

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Contact Information

Organization Name: Avon Grove Education Foundation
 Address: 375 S Jennersville Rd., West Grove, PA 19390
 Phone: 484-225-0976
 Website: www.avongroveducationfoundation.org
 Year Incorporated: 2017
 FEIN: 82-1953602

Date: November 7, 2019

Executive Director/CEO Name: n/a
 Executive Director/CEO E-mail: n/a
 Board of Directors President: Leslie Erb-Wallace
 Primary Contact Name: Mike Adams
 Primary Contact E-mail:
 madams@avongroveducationfoundation.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:

Avon Grove School District - The District is located in a rural-suburban setting 34 miles southwest of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and 18 miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware. Avon Grove covers 67 square miles and consists of five townships and two boroughs; they include New London Township, London Grove Township, London Britain Township, Penn Township, Franklin Township, Avondale Borough and West Grove Borough.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

Student Demographics (roughly 5100 students): 75 percent Caucasian; 19.5 percent Hispanic; 2.5 percent African American; 1.9 percent Asian; and less than 1 percent both American Indian/Alaskan Native and multi-racial.

Mission:

The mission of AGEF is to raise philanthropic support to expand and enhance educational opportunities and to create connections for the students in the Avon Grove School District. AGEF works to promote community involvement in public education by channeling donations from businesses, corporations, and individuals to provide an alternative source of funding for creative and innovative teaching and learning.

Proposal Summary:

Avon Grove Education Foundation seeks a General Operation Grant from CCCF in order to more fully serve the highest priority incoming teacher grant requests we receive, thus improving the learning environment for the 5100 students in the Avon Grove School District.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

Mission, Vision & Strategy ___ Governance & Leadership ___ Strategic Relationships
 Fundraising & Development ___ Technology Other: _____

Annual Budget \$ <u>22,031.00</u>	<u>0</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>90.8</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>18</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>6.9</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>0</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>2.3</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>~1500</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Donations from corporations and nonprofit organizations
 Donations from individual community members
 Fundraising events

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 5000.00

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

The Avon Grove Education Foundation was founded in 2017 to expand and enhance educational opportunities for Avon Grove students. We seated our first Board of Directors in early 2018. Our volunteer Board consists of a variety of community members, teachers, parents, and students who are committed to making our local education the best it can be, and are dedicated to ensuring all Avon Grove students are supported to achieve their dreams.

The Foundation relies solely on money collected through generous donations by corporations, local businesses, parents, and community members. Board members serve to bridge local businesses and individuals who seek to support our local schools both by building relationships between our students and schools, and by contributing monetarily to fund innovative learning opportunities.

Our objectives are as follows:

- Engage business and community partners in support of the Avon Grove School District and the academic achievement of all students.
- Provide funds for innovative programs which are beyond the immediate financial resources of the school district.
- Generate a spirit of local enthusiasm and support for our individual schools and our district as a whole.
- Create connections between our parents, community members, local businesses, and our students.
- Provide a vehicle to facilitate tax-deductible contributions for the benefit of our schools.

Teachers are our primary conduit to understanding the unmet needs of the students, and we receive a regular stream of grant requests from teachers, describing what gaps exist in their curriculum in terms of materials, programs or other resources. Our intent is to fulfill these requests in order of priority on an ongoing basis. In our first full year together, the AGEF has fulfilled six such grants:

- Startup of the first annual STEM Night for Avon Grove Intermediate School, a hands-on learning event attended by over 600 AGIS students, family and friends
- Subscription to vocabulary.com, a computer program to increase students' vocabulary... Fred S. Engle Middle School placed first amongst PA middle/elementary schools in the 2018-19 Vocabulary Bowl
- Expansion of the AGIS LEGO Robotics Club, a group which had to turn away nearly 100 applicants yearly because of lack of equipment, and now was able to double its membership from 24 to 48 students through our donation of equipment and materials
- Purchase of an Aquaponics system for an Environmental Science class at Avon Grove High School
- Purchase of the materials required to execute a new DNA lab targeting improvement in the quality of students' biotechnology education
- Upgrade to AGHS TV studio equipment, enabling interested students to experience more up to date real world techniques and technologies, and provide an improved broadcast to the community

We are the only organization which is seeking to fulfill these specific AGSD teacher needs in a fast-response way, outside the standard funding of curriculum programs through the School Board. We've found that this is an effective method to deliver on more urgent requests and to test pilot programs which may be funded by the School Board longer-term.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives:

The current activities of the Avon Grove Education Foundation are centered around the fulfillment of teacher grant requests. We believe that teachers are in the best position to determine what investments might be beneficial to augmenting their current instructional activities, and thus we rely on them to apply for program grants. We raise funds to enable us to fulfill these requests for the benefit of the students of Avon Grove School District.

Specific needs and issues to be addressed:

Fulfilling teacher grant requests is our primary function at this time, and the following is a list of outstanding grant requests...

- TEDx Conference materials and training
- CPR training classroom materials
- Software to train students on avoiding plagiarism
- Materials to support unique physical education approaches
- Supplies and equipment for an upgraded music lab
- Materials and equipment to expand AGHS Robotics Club
- Upgraded technology for class on public presentations

We prioritize the outstanding requests twice per year, and fund a number of them based on our budget for grant fulfillment.

Why it is important to fund this now:

We currently have a backlog of deserving teacher grant requests which amounts to over \$56,000. As awareness of our organization grows throughout the school district, we anticipate an increased rate of grant requests to follow, and we will need to continue to find new sources of funding in order to meet even a reasonable percentage of the demand. We additionally are looking to develop larger scale AGEF-driven programs which are not directly related to a specific teacher request, but rather would benefit a wider variety of teachers and students. Without appropriate funding, these types of programs will not come to fruition.

How impact and results will be demonstrated:

We follow up with grant recipients in a reasonable amount of time after fulfilling the grant request in order to determine if the program was successful. For instance, we provided robots and computers for the LEGO Robotics Club at Avon Grove Intermediate School, with the intent of increasing the number of students the club could support, and a few months after the grant fulfillment, we learned that the club had doubled in size, allowing an additional 24 students to participate in this valuable STEM program.

III. ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter (attachment to email)

2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations

Leslie Erb-Wallace (President)

Michael Adams (Vice President)

Kelly Walker (Secretary)

Steve Maley (Treasurer)

Carolyn Hammerschmidt

Kelly Lewis

Dorothy Linn

Debra L'Heureux

Scott Lucas

Maria Navarrete-Olvera

Bob Weidenmuller

Kerry Wright

Nancy Rowan (Teacher Representative)

Joseph Dagher (Student Representative)

Ashley Murphy (Student Representative)

Sopia Stryjewski (Student Representative)

Mike Snopkowski (Administration Representative)

Eric Willey (Administration Representative)

3. Most recent annual report and financial statement (attachment to email)

4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date (attachment to email)

5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (not applicable)

6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.

AGEF does not currently have a strategic plan. Our first year has been filled with ramping up our Board of Directors, establishing relationships with the teachers and administration, and quickly beginning the process of fundraising and grant fulfillment, in order to increase awareness of our organization in the community.