

The Office of Grant Development Newsletter

February 2024 Issue

All,

This is our February edition of our monthly small grants newsletter. It contains funding opportunities to support STEM, field trips, literacy, sports programs, youth-led projects, and other schoolwide initiatives. 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/>

On February 9th, the upcoming District-wide Professional Development Day, our office will be holding a virtual workshop on an Introduction to Donorschoose. Please register in advance 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

Index:

Grant Opportunities - Page 2-10

Literacy Resources for Teachers - Page 11

Additional Resources - Page 12

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 February 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: 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/>

Grant Opportunities

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/>

Opportunity: Lindback Award for Distinguished Teachers

Due Date: 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.

Purpose: For the 2023-2024 year, the Lindback Foundation will award 60 distinguished teachers 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.

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

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

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Dollar General Summer Reading Grants

Due Date: February 15, 2024

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.

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>

Opportunity: Philadelphia Zoo - Community Access Program

Due Date: February 16, 2024 at 5pm

Eligible Applicants: Title 1, K-12 schools

Purpose: Community Access Program provides field trips to the Philadelphia Zoo at *NO* cost (**Note: It's first come, first served!**)

Please consider utilizing free access for the following purposes: a positive behavior incentive; a science or Math class related experience as a part of your curriculum; a field trip for environmental justice, gardening, animal welfare or STEM related special interest student groups; and/or a career exploration and exposure trip for students interested in working with animals, environmental justice or conservation.

Estimated Range of Awards: between 15-120 free student tickets per school to the Philadelphia Zoo in spring 2024 and up to \$250 reimbursement for bus travel

Website: <https://www.philadelphiazoo.org/community-access-program-application/>

Grant Opportunities

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>

Opportunity: Whole Kids Foundation - Garden Grant Program

Due Date: March 1, 2024

Eligible Applicants: K-12 Schools or Non-Profit Organizations in U.S./Canada that engage at least 10 students in the garden regularly

Purpose: Through the Garden Grant program, schools and non-profit organizations turn outdoor spaces into powerful hands-on learning gardens that connect kids with food, spark their curiosity and support classroom curriculum. Grant funds can be used to support new or existing edible educational gardens.

*Applicants are **required** to have the participation of a separate partner organization, such as another nonprofit, a farm, a local business, or a local garden club, that brings added support and sustainability to the initiative.*

Estimated Range of Awards: \$3000

Website: <https://www.wholekidsfoundation.org/programs/school-gardens-grant/>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: Hershey Heartwarming Young Heros Youth Grants

Due Date: March 10, 2024

Eligible Applicants Youth changemakers between the ages of 5 and 25 are eligible to apply. *If you are a teacher or leader at a nonprofit who has a group of youth interested in applying, please ask your youth changemakers to select one of their peers to complete the application.*

Purpose: In partnership with The Hershey Company and Hershey's Heartwarming Project, YSA will award Hershey Heartwarming Young Heroes Youth Grants for Youth Service Month & Global Youth Service Day 2024 projects. Projects must

- Engage a diverse group of youth volunteers from different social backgrounds,
- Provide opportunities for youth volunteers to create meaningful connections with their peers, caring adults, and community partners, while developing social awareness and relationship skills,
- And take place during Youth Service Month (April 12-May 12, 2024), with some activity on Global Youth Service Day (April 26-28, 2024) strongly encouraged.

Estimated Range of Awards: \$250 to \$500 youth grants

Website: <https://ysa.org/grants/hershey/>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation

Due Date: Application closes 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/>

Opportunity: Justin J. Watts Foundation

Due Date: April 15, 2024 by 6PM for fall sports starting in August, September, or October 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/>

Ongoing / Rolling Basis

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>

Opportunity: Leveling the Playing Field

Due Date: Rolling Basis

Eligible Applicants: K-12 schools and nonprofits serving economically disadvantaged youth

Purpose: Leveling the Playing Field furnishes schools and community organizations with free new and gently-used sports equipment enabling those groups to provide affordable and accessible youth sports activities for their children who otherwise would not have such opportunities.

Estimated Range of Awards: Access to their warehouse space to take new and gently-used equipment on a continuous basis

Website: <https://www.levelingtheplayingfield.org/apply-for-equipment/>

Grant Opportunities

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 3/1, 6/1, 9/1, & 12/1. 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.

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/>