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Contact Information

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In a few brief paragraphs, please explain:

1. What geographic area is served? (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): All of Chester County is served; The Stroud Center’s education activities also serve nearby states (DE, MD, NJ) and teachers throughout the U.S. (targeted trainings/workshops, conferences, and traveling and virtual education programs)

2. What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded? Our education activities primarily work with elementary through high schools students and educators (in Chester County and beyond); All of our face-to-face programs, events, meetings are postponed or canceled until further notice with school groups now recognizing that there will be no return until the next school year. We continue to communicate with school/organization contacts to keep them informed, our partnerships alive, and prioritizing postponed programs to be “first in line” for rescheduling to future dates (some already reserved future dates). Our full-time education staff members are all working from home using virtual resources. Our part-time educators are not able lead programs and are therefore the hardest hit of all of our employees.

3. How much funding is sought? How does this compare to your annual operating budget? What will funds be used for? What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?

The Stroud Water Research Center respectfully seeks $5,000 or a level deemed appropriate. Our annual budget for education-related activities is ~$412k and our Stroud Center wide budget for 2020 is $7.770M.

We are hoping the Chester County Community Foundation and its partners will aid the Stroud Center with a gift to help us create a virtual learning platform to offer our education programs during this COVID 19 situation and beyond. Our proposal is to create “Virtual Learning Resources” from existing and new environmental/watershed education projects sponsored by the foundation. Many teachers and students especially in Chester County and beyond are looking for interactive technology enhanced learning resources and we have experience creating these in past and current National Science Foundation, NOAA and other education and science grants. Our proposal will create and host all of our virtual learning resources while re-tasking existing ones to meet today’s challenges with the coronavirus and create new resources for learning (interactive identification keys, STEM career video lessons, at home/backyard learning, etc.). Many of the local schools that we serve are Title 1 schools with high populations of students with free and reduced lunches and English Language Learners. We also have many migrant education children of workers on local farms and in the mushroom industry.

We know this is asking a lot especially during this interesting time however we hope a partnership through a gift of $5,000 and we will provide print and electronic recognition.