

The Office of Grant Development Newsletter

January 2024 Issue

All,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and restful winter break.

This is our January edition of our monthly small grants newsletter to help you fundraise for spring and summer programming. 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/>

Additionally, Donorschoose is offering several match offers for projects from never-before-funded teachers. Our office will be holding a virtual workshop on the basics of Donorschoose on the District-wide Professional Development Day on February 9, 2024. You can sign up on Cornerstone. In the meantime, we welcome you to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

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 December 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: Lindback Award for Distinguished Principals & Teachers

Due Date: Principal nominations are due by noon on January 12, 2024. Teacher nominations are due by noon on February 12, 2024.

Eligible Applicants: A committee of past teacher Lindback awardees, the principal, students, and/or parents can nominate teachers and principals.

Purpose: For the 2023-2024 year, the Lindback Foundation will award 60 distinguished teachers and seven principals from The School District of Philadelphia public schools who demonstrate excellence in promoting learning at the highest levels. The teacher award recipients will be chosen based on their activities that improve the intellectual and character development of students. Similarly, the Lindback Distinguished Principal Award recognizes and rewards school principals who have made significant leadership and humanitarian contributions to his/her school community.

Estimated Range of Awards: The ceremony for the Lindback Award for Distinguished Principals ceremony will be held on April 16, 2024 and the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teachers ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Both ceremonies will be held at the Philadelphia Film Center.

Website: <https://www.philasd.org/cso/about/lindback-foundation-awards/#1675253918736-686a6997-ec5c>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage Program

Due Date: 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: McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation

Due Date: Application is open January 15 until April 15 *OR before they reach 350 application submissions.*

Eligible Applicants: K-12 teachers

Purpose: The Foundation provides both academic enrichment grants and teacher development grants. The Foundation sponsors proposals that enhance student learning and educational quality, paying particular attention to those that best serve the at-risk and under-funded, including: Curriculum that excites and challenges; inquiry projects that promote reflection and growth; and after-school programs that enrich and inspire. The Foundation partners with individuals to expand educational opportunities for America’s youth that inspire students by nurturing their curiosity about the world and their place in it.

Estimated Range of Awards: Up to \$10,000 for a maximum budget of \$20,000 over 2 years

Website: <https://mccartheydressman.org/>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Streets Department Green Schools Program

Due Date: January 31, 2024

Eligible Applicants: K-12 schools

Purpose: The Green Schools Program is an initiative aimed at empowering schools to become eco-friendly hubs of inspiration and sustainability. Through this program, the Philadelphia Streets Department provides financial support to schools that want to implement projects promoting environmental awareness, conservation, and green practices.

Schools can register for EcoSchools and utilize their action projects to enhance their school, kickstarting the journey to EcoSchool certification and a Green Ribbon. Explore GreenFutures for ideas, from waste audits to referencing the District's Litter Index, and follow the How to Guide for garden projects, ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable transformation for your school.

Possible projects include:

- EcoSchools Action Projects
- Waste Audits
- Litter Index
- Schoolyard Beautification
- School Gardens and Raised Beds

Estimated Range of Awards: \$500-\$2,500

Website: https://phlrecycles.com/?page_id=134

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Gro More Good Grassroots Grants

Due Date: February 9, 2024

Eligible Applicants: Schools and nonprofits

Purpose: The 2024 Gro More Good Grassroots Grant presented by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation and KidsGardening is designed to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens to under-resourced communities across the United States. Awards provide funding for the development of new and expansion of existing youth garden programs and greenspaces serving 15 or more youth.

This year, programs will have the opportunity to apply for additional \$1,000 of funding within the application through the following specialty award categories:

- Plus Specialty Award - programs with greater funding needs due to financial, environmental, safety, health, and regulation challenge
- Pride Specialty Award - programs serving majority LGBTQ+ youth.
- Equity Specialty Award - programs led by people of color that serve a majority of youth of color

Estimated Range of Awards: 170 programs will be awarded \$500; 15 programs will receive an additional \$1,000 through specialty awards

Website: <https://kidsgardening.org/grant-opportunities/gromoregood-grassroots-grant-24/>

Opportunity: Snapdragon Book Foundation

Due Date: February 11, 2024

Eligible Applicants: School Libraries

Purpose: The Snapdragon Book Foundation believes that access to high-quality reading material is essential in helping to right inequities created by structural racism. They are committed to awarding grants to libraries whose proposals pursue the opening of minds, hearts, and imagination for all readers. Funds may only be used for the purchase of books, reference materials, and magazine/newspaper subscriptions for students.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$2,500-\$10,000

Website: <https://snapdragonbookfoundation.org/application/>

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/>

Opportunity: BioLEAP Classroom Grant

Due Date: March 1, 2024

Eligible Applicants: Teachers, Education Support Professionals, & School Administrators

Purpose: The BioLEAP Classroom Grant is an award for educators and school administrators in the United States who are working to replace animal dissection in their classrooms.

Estimated Range of Awards: Awards are available for up to \$1,000 worth of non-animal dissection tools.

Website: <https://bioleap.org/classroomgrant>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Dollar General Summer Reading Grants

Due Date: *Application will open in January 2024. Dates to be announced soon.*

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are schools, libraries, and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations providing direct services and residing within a state in which Dollar General operates. There is a “Two Year Rule” that applies to organizations receiving grants for two years in a row. They would not be eligible for the third year.

Purpose: Grant funding supports the creation or expansion of summer reading programs that meet the following criteria: target Pre-K – 12th grade students, target below grade level readers, and assist readers with learning disabilities.

Estimated Range of Awards: Up to \$3,000

Website: <https://www.dgliteracy.org/grant-programs/?#summer-reading>

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) Wawa is supporting literacy & math requests from never-before-funded teachers

<https://help.donorschoose.org/hc/en-us/articles/17155656084119>

2) An anonymous donor is supporting Pennsylvania projects from teachers who have never been funded before

<https://help.donorschoose.org/hc/en-us/articles/17153043389207>

3) Amazon Business is supporting projects from teachers of color who have yet to fully fund a project

<https://help.donorschoose.org/hc/en-us/articles/19072503656215>

*****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.

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

Email: grants@philasd.org

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