

The Office of Grant Development Newsletter

November 2023 Issue

All,

This is our monthly newsletter of small grant opportunities, Donorschoose match offers, and other resources to help schools in their pursuit of additional funding. Formal central office "approval" to apply for any of these grants is not needed, but it is very important that you communicate with your principal about any resources you are hoping to bring into your school. We strongly encourage you to contact us in the Office of Grant Development if you are considering applying for a grant. Our team of experienced grant-writers can help you by discussing strategy or reviewing drafts. You can email us at grants@philasd.org, or find more resources on our webpage.

<https://www.philasd.org/grants/>

Good luck in your pursuit of additional funding for your school community!

Michael Sonkowsky,
Deputy Chief, Office of Grant Development

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Grant Opportunities

NOTE: Funders may change their mission, strategy, and target recipients at any time. The OGD has reviewed all of the opportunities to ensure that all are still accepting applications as of November 1st and are appropriate for our audience, however, it is possible that changes were made after our review. Please be sure to carefully review the funder's policies and practices before beginning any application and reach out to OGD with any changes you find.

Upcoming Deadlines

Opportunity: Environmental Education Mini Grants

Due Date: November 15, 2023

Eligible Applicants: Schools and Home and School Associations with Principal Approval

Purpose: The PA Department of Environmental Protection is offering schools mini grants of up to \$5,000 to fund innovative environmental education projects. The goal of environmental education is an environmentally literate citizenry, prepared to make informed decisions and take positive actions to help ensure the state's natural resources are available for the use and enjoyment of future generations. Priority is given to environmental education projects that engage people living, working and/or attending school within Environmental Justice areas in topics related to Climate Change and/or Water.

Eligible costs include travel, resources such as educational materials, supplies, and equipment/technology, and staffing if they do not exceed 50% of grant funds. *Involvement of partners is highly encouraged.*

Matching Grant: Yes - A match of any amount is required (**20% is encouraged**). It can be cash and/or in-kind.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$5,000

Website: More information can be found [here](#). **Assistance from OGD is required in order to apply. Please email grants@philasd.org**

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Program

Due Date: November 15, 2023

Eligible Applicants: Schools, nature centers or youth groups

Purpose: The funds are designated for acquiring native plants and seeds for outdoor learning areas that engage children, preschool to high school. Youth participate directly in the planning, planting and caring for native plant gardens.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$100-\$500

Website: <https://wildones.org/seeds-for-education/>

Opportunity:

Philly Book Wish Program for Culturally Relevant Books

Due Date: November 19, 2023

Eligible Applicants: Applicants must represent a Title I-eligible school or a program where at least 70% of the children/families served are low-income. Also, all applicants must sign up for a free First Book membership.

Purpose: The William Penn Foundation, First Book, Read By 4th, and Philly Book Bank have teamed up to provide literacy champions within and beyond the Read by 4th network with diverse, brand-new books to share with kids and families in need. The objective is to ensure that the books available to students across Philadelphia reflect the richness and diversity of cultures and experiences of our communities.

Estimated Range of Awards: Book Wish grants will be awarded in a range of \$500 - \$5,000. Educators who are awarded funds will receive a gift certificate to order brand-new, diverse books from the Stories for All Project section of the [First Book Marketplace](#).

Website:

https://firstbook.org/solutions/philly-book-wish/?fbclid=IwAR3v5L6ynsR_NAlsrD8TPod6Ya4WypAgNrhuWYNsY2I3oh8omxRverb3gqQ

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries

Due Date: November 27, 2023

Eligible Applicants: Title 1 schools which have a library or designated space where books are accessible to all students to check out. A certified librarian *OR* other paid professional (such as a teacher or school employee) must be assigned to oversee the collection, care, and use of the materials.

Purpose: Provide funds to expand, update, and diversify book and print collections with the goal of encouraging students to develop a love of reading and learning.

Note: Funds CANNOT be used for furniture, shelving, technology, staffing, software, videos, guides, tests, or classroom book sets.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$5,000

Website:

https://www.bushcenter.org/lbf-application-details?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=spotlight&utm_term=10042022&mc_cid=f9c62c9609&mc_eid=a24780f3bd

Note: Please reach out to OGD for assistance with acquiring financial documentation: school/district W-9 and a voided blank check *or* a bank letter.

Opportunity: Kids Gardening - Youth Garden Grant

Due Date: Opens November 6, 2023. Closes December 15, 2023.

Eligible Applicants: schools and youth organizations planning a new garden or expanding an established one

Purpose: To support school and youth educational garden projects that enhance the quality of life for students and their communities

Estimated Range of Awards: 50 programs will receive award packages consisting of a cash prize and a variety of gardening tools and supplies.

Website: <https://kidsgardening.org/grant-opportunities/>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage Program

Due Date: Opens November 15, 2023. Closes January 15, 2024.

Eligible Applicants: 3rd grade teachers

Purpose: This program offers free cabbages to students in the 3rd grade. The mission is to inspire a love of vegetable gardening in young people, teach kids where their food comes from, and grow our next generation of gardeners. At the end of the season, teachers from each 3rd grade participating class select the student who has grown the “best” cabbage, based on size and appearance. The program then awards a \$1,000 scholarship to one student in each participating state.

Estimated Range of Awards: classroom set of cabbage plants and lessons

Website: <https://cabbageprogram.bonnieplants.com/products/bonnie-3rd-grade-cabbages>

Opportunity: B'nai B'rith Educators Unit 5290

Due Date: December 1, 2023

Eligible Applicants: Teachers of all grade levels

Purpose: B’nai B’rith Educators Unit, Charter No. 5290 is funding grants in support of the instructional program at schools. The purpose is to provide students with opportunities and/or materials not available within the confines of school budgets. This can include, but is not inclusive of, trips, bus rentals, admission fees, special projects, theater programs, enrichment activities, guest speakers, etc. All grants should foster the teaching of tolerance, diversity, equity, inclusivity and personal and group positive relations.

Estimated Range of Awards: Up to \$500

Google Form Application: <https://forms.gle/qSypJMc9NetQ5VYj6>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Justin J. Watts Foundation

Due Date: Spring Sports (Mar, Apr, May) - Apply through February 15, 2024

Eligible Applicants: Schools serving grades 6-8 *that have not previously received funding.*

Purpose: The Justin J. Watt Foundation offers support to middle schools that do not have sufficient funding for after-school and athletic programs. The foundation offers Equipment Grants for after-school programs, such as athletic teams for grade 6 through 8. Examples of eligible items include uniforms with school name or numbers; safety equipment, such as helmets, pads, or mats; balls, bats, or nets; and reasonable storage equipment.

Estimated Range of Awards: Awards Vary

Website: <http://jjwfoundation.org/request-funds/>

Principals ONLY - Grants from Elected Officials

We highly encourage principals to reach out to your state representatives to request funding. If you receive a link to apply to a state grant, please reach out to OGD for assistance. The state application may be difficult to complete and our grant-writers can guide you through the process.

Find your PA Legislator:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm>

Ongoing / Rolling Basis

Opportunity: Lovett Fund for Elementary Drama

Due Date: Rolling basis, beginning in August of each school year

Eligible Applicants: Elementary Educators, 501c3s

Purpose: Funding is available for the production of plays and musicals performed by elementary school students (grades 1–5) in a school program.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$300

Website: <http://lovettfoundation.org/elementaryDramaFund.html>

Opportunity: Team First Book Philadelphia

Due Date: The 1st of every month

Eligible Applicants: community-based mentoring, tutoring, and family literacy programs

Purpose: TFBP provides new books to children in need addressing one of the most important factors affecting literacy – access to books. TFBP supplies books to schools, after-school programs and other organizations that already have the tools to teach and use the books for lessons, and then the books go home with the kids so they can share the joy of reading with their family and friends. All books distributed by First Book are brand new and are provided at no cost to the child.

Estimated Range of Awards: Varies

Website: <https://support.firstbook.org/campaign/team-first-book-philadelphia/c127319>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Toshiba America Foundation

Due Date: Ongoing

Eligible Applicants: Teachers of grades 6-12

Purpose: Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) grants fund the projects ideas and materials teachers need to innovate in their Science, technology, engineering and math classrooms. TAF is interested in funding innovative projects designed by teachers or small teams of teachers for use in their own schools and classroom. Applications must be for project based learning.

They do not consider requests for computer hardware (including computers, laptops, and tablets). Summer programs, after-school projects, and independent study projects are not eligible for funding.

Estimated Range of Awards: Applications for less than \$5,000 are due 12/1, 3/1, 6/1 & 9/1. Applications for grants of more than \$5,000 are due 5/1 and 11/1.

Website: <http://www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp>

Opportunity: The Awesome Foundation

Due Date: Ongoing - every other month on the second Tuesday

Eligible Applicants: Anyone

Purpose: To support anyone working on a project to improve their community in Philadelphia

Estimated Range of Awards: \$1000

Website: <https://www.awesomefoundation.org/en/chapters/philadelphia>

Literacy Resources for Teachers

****Please note that some resources require memberships****

1) The Book Bank

<https://readingrecycled.org/the-book-bank-1>



The Philly Book Bank is located inside Martin Luther King High School and helps educators get books and resources for their students. In exchange for annual dues of \$25, educators can get up to 400 books per school year, as well as supplemental classroom supplies, with a combined value of over \$4,000.

UPDATE: Book Bank has resumed in-person visits on Wednesdays from 3-6pm or by appointment.

2) Book Smiles

<https://www.booksmiles.org/>



BookSmiles, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, promotes literacy and the joy of reading by giving books to children throughout New Jersey and Greater Philadelphia. Teachers register for a \$25 yearly subscription to pick up books for their classrooms and students.

3) Tree House Book Visits

<https://www.treehousebooks.org/visits-to-the-tree-house-1>



Tree House is a Community Literacy Center headquartered in North Philadelphia on 1430 W. Susquehanna Ave. Tree House is excited to welcome local schools to enjoy a dynamic, customizable field trip experience at their Giving Library. Students participate in fun games, reading exercises, arts and crafts, and more! Plus, every child gets FREE Books to add to their home library.

School-Based Staff ONLY: DonorsChoose Match Offers

**Make sure to check out this month's
DonorsChoose Match Offers for
Pennsylvania!**

Click here to view offers: <https://www.donorschoose.org/match-offers>

Some Current Highlights Include:

1) 2x Match for Projects for STEM Supplies Starting on National STEM Day (November 8th)

<https://help.donorschoose.org/hc/en-us/articles/18408356870679-General-Motors-Young-Sheldon-on-CBS-are-supporting-projects-for-STEM-supplies-on-National-STEM-Day>

2) Book Projects from Equity Focus Teachers who have Never Been Funded Before will Receive a 2x Match on New Donations

<https://help.donorschoose.org/hc/en-us/articles/17664778937239>

*****Please note that match offers change frequently*****

Additional Resources

Policy 702

https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2019/07/702_Gifts-Grants-Donations-and-Student-Fundraising_Policy_May.pdf

Policy 702.2

<https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2018/07/Policy-702.2.pdf>

Philly Fundamentals (Principals ONLY)

<https://www.givecampus.com/schools/TheFundfortheSchoolDistrictofPhiladelphia>

DonorsChoose (Teachers & School-facing Staff)

<https://www.donorschoose.org/>

Contact us for more information.

**440 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130**

**Phone: 215-400-4150
Hours: M-F 8:30 am-4:30 pm**

Email: grants@philasd.org

Website: <https://www.philasd.org/grants/>