Contact Information

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EIN: 52-2081073  
Grant $ Amount Requested: $30,000 or level deemed
Year Founded: 1967  
appropriate

In filing this application, the nonprofit certifies that it complies with all federal, state & local laws, including taxation; complies with current public health guidelines; and complies with coronavirus pandemic phased reopening restrictions.
Agreed by: [Signature]
Date: 10/20/20

Nonprofit Field/s of Interest

| Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation | Education | X | Health |
| Community Development | Environment & Animal Welfare | X | Human Services |

Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figures</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>PRE-COVID (as of 1/1/20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Operating Budget</td>
<td>$7,770,199</td>
<td>$7,770,199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff</td>
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<td># Board Volunteers</td>
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<td># Committee Volunteers</td>
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<td># Active Direct Service Volunteers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Volunteer Hours</td>
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<td>#120</td>
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</table>

Funding: Please indicate if your nonprofit has received funding from any of these regional sources over the past few years. We will invite them to review this funding request.

X ChesCo Comm Fdn  
X Brandywine Health Fdtn  
United Way ChesCo  
ChesCo Dept Comm Devel
ChesCo Fund/W&Girls  
Phoenixville Comm Health Fdtn  
United Way S ChesCo  
ChesCo Dept Health
Other significant funders: National Science Foundation, William Penn Foundation, several individuals and companies.
ChesCo Dept Human Svcs

Narrative: In a few concise paragraphs, please explain:

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

2. 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 activities also serve regional, national, and international communities.

3. What population is served? How have your service numbers been impacted by COVID?
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.

We anticipate more than 9,500 (FY20 goal) students, teachers, and families will not participate in our school and youth programs on-site because of the COVID-19 situation. As of today, we have 1,588 participants (620 in-person and 968 virtual). Meanwhile, our education department communicates with school/organization contacts to keep them informed, our partnerships alive, and prioritizing postponed programs to be “first in line” for rescheduling. Many of the local schools that we serve are Title 1 schools with high populations of students with free and reduced lunches, and live in economically challenged areas. We also have many migrant education children of workers on local farms and in the mushroom industry.

The Watershed Restoration Group (WRG) has moved a number of presentations to webinars and zoom calls, and are part of the planning and delivery of a number of conferences that have adapted or are evolving to meet the current situation. The PA statewide Forest Buffer Conference was converted to an online venue that was very well attended. Stroud staff presented webinar sessions that were attended by 150 to 180 individuals. Many small public landowner meetings have been cancelled and will need to be re-initiated. Door to door outreach activities targeted by the Delaware River Watershed Initiative are paused.

4. What has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?

All interactions with the community-at-large via school groups, education and outreach, farmers, presentations, meetings, events, fundraisers, conferences are postponed until further notice unless conducted through electronic platforms. As of October 2020, we have piloted the return of several small classes (<30 students/teachers) for outside field studies at the Stroud Center. Nevertheless, small class sizes and infrequent class offerings remain a challenge for the long-term sustainability of our in-person education program model.

We are hosting outreach efforts through our virtual learning resources while re-tasking our in-person experiences to virtual experiences to meet today’s challenges with the coronavirus. We are also creating new resources for virtual learning (interactive identification keys, STEM career video lessons, at home/backyard learning, etc.).

Our team is creatively piloting and providing inclusive community support through online programming.

5. What would this funding be used for? How does this demonstrate innovation and resiliency in dealing with COVID impacts? What would be the community impact of this anticipated funding? Why is it important to fund this now?

Our greatest need is general operating support. Revenue income allows our institution to function, and annual fund support to our general operations provides immediate financial relief and benefits all areas of the Stroud Center.

We will invest in diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice-related activities, enhanced zoom-meeting packages, virtual learning resources, technology, and equipment for the institution in dealing with COVID impacts. This will allow for a higher degree of innovation and resiliency through the use of new and updated technologies for our research, education, and restoration to host and participate in collaborative outreach activities impacting diverse audiences.

Over the past several months, the Stroud Center Board of Directors are collectively working with staff members and a consulting firm (ROZ Group) to develop a plan to sustain, implement, enhance, and codify strategies and tactics for engaging in diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice-related activities in the context of our mission. Incorporating these principles will encourage more creative, collaborative, comprehensive, equitable, and inclusive environmental outcomes from multiple perspectives which funds are needed to implement.

As families and educators attempt to support students during ongoing emergency remote learning conditions, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed a gap in virtual, high-quality environmental education. For students and adult learners who participate in face-to-face Stroud Center stream study field trips and other programs each year, inclusive virtual learning opportunities are critically needed to ensure water resource and watershed literacy. Funding is needed to deliver more live virtual learning experiences; and develop Extended Learning Resources and
Watershed STEM Kits to ensure participants remain actively engaged in water-focused during these times of COVID-19 and into the new normal.

Specific objectives and measurable outcomes:
~ Create and distribute Virtual Learning Resources through three key formats during COVID-19 mitigation and with longevity beyond:
  • Live Virtual Programs (e.g. virtual stream studies, camp activities, training for teachers/citizen scientists)
  • Engaging Virtual Resources (e.g. pre-filmed stream studies, sustainability and watershed tours)
  • Static Virtual Resources (e.g. Watershed STEM Kits with hands-on activities and tools)
~ Enhance video/audio technologies and virtual instructional supplies to successfully transition from face-to-face teaching in green space to teaching in virtual space.

~ Purchase, package, use, and deliver Watershed STEM Kits to students, campers, families, and teachers to support at-home learning for schools, two virtual camps (Brandywine Watershed Discovery Day Camp with Coatesville Youth Initiative for economically disadvantaged and minority elementary aged youth and Watershed STEM for 21st learners for high school migrant education students).

~ Beginning in 2021, adapt Virtual Learning Resources as potential pre- and post-program Extended Learning Activities for face-to-face stream study field trips at the Stroud Center.

6. How much funding is sought? How does this compare to your annual operating budget and this years’ projected deficit? What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?

Stroud Water Research Center respectfully seeks $30,000 or a level deemed appropriate.

Due to COVID-19, we have projected a loss in revenue of more than $486,000 due to cancelled outreach programs events, and redirected grant opportunities. We have also incurred $13,532.15 costs related to on-going cleaning and social distancing requirements, masks/hand sanitizers/CDC compliant disinfectants, and increased expenses (JEDI, virtual event and fundraising modules, etc.) related to COVID-19 that was not originally projected in our FY20 budget. Longer term concerns are related to philanthropic support /headwinds and future environmental grant opportunities. Stroud Center’s FY20 budget may experience further COVID-19 impacts should the virus spread in a “2nd wave” and result in a return to statewide shutdown.

Since March 2020, we experienced an overall decrease in contributed revenue and programmatic fees which continue to negatively impact the organization resulting in a sizable challenge to sustain the operations of the Stroud Center mission, our talented staff, and vital research for freshwater ecosystems, and outreach during this time and possibly into 2021. Lastly, endowment performance has been highly variable throughout 2020. As of July 31, 2020, performance was down 1.87%. We depend on endowment investments to provide foundational financial support for the Stroud Center and we will continue to be challenged by declining endowment revenues, particularly during these highly volatile market cycles linked to the broader and global economic challenges.

Stroud Water Research Center does intend to use awarded funds immediately, since we have incurred many unexpected expenses while experiencing reduced revenues.

Requested Statement:

*Stroud Water Research Center (Stroud Center) is an innovative and resilient non-profit organization*