

The Office of Grant Development Newsletter

January 2025 Issue

All,

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

The Office of Grant Development (OGD) is happy to share with you our January edition of the newsletter. Please see below for small grant opportunities, literary resources, and Donorschoose match offers.

Note: Formal central office "approval" to apply for any of the grants listed 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.

Sincerely,
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 January 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: 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/>

Opportunity: Bonnie Plants 3rd Grade Cabbage Program

Due Date: January 15, 2025

Eligibility: 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>

Grant Opportunities

Opportunity: ACS-Hach Professional Development Grant

Due Date: January 21, 2025

Eligibility: High school chemistry educators

Purpose: The American Chemical Society (ACS) requests applications for the ACS-Hach Professional Development Grant program. Funding supports high school chemistry teachers as they identify and pursue opportunities that advance their professional development and enhance the teaching and learning of chemistry in their classrooms.

Estimated Range of Awards: Up to \$2,500

Website: <https://www.acs.org/funding/grants/acs-hach-professional-development-grant.html>

Opportunity: Gro More Good Grassroots Grants

Due Date: Opens January 6 and Closes January 31, 2025.

Eligibility: Schools and nonprofits

Purpose: The 2025 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: Dollar General Summer Reading Grant

Due Date: Application will open in January 2025. Dates to be announced soon.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are schools, libraries, and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations

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: Snapdragon Book Foundation

Due Date: February 2, 2025

Eligibility: 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: BioLEAP Classroom Grant

Due Date: February 28, 2025

Eligible Applicants: Teachers & School Administrators

Purpose: The BioLEAP Classroom Grant is designed to help educators fund the use of humane anatomy models in their classrooms to replace animal dissection. Awards are for the purchase of advanced learning tools such as 3D digital models, synthetic specimens, and other innovative products.

Estimated Range of Awards: 25-30 grants of up to \$1,000

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

Opportunity: Philadelphia Zoo Free Wild Connections

Eligible Applicants: K-12 educators

Purpose: The Philadelphia Zoo has a number of free programs that are available to School District of Philadelphia teachers and students.

1) Live Monthly Webinars- Invites many K-12 students and classes (even from different schools!) to a 45-minute storytelling session with Zoo educators and animal guests! Webinars are held at 10:30am once per month, each on a different topic. Sign up [Here](#).

2) Private Virtual Classes- A live 45-minute interactive virtual program with Zoo educators and animal guests, focused on science topics. These classes are targeted for individual K-4 classes to ensure students have the opportunity to interact and ask questions. Sign up [Here](#).

For questions, please email community@phillyzoo.org.

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: Karma for Cara Community Service Youth MicroGrant Program

Due Date: April 1st, July 1st, October 1st, & January 1st

Eligible Applicants: Students 18 years of age and under. Must have a teacher/adult advisor for their project.

Purpose: Students may apply to complete service projects in their communities throughout the United States.

Estimated Range of Awards: between \$250-\$1,000

Note: They do not fund stipends, facility rentals, or transportation costs.

Website: <https://karmaforcara.org/microgrant-application>

Grant Opportunities

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.levelingtheplyingfield.org/apply-for-equipment/>

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>

Grant Opportunities

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>

Opportunity: Toshiba America Foundation

Due Date: Ongoing

Eligible Applicants: Teachers of grades K-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:

GRADES K-5

Applications for less than \$5,000 are due 10/1.

GRADES 6-12

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>

Literacy Resources for Teachers

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

1) The Philly Book Bank

<https://phillybookbank.org/>



The Philly Book Bank is located inside Martin Luther King High School and helps educators get books and resources for their students. Educators can get up to 400 books per school year, as well as supplemental classroom supplies, with a combined value of over \$4,000. **Membership is FREE. Sign up [HERE](#) to be a member.** Book Bank is open on Wednesdays from 3-6pm or by appointment (email anne@phillybookbank.org).

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 at 7300 N. Crescent Blvd, #10 in Pennsauken. **Register [HERE](#).**

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. **Sign up [HERE](#) to set up a visit.**

4) Pride and Less Prejudice

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



If you would like to receive free LGBTQ-inclusive books (PreK - 3rd Grade) for your classroom, **please fill out [this form](#). You may only receive books for free once.**

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>

Please note that match offers change frequently

Highlights for January:

- 1) Classroom Basics Projects for Never-Before-Funded Teachers in Grades 6-8th
- 2) 2x Match on Book Projects for Grades Pre-K to 5th
- 3) Mazda North American Operations is supporting Warmth, Care, & Hunger projects from Never-Before-Funded teachers at Equity Focus Schools
- 4) DICK'S Sporting Goods Foundation is matching donations to sports and fitness projects from Equity Focus Schools

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/>