



September 01, 2024

Dear Chester County Community Foundation,

Please find our 2024/2025 Grant Application for the Foundation for Learning in Tredyffrin/Easttown (FLITE). FLITE is thankful for the opportunity to submit this proposal to you.

FLITE deeply appreciates your organization's generous past support. We look forward to hearing from you regarding your decision. Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to discuss this application.

Sincerely yours,

Nina Lotfi  
FLITE Trustee and Foundation Grants Chair

*Nina G Lotfi*

# 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 the application.**

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date:** September 1, 2024

## Contact Information

Organization Name: FLITE (Found'n for Learning in Tredyffrin/Easttown) ED/CEO Name: Pritam Potnis  
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Year Incorporated: 2006 Primary Contact Name: Nina Lotfi  
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## Organization Information:

### Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities       Environment/Animal Welfare  
 Education       Health  
 Human Services       Religion

**Mission:** FLITE provides academic programs designed to ensure that students with financial, domestic or similar barriers to their education have the tools and support they need to succeed in school.

**Geographic Area Served** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

FLITE serves Paoli, Berwyn, Malvern, Devon and Wayne in Chester County

### **Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:**

500+ disadvantaged students in Tredyffrin/Easttown School District area (pre-school through high school)

### **Annual Budget \$ 450,000**

0 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
98% % of budget for program expenses      22 # of Board Volunteers  
2% % of budget for administrative expenses      165 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
0% % of budget for fundraising expenses      4000+ # of Volunteer Hours  
*100 % total*

**Top 3-5 funding sources: Wizards Events, Golf Event, direct mail solicitation, PA EITC Program**

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

### **If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is: N/A**

Mission, Vision & Strategy     Governance & Leadership     Partnerships & Collaborations  
 Fundraising, Development & Marketing     Technology    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:**      \$5000

### **Proposal Summary & Narrative**

We request \$5000 to help continue and grow our After School Homework Program for 2025-2026: assist students to develop on-grade level math and reading skills; develop effective study and problem-solving skills; enhance social interaction; and receive needed nourishment.

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.*

**The Foundation for Learning in Tredyffrin/Easttown (FLITE)**, is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit educational foundation that serves preschool through high school students year-round in Tredyffrin/Easttown. It is an all-volunteer non-profit educational foundation, serving pre-school through high school students year-round in the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District.

FLITE's overall purpose is to provide academic programs to help ensure that students with financial, domestic or similar barriers to their education have the tools and support they need to succeed in school. FLITE targets its funding toward programs that reach groups and individual students who are unable to take full advantage of the curriculum and activities that the district offers. While FLITE is independent of the T/E School District, we work closely with the District in designing, operating and evaluating our programs. The School District is very supportive of FLITE.

FLITE also seek community input in identifying areas of need. The generosity of Tredyffrin/Easttown residents helps to guarantee FLITE's success. The T/E community expects excellence in our schools and supports assistance for students who need extra help. Everyone benefits when everyone succeeds academically.

### **About The Program Seeking Funding**

The total annual cost of FLITE's After-School Homework Program is currently \$185,000, which represents 41% of the program's budget. The grant we are requesting will help ensure the program's continued operational feasibility. We also anticipate growth in the number of student participants.

FLITE's After School Program addresses the critical issue of below-average academic performance among economically disadvantaged children in our district by providing a structured, comprehensive approach to academic assistance. The program operates four afternoons per week (Monday-Thursday) for 1.25 hours from September to early June, in T/E's five T/E elementary and 2 middle schools.

The importance of this support cannot be overstated. By offering consistent, targeted assistance, the program helps build students' confidence and academic skills, which are essential for long-term success. The program is staffed by highly qualified T/E School District teachers and assistants, ensuring that students receive expert guidance and support. These skilled tutors play a crucial role in the program's effectiveness. They not only help students with homework completion but also focus on developing good study skills and fostering positive attitudes toward learning. This comprehensive approach addresses both immediate academic needs and long-term educational goals.

The program's structure provides a safe, nurturing environment where students can receive the individualized attention they may not get elsewhere. This consistent support helps build students' self-esteem and confidence in their academic abilities, which can have far-reaching effects on their overall school performance and future aspirations. The Program also provides two other critical elements: a "substantial snack", vital to students from poverty environments;

and transportation home, since otherwise many students would be unable to stay after school to participate in the Program.

Environment, skilled staff, and accessibility combined with the program's focus on homework completion and academic improvement directly addresses the barriers and lack of supplemental learning support. By providing this crucial assistance, FLITE's After School Program helps level the playing field for economically disadvantaged students, giving them the tools and confidence they need to succeed academically and beyond.

Program Details:

- Staffed by qualified T/E School District teachers and assistants
- Provides healthy snacks and crucial transportation for participants
- Focuses on homework completion, academic improvement, and fostering positive attitudes toward school

Timeline:

The program will run throughout the 2024-2025 school year, from September to early June.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Impact 130 students
2. Achieve at least 94% attendance rate (minimum 80%)
3. Improve homework completion rates and overall school performance
4. Improved student confidence and attitude toward school

Success Metrics:

- Attendance: 94% average (80% minimum)
- Homework Completion: Consistent improvement reported by teachers
- School Performance: Strong or moderate improvement in overall performance
- Attitude Toward School: Highly positive or positive attitudes exhibited by students