding from the Chester County Community Foundation will increase capacity in key major aspects of the Stroud Center:***

RESEARCH (goal \$8 million): Empower renowned scientists to further their work and recommend ways to deliver clean fresh water around the world for generations to come. Only through knowing how healthy streams and rivers work, and what happens when they become polluted, can we determine how to protect and preserve this vital resource.

EDUCATION (goal \$2 million): Enable educators to utilize technology to enhance and expand science beyond the classroom. Create, refine, and explore inclusive education programs and associated curricula (*examples: STEM*

Programs with Schools and Youth Groups, Professional Development, Community Outreach, and Education and Outreach Resources).

RESTORATION (*goal \$4 million*): Implement collaborations and partnerships necessary to achieve the highest level of freshwater conservation and watershed restoration by helping landowners implement best management practices and plant streamside forest buffers. We link research, education, and action on the ground to manage our most precious resource - fresh water.

BERNARD W. SWEENEY, Ph.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FUND (*goal \$5 million*): Provide funds for critical centerwide initiatives. Through the creation of a \$1 million challenge match by Rod and Alice Moorhead every gift received will double the Director's Fund impact.

UNRESTRICTED (*goal \$1 million*): Affords institutional leadership the flexibility to apply funds where they are needed most, such as capital projects, conferences and meetings, and technology enhancements.

For more than 50 years, the Stroud Center has focused on one thing — clean fresh water — and we know that is only possible because of our friends. A gift to will provide an impact to our future endeavors to protect fresh water and vested in such projects:

- Developing best practices and providing data to support science-based legislation that protects freshwater resources.
- Improving water quality through monitoring and testing the efficacy of water treatment options.
- Assessing results of remediation and environmental regulation to preserve water quality.
- Understanding the role of freshwater systems in the carbon cycle and global climate change.
- Empowering the next generation of freshwater stewards through education and outreach.

“We believe that this work must be shared, which is why cultivating a broad understanding of the issues, and teaching the skills to address them, is the core of our programs. With the world’s need for clean fresh water more pressing than ever, we must increase our capacity to pursue that mission. We invite others to join us as we lay the foundation for a more sustainable future. With financial support, we will continue to pursue groundbreaking research and broad-based education that will have a lasting value in our community and in communities around the world,” stated William LaFond, chair of the Future of Fresh Water Initiative and a Stroud Center board member. Funding will sustain existing programs and help us develop new programs for diverse audiences, continue the successes of our award-winning boots-in-the-water stream studies, and engage new learners — particularly from underrepresented groups. Funding from the Chester County Community Foundation makes it possible to provide outreach programs that align with Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Next Generation Science Standards as well as Citizen Science Groups.

As of August 22, 2019, the Stroud Center has achieved the following towards our \$20 million Future of Fresh Water Capacity Building Initiative **\$8,885,299.71** in secured cash and pledges toward from **269** current, prior, and new supporters of the Stroud Center. We are truly fortunate to have secured two matches to achieve our goals in a timely manner: \$1 million from Rod and Alice Moorhead for the Director's Fund, and \$50,000 from Robin and John Spurlino for Scientific Research (*achieved*).

Please contact David Reinfeld, director of campaign programs and major gifts, 610-268-2153, ext. 314, or dreinfeld@stroudcenter.org to inquire about making a gift, multi-year pledge, stock transfer, establish a challenge match, review naming opportunities, and to learn more.

Sustaining clean fresh water requires a good working knowledge of freshwater systems (research) coupled with translating and sharing knowledge broadly with the public (education) and working hand-in-hand to restore damage done to our streams, rivers, and their watersheds related to poor environmental stewardship in the past (restoration). Strategies to implement the Stroud Water Research Center's mission include:

- share findings with peers in the scientific and educational communities and with businesses, landowners, policymakers, and individuals to help them make informed decisions affecting global water quality and availability.
- Conduct basic and applied scientific research and presenting educational programs serving audiences from elementary school children to adults.
- undertake applied research projects for public agencies and private corporations in order to provide solutions to global water resource problems.

Why it is important to fund this now: The Stroud Center needs to increase the capacity and sustainability of Stroud Water Research Center to produce science focused on fresh water, package and convey that knowledge to the public, and engage the public in day-to-day activities that will help sustain sources of clean fresh water for future generations. Access to clean freshwater should be available to everyone. It is a vital natural resource. Without it, business, recreation, and indeed life itself will cease. Lack of funding may mean the rejection rate on proposals will increase, the quality and quantity of programs may decline, and budget shortfalls may become more common. The need to draw down our supporting investments may be at unsustainable rates (greater than 5 percent), uncertainty of our programs, and fewer organizations may want to collaborate with us. The Stroud Center may gradually need to shift from proactive pursuits of new knowledge and innovative education and restoration programs to a more reactionary pursuit to secure funding that is primarily driven by priorities set by other funding agencies rather than meeting the needs of the public with regard to fresh water.

The Stroud Center will be financially equipped to enhance its mission and vision to better meet the needs of a growing population and stressed environment. Over the next 50 years, the Stroud Center's staff and facilities will be able to meet the ever increasing need for stewardship of our freshwater resources. We plan to invest and utilize the funds strategically to enable us to leverage our institutional funds for an indefinite period in conjunction with project-specific grants and contracts to assure continuity of a core team of scientists, educators, and restoration specialists. Direct measurements of success will be increased competitiveness on grants and contracts, increased output of deliverables.

4. Budget: Annually, there are research, education, and restoration budgets that include both project funding (grants and contracts) and institutional funds.

*We have a lot more to do and your assistance is vital to accomplish this initiative at a level deemed appropriate.
Thank you for your consideration.*