



AGENDA
CUYAHOGA COUNTY EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
3:00 PM

Committee Members:

Sunny M. Simon, Chair – District 11

Cheryl L. Stephens, Vice Chair – District 10

Pernel Jones, Jr. – District 8

Jack H. Schron, Jr. – District 6

Yvonne M. Conwell – District 7

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 3, 2023 MEETING**
- 5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**
 - a) R2023-0125: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$100,000, to the Harvard Community Services Center for the Students of Promise Exposure Field Trip and College Tour Transportation Project from the District 3 & District 8 ARPA Community Grant Funds; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
 - b) R2023-0128: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to Seeds of Literacy for the Building Capacity to Support Increased Enrollment Project from the District 9 ARPA Community

Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

7. ADJOURNMENT

**Complimentary parking for the public is available in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the Council Chambers from the 5th floor parking level of the garage. Please see the Clerk to obtain a complimentary parking pass.*

***Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
3:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Simon called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ms. Simon asked Deputy Clerk Carter to call the roll. Committee members Simon, Stephens, Schron and Conwell were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Committee member Jones was absent from the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments given.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 19, 2023 MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Schron and appointed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2023 meeting.

5. MATTERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

- a) R2023-0097: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to The Literacy Cooperative for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Simon introduced a proposed substitute to Resolution No. R2023-0097. Discussion ensued.

A motion was then made by Mr. Schron, seconded by Ms. Conwell and approved by unanimous vote to accept the proposed substitute.

Ms. McKenzae Bartels, Resource Development Manager for The Literacy Cooperative; and Ms. Joan Spoerl, Director of The Literacy Cooperative for the Imagination Library; addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2023-0097. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Bartels and Ms. Spoerl pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Stephens with a second by Mr. Schron, Resolution No. R2023-0097 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading, as substituted.

- b) R2023-0110: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$25,000, to Global Cleveland for the Welcoming Workforce Project from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Allison Retter, Director of Development of Global Cleveland; and Mr. Joseph Cimperman, Executive Director of Global Cleveland, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2023-0110. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Retter and Mr. Cimperman pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Conwell with a second by Mr. Schron, Resolution No. R2023-0110 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

- c) R2023-0112: A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$35,000, to the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio for the Stronger Together Project from the District 9 & 11 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.

Ms. Peggy Zone Fisher, President and CEO of the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio; and Ms. Brenda Saradakis, Director of Development of the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, addressed the Committee regarding Resolution No. R2023-0112. Discussion ensued.

Committee members asked questions of Ms. Zone Fisher and Ms. Saradakis pertaining to the item, which they answered accordingly.

On a motion by Ms. Simon with second by Ms. Stephens, Resolution No. R2023-0112 was considered and approved by unanimous vote to be referred to the full Council agenda for second reading.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Simon adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m., without objection.

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2023-0125

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Jones and Sweeney	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$100,000, to the Harvard Community Services Center for the Students of Promise Exposure Field Trip and College Tour Transportation Project from the District 3 & District 8 ARPA Community Grant Funds; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$17,500 and the District 8 Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$82,500 for the total amount of \$100,000 to the Harvard Community Services Center for the Students of Promise Exposure Field Trip and College Tour Transportation Project; and

WHEREAS, the Harvard Community Services Center estimates approximately 350 people will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, the Harvard Community Services Center estimates approximately 3 permanent and temporary jobs will be created or retained through this project; and

WHEREAS, the Harvard Community Services Center estimates the total cost of the project is \$220,000; and

WHEREAS, the Harvard Community Services Center indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes:

- A. \$357,000 in Cuyahoga County CTAG Grant Funding;
- B. \$350,000 from Congressionally Directed Spending; and

WHEREAS, the Harvard Community Services Center is estimating the start date of the project will be April 2023 and the project will be continuing; and

WHEREAS, the Harvard Community Services Center requested \$82,500 from the District 8 ARPA Community Grant Fund and \$17,500 from the District 3 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$100,000 to the Harvard Community Services Center to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$100,000 to the Harvard Community Services Center from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Students of Promise Exposure Field Trip and College Tour Transportation Project.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

First Reading/Referred to Committee: May 9, 2023
Committee(s) Assigned: Education, Environment & Sustainability

Journal _____
_____, 20____



**Cuyahoga County
Council**

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.):	
Harvard Community Services Center, Cleveland, Non-Profit	
Address of Requesting Entity:	
18240 Harvard Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44128	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity:	
District 3	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: Multiple locations of the project...	
18240 Harvard Ave.; 21400 Southgate Park Blvd., Maple Hts. OH 44137; 481 Northfield Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146(Bedford High School); 4270 Northfield Rd., Warrensville Hts., Ohio 44128(Warrensville Heights High School); 13263 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118 (Cleveland Heights High School); 2386 Unwin Road, Cleveland Ohio, 44104 (Friendly Inn).	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:	
Impacted are District 3, District 8, District 10, and District 11	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request:	
Elaine Gohlstin	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:	
Same as above.	
Email:	Phone:
Goldy715@aol.com	(216) 991-8585
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.:	Date:
23-7098744	April 20, 2023

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

Students of Promise Exposure Field Trip and College Tour Transportation Project. Specifically, Students of Promise is requesting \$17,500.00 for vehicle purchase, maintenance, and operations for their programming.

Since it's launching in 2014 as a closing the achievement gap initiative supported by Cuyahoga County, Students of Promise has strived to close the troubling performance, expectation, opportunity and achievement gap between African American and Hispanic students and their White counterparts in targeted school districts. In newly formed partnership with The Harvard Community Center and Friendly Inn located in the Central Neighborhood of Cleveland, the efforts and evidence-based best practices have expanded to include services and programs that impact even more underserved students, families and seniors throughout Cuyahoga County.

Amongst these many best practices and programmatic interventions are College Tours, Exposure Field Trip Opportunities, Community-based Activities and Functions, and Senior Activities. For this purpose, the collaboration of the Harvard Community Service Center and Students of Promise are requesting ARPA Funding to purchase a 32 Passenger Bus, 10-15 passenger van and supportive resources to more cost effectively and efficiently transport students and families to and from regional college tours, exposure fieldtrips, community-based activities, and functions.

Studies have shown that exposure field trips and out of the classroom educational experiences introduces our targeted students to career opportunities and pathways, incentivizes along with providing hands-on interactive learning opportunities including college exposure tours, cultural activities and community service-learning projects. The Students of Promise Program recognizes that when you ask our targeted students what they want to be or achieve in life, if they have not been exposed outside of their neighborhoods or 'six blocks radius of awareness'...their choices are extremely limited.

Many of our targeted students would also not be able to attend out-of-school time and summer activities in which we facilitate without the arrangement of transportation which at times there is either limited availability and at times cost prohibitive. Securing our own transportation options would afford us the opportunity to engage more students as well as their families in efforts to plan and expose our targeted populations from a variety of communities and neighborhoods safely, efficiently, and most important cost effectively. Additionally, Cuyahoga County seniors will also have transportation access for senior activities, congregate meals, and adult day facility services.

Students of Promise will document usage on a daily basis and provide monthly reporting to document the number of trips and number of individuals benefitting for the transportation services. Annual reports will be produced and provided to Cuyahoga County Council.

Project Start Date:
April 3, 2023

Project End Date:
Continuing – no end date

IMPACT OF PROJECT:**Who will be served:**

Served under this project will be Students of Promise from the Bedford, Warrensville Heights, Cleveland Heights/University Heights City School Districts; Students of Promise from targeted Central Neighborhood Housing Estates as well as Cuyahoga County seniors participating in the senior activities, congregate meals, and adult day services.

How many people will be served annually:

An estimated 350 people will be served annually.

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:

Yes, low- and moderate-income people will be served as a part of this project. The vast majority of the Students of Promise receive free or reduce lunch at school therefore they are characterized in the low/moderate income range. Specific to the partnership with Friendly Inn servicing the Students of Promise in the Central Neighborhood, 4,743 are children under the age of 18 in which 81.5% of the children live below the poverty rate. Senior benefitting from the transportation will be Medicaid recipients.

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:

As Students of Promise has been successfully implemented and servicing students and families in Cuyahoga County for 9 years now, this strategically aligns itself with an evidence-based closing the achievement gap model designed to address and meet the academic, social and emotional needs of students within a targeted cohort, families and neighborhoods within Cuyahoga County. Funding is critical to this project year in order to further support both programmatic and curriculum areas utilized in the facilitation of each best practice as well as intervention services. Another critical need is the support for Exposure Field Trips, after school, weekend and summer activities.

If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary:

3 jobs will be created and they will be permanent.

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:

Not applicable.

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives:

Regarding future initiatives, this project creates a pathway expand into neighboring communities, school districts and learning communities with the addition of in-house transportation and the ability connect and link students and families to resources and opportunities when then present themselves. These funds will help support all future expansion and provide additional access to other funding sources in addition to Cuyahoga County.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project:

\$220,000.00

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

Cuyahoga County CTAG Grant Funding – 2023 - \$357,000.00

Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) – 2023 - \$350,000.00

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

\$17,500.00

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

As a collaborative, the Project will be sustained by continuing to pursue funding made available through Cuyahoga County Health and Human Service levy dollars, Congressional Appropriations, foundation funding as well as fundraising and corporate sponsorship opportunities.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name: Elaine Gohlstin

Elaine Gohlstin

Signature:

Elaine Gohlstin

Date:

April 20, 2023

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2023-0128

Sponsored by: Councilmember Turner	A Resolution awarding a total sum, not to exceed \$10,000, to Seeds of Literacy for the Building Capacity to Support Increased Enrollment Project from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective.
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WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County received \$239,898,257 from the Federal Government through the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”); and

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County calculated 100% of the ARPA dollars as loss revenue under the U.S. Department of the Treasury Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, since all the ARPA dollars have been calculated as loss revenue, the ARPA dollars have been deposited in the County’s General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive and County Council have authorized \$86 million of the ARPA dollars for community grants to benefit the residents of Cuyahoga County (the “ARPA Community Grant Fund”); and

WHEREAS, of the \$86 million for community grants, \$66 million have been encumbered for equal distribution to each County Council District; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund in the amount of \$10,000 to the Seeds of Literacy for the Building Capacity to Support Increased Enrollment Project; and

WHEREAS, Seeds of Literacy estimates approximately 1,200 students will be served annually through this award; and

WHEREAS, Seeds of Literacy estimates the total cost of the project is \$153,394; and

WHEREAS, Seeds of Literacy indicates the other funding source(s) for this project includes:

- A. \$20,000 from the Harvard Business School Club
- B. \$7,400 from the Cleveland Foundation;
- C. \$75,000 from Special Events;

- D. \$10,000 from other foundation revenue;
- E. \$13,794 from Individual Gifts;
- F. \$17,200 in in-kind advertising grants; and

WHEREAS, Seeds of Literacy is estimating the start date of the project will be July 2023 and the project will be completed by June 2024; and

WHEREAS, Seeds of Literacy requested \$10,000 from the District 9 ARPA Community Grant Fund to complete this project; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyahoga County Council desires to provide funding in the amount of \$10,000 to Seeds of Literacy to ensure this project is completed; and

WHEREAS, this Council by a vote of at least eight (8) members determines that it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue to provide for the usually, daily operations of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That the Cuyahoga County Council hereby awards a not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000 to Seeds of Literacy from the General Fund made available by the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement provision for the Building Capacity to Support Increased Enrollment Project.

SECTION 2. If any specific appropriation is necessary to effectuate this agreement, the Director of the Office of Budget and Management is authorized to submit the requisite documentation to financial reporting to journalize the appropriation.

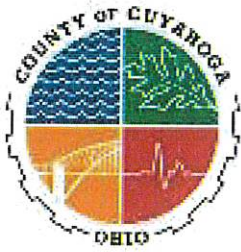
SECTION 3. That the County Council staff is authorized to prepare all documents to effectuate said award.

SECTION 4. That the County Executive is authorized to execute all necessary agreements and documents consistent with said award and this Resolution.

SECTION 5. If requested or necessary, the Agency of the Inspector General or Department of Internal Audit is authorized to investigate, audit, or review any part of this award.

SECTION 6. To the extent that any exemptions are necessary under the County Code and contracting procedures, they shall be deemed approved by the adoption of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or



**Cuyahoga County
Council**

2079 East 9th Street, 8th Floor • Cleveland Ohio 44115
(216) 698-2010

COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION:	
Name of Requesting Entity (City, Business, Non-Profit, etc.): Seeds of Literacy	
Address of Requesting Entity: 3104 W. 25 th Street, 3 rd Floor Cleveland, OH 44109	
County Council District # of Requesting Entity: 7	
Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity: Seeds of Literacy's program is delivered in two physical locations in Cleveland: Seeds West (3104 W. 25 th Street – District 7) and Seeds East (13815 Kinsman Road – District 9) and online in Seeds of Literacy's Virtual Classroom. Seeds of Literacy's program is provided free-of-charge to students throughout Cuyahoga County.	
County Council District # of Address or Location of Project if Different than Requesting Entity:	
Contact Name of Person Filling out This Request: Bonnie Entler	
Contact Address if different than Requesting Entity:	
Email: bonnieentler@seedsofliteracy.org	Phone: 216-661-7950 ext. 110
Federal IRS Tax Exempt No.: 20-0884284	Date: April 18, 2023

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

REQUEST DESCRIPTION (include the project name, a description of the project, why the project is important or needed, and timeline of milestones/tracking of the project):

Project Name: Building Capacity to Support Increased Enrollment

Project Description: Seeds of Literacy (Seeds) is experiencing a record-breaking year. In fact, we have already had more graduates (110) at nine months into our fiscal year than our entire last year! Enrollment and achievements are higher than ever, with 1,228 total students enrolled to date, 200 who have passed at least one section of the GED exam, and 499 total GED sections passed. Based on monthly enrollment, we are on track to serve more than 1,400 students this year (a 17% increase over last year).

While we are thrilled with this progress, we are currently struggling to provide one-to-one tutoring to every student. Individual support (delivered by volunteer tutors) is a unique and important feature of Seeds' model, as it drives student engagement and success. Volunteer recruitment is not keeping up with the rapidly growing number of students. So far this fiscal year, students have participated in a total of 22,609 instructional hours and volunteer tutors have only logged 15,214 hours. This means that tutors have only been available 67% of the time.

In response, Seeds of Literacy must invest time and resources into growing our volunteer pool to ensure that every student has an opportunity to receive one-to-one tutoring. ARPA funds will support our efforts to recruit, train, and retain volunteers.

Project Need: Basic education is the first step in helping underserved individuals move toward self-sufficiency. Building basic skills can quickly improve a person's quality of life - increasing their ability to seek and access quality health care and interpret health-related information; find and acquire employment; and navigate and engage with the world around them. A GED is key to opening doors to postsecondary education and training programs.

According to the 2021 US Census Bureau American Community Survey, more than 90,000 adults in Cuyahoga County do not have a high school diploma or equivalent (<https://tinyurl.com/bdze3khj>). This number has grown as a result of the pandemic. According to CMSD Superintendent Eric Gordon, the graduation rate in Cleveland dropped from 81% to 74% for the class of 2021. He reports that many students moved on to employment with Amazon or fast food, making \$15 or \$20/hour (<https://bit.ly/3VqbRIM>). In the very near future, these young adults will recognize the limitations of not having a high school diploma and will seek out programs like Seeds for help.

Project Timeline and Outcomes: Seeds of Literacy's proposed project will take place from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. However, the resulting materials and strategies will continue to be used over the next several years.

Goal 1: Increase the number of volunteers by 20%.

Objective 1: Research, create, and execute a volunteer recruitment and outreach plan. Seeds' volunteer coordinator and communications director will be leading new recruitment and outreach strategies, including a PSA to be aired in the Spectrum market (five months of air time provided in-kind from Charter Communications with an estimated \$11,200 value), attendance at community events, open houses to welcome and familiarize prospective volunteers, presentations for community and corporate partners, and informational mailings.

Goal 2: Retain a minimum of 70% of volunteers.

Objective 2: Implement strategies to keep volunteers engaged and returning to the classroom. Virtual volunteer engagement has proven more difficult than in-person. Seeds is developing new strategies for thanking and recognizing volunteers as well as conducting regular check-ins for feedback and support.

The proposed project will help Seeds achieve the following annual impact for students:

- Approximately 1,200 students served
- More than 100 GEDs earned
- At least 400 sections of the GED exam passed
- More than 1,000 grade level increases achieved

Project Start Date: July 1, 2023

Project End Date: June 30, 2024

IMPACT OF PROJECT:

Who will be served: Seeds of Literacy will serve adults (18 years and over) in need of basic education. The majority of these adults will likely be working towards a GED, others will be improving basic skills, such as learning how to read. Seeds serves a diverse group of individuals - 99% of students live below federal poverty guidelines (78% reside in "extremely low-income households" as defined by HUD); 70% are female and 30% male; 65% are Black, 1% Asian, 14% White, 17% Hispanic, and 3% "other." Approximately 18% do not have reliable transportation, 50% are parenting at least one dependent child (20% of whom do not have access to reliable childcare), and 42% are working. Further, many students have had criminal justice involvement. Last year, 165 students reported previous incarceration, 59 were on probation, and 9 were on parole.

How many people will be served annually:

Seeds of Literacy expects to serve approximately 1,200 students annually.

Will low/moderate income people be served; if so how:

While Seeds of Literacy's program is available to everyone, the program primarily serves individuals residing in low-income households. Approximately 99% of students lived at or below the federal poverty level.

How does the project fit with the community and with other ongoing projects:

Funding is increasingly directed to workforce development initiatives and career training. Seeds of Literacy's project will ensure that Cuyahoga County residents have the prerequisite skills and knowledge to participate in these programs. For many students, basic education is the only path to employment and a better future. Without a high school diploma and with limited reading ability, options are severely limited. Seeds of Literacy works closely with local colleges and career training providers to help students transition to the next step after earning their GED.

If applicable, how many jobs will be created or retained (specify the number for each) and will the jobs be permanent or temporary: Seeds of Literacy does not expect any jobs to be created or retained as a direct result of this project. However, the project will help local adults earn a GED and improve their ability to attend college, participate in career training programs, and secure employment.

If applicable, what environmental issues or benefits will there be:

Seeds of Literacy does not expect any direct environmental issues or benefits as a result of this project.

If applicable, how does this project serve as a catalyst for future initiatives: The proposed project will help Seeds of Literacy build its capacity for serving more adults in need of basic education. Improving residents' basic education will help them access resources and quality health care, participate in postsecondary education and career training opportunities, and contribute to the local community and economy.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Total Budget of Project: \$153,394

Other Funding Sources of Project (list each source and dollar amount separately):

- Harvard Business School Club - \$20,000 received
- Cleveland Foundation (summer intern) - \$7,400 received
- Special Events - \$75,000 received
- Other Foundation Revenue - \$10,000 pending
- Individual Gifts - \$13,794 received
- In-Kind (Google Ad Grant and donated Spectrum PSA air time) - \$17,200

Total amount requested of County Council American Resource Act Dollars:

Seeds of Literacy respectfully requests \$10,000 in County Council American Resource Act funding.

Since these are one-time dollars, how will the Project be sustained moving forward:

To evaluate the project's success, Seeds will take a "test and learn" approach, making data-driven decisions and carefully tracking target metrics to assess impact. Ongoing efforts and funds will then be targeted to recruitment and retention strategies demonstrating results. By testing, learning, and optimizing, we can craft an effective and efficient strategy that will endure over time with minimal ongoing investment. The content, materials, and strategies resulting from the project will be used by Seeds for several years.

DISCLAIMER INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE:

Disclaimer:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have the authority to apply for financial assistance on behalf of the entity described herein, and that the information contained herein and attached hereto is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I acknowledge and agree that all County contracts and programs are subject to Federal Guidelines and Regulations, the Ohio Revised Code, the Cuyahoga County Charter, and all County Ordinances including all information submitted as part of this application is a public record.

I understand that any willful misrepresentation on this application or on any of the attachments thereto could result in a fine and/or imprisonment under relevant local, state, and/or federal laws or guidelines.

I agree that at any time, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or a private entity on behalf of any of these governmental agencies, can audit these dollars and projects.

Printed Name: Bonnie Entler, President and CEO

Signature:

Bonnie Entler

Date: April 18, 2023

Additional Documents

Are there additional documents or files as part of this application? Please list each documents name:
Seeds of Literacy is not submitting any additional documents as part of its application.