

I CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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

Note: If Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, CCCF's **Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.**

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date: September 4, 2023

Contact Information

Organization Name: Avon Grove Education Foundation

Address: 375 S Jennersville Rd., West Grove, PA 19390

Phone: 484-225-0976

AWebsite: www.avongroveeducationfoundation.org

Year Incorporated: 2017

FEIN: 82-1953602

Primary Contact E-mail: madams@avongroveeducationfoundation.org

ED/CEO Name: n/a

ED/CEO E-mail: n/a

Board Chair Name: Andrea Vaughn

Board Chair Approval (check here):

Primary Contact Name: Mike Adams

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities

Environment/Animal Welfare

Education

Health

Human Services

Religion

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.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions 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 & Annual Number of People Served:

Student Demographics (roughly 5100 total students, evenly distributed from K-12): 75 percent Caucasian; 19.5 percent Hispanic; 2.5 percent African American; 1.9 percent Asian; and less than 1 percent both Native American/Alaskan Native and multi-racial.

Annual Budget \$ 48,781 for FY24 0 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

85.2 % of budget for program expenses 19 # of Board Volunteers

8.2 % of budget for administrative expenses 0 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

6.6 % of budget for fundraising expenses ~1500 # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

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

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ___ or General Operating ___X___?

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

___Mission, Vision & Strategy ___Governance & Leadership ___Partnerships & Collaborations
___Fundraising, Development & Marketing ___Technology Other: _____

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ _____

Any amount is helpful, though our typical grant requests are at least \$1000, and the budget for our Foundation Project is estimated to be as high as \$200k.

Proposal Summary:

As described in more detail in section II.2 below, we seek additional funding which would allow for a more proactive approach to seek new impactful teacher grant requests and begin the implementation of our first Foundation Project, designed to build Makerspaces in each of our School District's four schools.

Here is a bit more detail about Makerspaces and our proposed Foundation Project:

Makerspaces have become essential educational environments, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills among students. The Avon Grove School District is seeking to develop makerspaces in each school in order to provide learning experiences to all students during and after school.

The Makerspace in Penn London Elementary School (K-1) will be designed to promote imaginative play, tactile exploration, and early problem-solving skills. The space should be colorful, inviting, and filled with age-appropriate tools and materials such as building blocks, puzzles, art supplies, and simple electronics. Low tables and chairs should be provided to accommodate young learners.

The Makerspace in Avon Grove Intermediate School (2-5) will provide more advanced tools and materials, encouraging them to engage in collaborative projects and develop critical thinking skills. It should include stations for woodworking, robotics, coding, 3D printing, and electronics. The space should be flexible, with movable furniture and storage for materials.

The Makerspace in Avon Grove Middle School (6-8) will offer a wider range of tools, equipment, and technologies to support students' growing interests and skill development. It should include areas for woodworking, metalworking, electronics, 3D printing, laser cutting, and design software. The space should be organized into different zones to accommodate various projects and foster collaboration.

The Makerspace in Avon Grove High School (9-12) should be a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and interdisciplinary collaboration. This space includes a classroom portion with project tables, retractable power outlets, and ample storage space. A two-story area is fully accessible from the classroom and features an exterior door leading to a courtyard. This space should feature state-of-the-art tools and equipment such as 3D printers, CNC machines, virtual reality setups, and advanced electronics. The space should include designated areas for prototyping, engineering, textiles, multimedia production, and coding.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & 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. We have funded over thirty such requests since our inception, ranging in size from a few hundred dollars to over ten thousand. Some examples of filled grant requests include:

- 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
- 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

In addition to these Teacher Grant Requests, in 2022 we initiated a Foundation Project, which is a much larger, longer-term fundraising effort targeted at building Makerspaces in each of our district's four schools, each appropriate for the age of students the school serves. The scale of this program (in the range of \$100-200k funding required) will take significantly longer for us to fulfill.

We are the only organization which is seeking to fulfill these specific AGSD teacher needs in a fast-response way, while also supporting such large scale educational efforts like our Foundation Project, outside the standard funding of curriculum programs through the School Board. We've found that the fulfillment of Teacher Grant Requests 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, and we are just beginning our Foundation Project experiment, and are seeking support.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

Funding would be utilized in two areas:

First, it would enable expansion of our fulfillment of teacher grant requests. Thus far, we have limited ourselves to reactively fulfilling the grant requests we receive, but we believe there are far more needs which could be funded if we were to more proactively go into the teacher community to seek them. These would fall into a broad range of topics, from STEM to music and the arts, and from special education to language education.

Second, we would be enabled to more quickly fund the Foundation Project, which will first focus on the Makerspace at the new Avon Grove High School, followed by the other three schools in turn.

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

As mentioned, we believe there is much greater need for the funding we provide than what is reaching us from proactive teachers. With greater level of funding, we could be more proactive in our approach, thus reaching many more teachers, and therefore students, by seeking out their needs as opposed to waiting for them to emerge. Additionally we currently lack the funding to fulfill the Foundation Project effort and are seeking to rapidly increase our funding in order to complete at least the first school's Makerspace in the span of 18-24 months.

• Why it is important to fund this now

Without additional funding, we are sure that teachers' needs are going unmet, and thus their students aren't benefitting from the programs which could be created. It is certain that immediate funding would more immediately lead to the full creation of the AGHS Makerspace and allow us to work with the AG Administration on the development of the other three Makerspaces more quickly.

• How impact & results will be demonstrated

We receive written reports from each teacher grant recipient which documents how the funded programs were implemented, and the impact from them, once the program has been instituted. This tends to give both us as an organization a view of how students are benefitting from our funding, but also helps our donors see their impact more concretely, and the School District Administration determine if they want to continue funding programs longer-term, or expand upon them.

Most directly, we can easily capture the number of students positively impacted by the programs we fund, simply by observing their participation.

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 & financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & 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.

- Use this form @ www.chescof.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to grants@chescof.org**
- Proposals are considered "complete" when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments**.
- Proposals are shared electronically and online with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.
- Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & cannot be individuals.

Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at
(610) 696-8211 grants@chescof.org with questions.

