

# 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](http://www.chescocf.org)*

**Date: September 13, 2023**

## **Contact Information**

Organization Name: **Stroud Water Research Center**

Address: **970 Spencer Road, Avondale PA 19311**

Phone: **610-268-2153**

Website: **stroudcenter.org**

Year Incorporated: **1998; Founded in 1967**

FEIN: **52-2081073**

Primary Contact E-mail: **jprovinski@stroudcenter.org**

ED/CEO Name: **David B. Arscott Ph.D.**

ED/CEO E-mail: **darscott@stroudcenter.org**

Board Chair Name: **Porter Schutt**

Board Chair Approval (check here):

Primary Contact Name: **Jessica Provinski**

## **Organization Information:**

### **Field/s of Interest:**

Arts, Culture & Humanities

Environment/Animal Welfare

Education

Health

Human Services

Religion

**Mission: To advance knowledge and stewardship of freshwater systems through global research, education, and watershed restoration.**

**Geographic Area Served** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): **Stroud Water Research Center's main headquarters is on the banks of White Clay Creek in East Marlborough Township, Chester County, PA. While our mission is global, our research, education, and active watershed restoration efforts directly affect watersheds throughout Chester County and the people that live in them.**

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: More than 15 million people are impacted by the Stroud Center's work each year. Our work has no targeted demographic, but equally affects all as clean fresh water is important to all.**

**Annual Budget** **\$10,503,311**

**86 %** of budget for program expenses

**8 %** of budget for administrative expenses

**6 %** of budget for fundraising expenses

*100 % total*

**54 #** of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

**20 #** of Board Volunteers

**45 #** of Active Non-Board Volunteers

**125 #** of Volunteer Hours

### **Top 3-5 funding sources:**

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

**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: \$ 5,000 (or an amount deemed appropriate)**

**Proposal Summary: A general operating grant from the Chester County Community Foundation would help to empower the Stroud Center to (1) bridge funding gaps in order to maintain long-term, scientific study continuity; (2) inspire and educate a new generation of water stewards; (3) help local farmers and landowners understand and implement best management practices to protect our vital freshwater sources.**



## INTRODUCTION AND MISSION

Since 1967, Stroud Water Research Center’s internationally acclaimed team has been laser-focused on one thing, fresh water. Our mission is to advance the knowledge and stewardship of freshwater systems through global research, education, and watershed restoration. While our research concentrates on streams and rivers, including how they function as a whole and the complex web of life that inhabits them, there’s a much larger story behind the Stroud Center’s efforts. The health of these freshwater ecosystems is the first line of defense in preserving clean water—and clean water is essential to all life. 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 for generations to come.

Stroud Water Research Center’s collaborative team of researchers, educators, and watershed restoration specialists work together to share the most updated research with students, educators, policy-makers, farmers, and landowners. Sharing our science is an important part of our work and impact. As a non-advocacy, unbiased organization, we rely on the strength of our data to help guide informed decisions.

## KEY INITIATIVES

- Our research guides science-informed action.
  - Understanding what makes streams and rivers healthy is key to ensuring the availability of clean and safe fresh water for the future.
- Our educators develop freshwater ambassadors.
  - Through our education programs, projects and resources, we translate our scientific research and watershed restoration activities into meaningful learning opportunities for diverse audiences.
- Our restoration improves streams and rivers.
  - Our watershed restoration group links research with education and improvements on land to increase environmental stewardship and to influence policy and practice.

## WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS TO US

For the Stroud Center to make the greatest impact, unrestricted funding is essential in helping us to close gaps in projects. This funding allows our scientists, educators, and restoration team the opportunity to perform at the highest level, regardless of funding.

*In 2022, support of the Stroud Center helped to:*

- Take environmental education on the road with the Watershed Education Mobile lab. It travelled 3,100 miles to four states and reached more than 1,200 program participants.
- Plant more than 50 acres of trees throughout Chester, Berks, and Lancaster counties to improve the health of the watershed.
- Publish 17 peer-reviewed scientific papers on our global work.

### **A few examples of how unrestricted funding can help us to close gaps in our work:**

- Providing funding for maintenance on forested streamside buffers: Maintenance is key to ensuring successful tree plantings, and in turn, healthier streams and rivers, but rarely does grant funding cover this cost.
- Providing resources to allow our research team to sample additional streams gaining important data: While working on a project, it may help the analysis to collect samples that may be upstream or downstream of the actual project scope.
- Providing resources to help the education team explore and develop new programming: As our educators develop programming within school curriculum standards, they discover new programs and opportunities to create new hands-on experiences for students.
- Allowing our published research to be open access: In the current academic market, there is a high cost for publications to allow them to be accessed by all. The Stroud Center firmly believes this is an important part of our mission, but there is a higher cost to allowing for open access publications.

## IMPACT AND RESULTS

Each year, the Stroud Center collects tangible metrics such as: number of program participants, number of published papers, acres of forested buffer planted, number of improved soil health or best management practices implemented, and number of students attending programming. This shows some of our measurable impacts to the community-at-large.

Some of our outcomes are much less tangible, but no less important. Our research and restoration projects take years of careful data collection and sampling before we are able to make recommendations or suggestions that may be used to help guide important policy overall.

One of the strengths of the Stroud Center is in the longevity of our research and ability to be able to compare stream samples over decades. This helps us to show real impacts that our work and research are making on streams and rivers. Unrestricted support is one of the many ways we are able to continuously collect data (for instance, we have been taking monthly samples on White Clay Creek for almost 60 years). Data sets like this are very few and far between, and help our team to see changes within the watershed as we use our research to make recommendations on land-use changes, all aimed at protecting our streams and rivers.

Clean fresh water is our most essential natural resource, and it takes all of us to help ensure it is available for future generations.

## THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING SUPPORT OF THE STROUD CENTER!