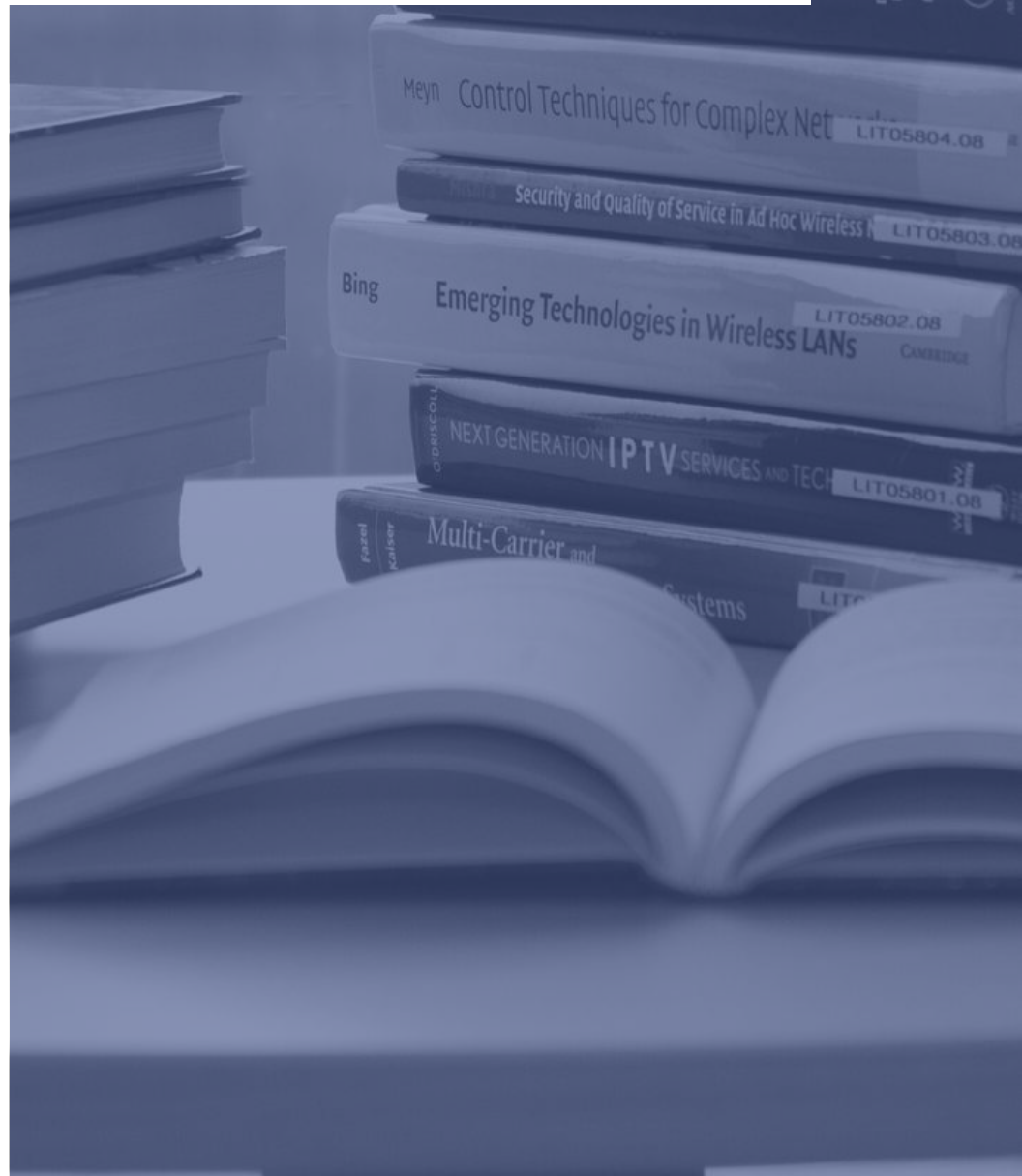


08

EDUCATION



PROJECT #147

Water Education and Career Program



Identify the need for the proposed project

Similar to water and wastewater utilities across the nation, a high proportion of our workforce will be eligible for retirement within the upcoming years resulting in critical positions experiencing concerning staffing issues. The larger utilities, Grand Rapids, Wyoming, Grandville, and Plainfield as well as the other smaller utilities in Kent County all are struggling with this challenge. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic eliminated or severely limited outreach opportunities to the community while pandemic conditions simultaneously limited hiring, leaving 25 percent of the crucial utility operations positions vacant for over two years. Above all, our current workforce lacks sufficient diversity and does not accurately represent the residents we proudly serve. Therefore, we must create innovative and equitable opportunities to rejuvenate the water field with diverse and qualified individuals passionate and excited about protecting public health. A targeted, long-term, vertically integrated water education and career program will aid in achieving these goals. In short, implementing a program that is designed to build a person's knowledge-base and skills throughout all learner stages while providing several opportunities to practice gained skills in an applied setting will garner interest in the water and wastewater industries and increase the talent pipeline within our community. The City is currently partnered with Grand Rapids Community College and Bay College in the design and implementation of a "West Michigan Water Career Program" focused on infrastructure workforce development utilizing a multi-pronged approach of public outreach, education, and hands-on experience. These partnerships provide the foundation and support necessary to make this program successful. We work with our partner organizations to provide direct pathways to careers in utility operations and management by building a person's skills and knowledge base to the fulfill the professional and regulatory requirements of working in this public service industry.

Brief Description

Funding will provide support to aid in the removal of functional barriers limiting participation in the educational and workforce development opportunities, especially for those desiring to participate from underserved communities. This support would fund the elimination of barriers such as mileage reimbursements for travel between GRCC and the worksites, student support services - childcare, work footwear and clothing... and tuition and other professional support. Funding would also be used to support K-12 educational outreach in the form of educational supplies, career open houses and other outreach activities. A detailed funding proposal has been prepared and is available. The overarching mission of the City of Grand Rapids Water Education and Career Program is to provide learning opportunities about the value of clean water and the important roles water and wastewater industries have in protecting our water resources at all ages and learner stages. The longterm plan for this program, after it is piloted in Grand Rapids, is to reach out to our County and neighboring utilities to partner in this work.

Long-Term Benefit

The proposed water education initiative is a long-term effort to build upon the relationships and the knowledge base of students regarding the water industry. Strengthening our relationships within the Grand Rapids and Kent County community will translate into more young adults exploring the opportunities within the water industry providing our utilities with the pipeline of local talent to meet our staffing needs.

Intended Beneficiary

Area Utilities and well as area residents being provided a career path and the tools to make it assessable to all of our residents.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

ARPA Request: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRCC, Bay College, Department of Education



Estimated Cost

\$500,000.00

Project Management Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience managing large projects.

Federal Funds Experience

The City of Grand Rapids has deep experience working with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Yes. Two studies that have been influential in the design of this education program are Making Youth Apprenticeships Equitable and Effective: Lessons from North Carolina and Cognitive Apprenticeship in Educational Practice: Research on Scaffolding, Modeling, Mentoring, and Coaching as Instructional Strategies. The report from North Carolina addresses common barriers that are often limiting diverse individuals from participating in internship and apprenticeship programs, all of which have been addressed in the design and implementation of the education program. The second research paper discusses the importance of K-12 introduction of topics and how it is important to utilize teaching and learning at younger ages as well to prepare our future talent.

<https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/making-youth-apprenticeships-equitable-and-effective-lessons-from-north-carolina/>

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781410609519-42/cognitive-apprenticeship-educational-practice-research-scaffolding-modeling-mentoring-coaching-instructional-strategies-vanessa-paz-dennen>

Supporting Documentation

- 1. [Letter of Support #1](#)
- 2. [Letter of Support #2](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$500,000

Maximum Cost: \$500,000

ARPA Request: \$500,000

Submitter Info

Name: Mike Grenier

Organization: City of Grand Rapids

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

GRCC, Bay College, Department of Education

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

Workforce development and childcare investment is eligible

This is just the pilot program. Continuation is contingent on success.

PROJECT #65

Baxter Community Center Out of School Time Programming



Identify the need for the proposed project

Our organization identified the need for this proposed project by listening to our community. It was birthed out of our Full Day School Age Care program which ran during COVID when students were attending online school. Parents of students in our Child Development Center shared that they were struggling to figure out what to do with their older children, as they had to go to work and had few options for their elementary aged students. We opened one classroom where students could work independently, eat breakfast, lunch, and a snack, and get physical activity everyday either outside or in our gym. This led to our first year of summer programming last year and expanded into afterschool and spring/winter break programs this school year.

Brief Description

Baxter Out of School Time programming is for K-8th grade students when school is not in session and their parents or caregivers need to be at work or school. We know that adults have less absences and are late to work less when they have consistent, reliable care for their children. Oftentimes elementary and middle school aged children are left alone during out of school time hours if a caregiver must be at work, leading them to watch television or play video games. Baxter's Out of School Time programming provides enriching activities like STEM experiments and golf lessons for students alongside healthy meals and snacks to nourish them. During the school year, there is homework time and educational field trips to places like the Grand Rapids Art Museum. In the summer, students spend time at Joe Taylor Park creating arts and crafts, playing basketball in the Baxter gym, and visiting John Ball Zoo. This program even provides care during winter and spring break as we know many parents cannot take that time off from work. Parents surveyed after our first year of afterschool programming reported that their students' attitudes toward school improved, their homework completion increased, and their academic performance was better after participating in the program. We partner with vendors like STEM Greenhouse, the Grand Rapids Public Library, Strong Dance LLC, and Big Nik Basketball to provide an assortment of opportunities for students to stay physically active and learn.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefits of this proposed project to the community include decreased rates of truancy, as studies show that afterschool programming can improve school-day attendance. Consistent participation in afterschool programs has shown lower dropout rates and has helped close achievement gaps for low-income students. For older youth, regular participation in an afterschool program may also reduce risky behaviors and help them gain college and career-needed skills.

Intended Beneficiary

The residents of the Baxter neighborhood ages K-8th grade and their families are the intended beneficiaries.

Estimated Cost

263000

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$263,000

Maximum Cost: \$263,000

Submitter Info

Name: Danielle Guinsler

Organization:
Baxter Community Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

The City of Grand Rapids and the State of Michigan

Partnership

The City of Grand Rapids



Project Management Experience

We have been part of previous funding cycles that required extensive reporting out on demographics and information about beneficiaries.

Federal Funds Experience

We have worked with federal funds in the past and currently, including Childcare Stabilization grant funds.

Studies on Impact

Yes, there is research from the RAND Corporation:

<https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/pages/the-value-of-out-of-school-time-programs.aspx>

The Afterschool Alliance:

http://www.expandinglearning.org/docs/ExpandedLearning&Afterschool_Infographic.pdf

The Council for A Strong America:

<https://www.strongnation.org/articles/930-from-risk-to-opportunity-afterschool-programs-keep-kids-safe> AIR: <https://www.air.org/resource/brief/ready-work-how-afterschool-programs-can-support-employability-through-social-and>

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility

This program is eligible as addressing educational disparities that predate the pandemic, since this school is located in a QCT

 Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 Feasibility

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$263,000

Maximum Cost: \$263,000

Submitter Info

Name: Danielle Guinsler

Organization:

Baxter Community Center

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

The City of Grand Rapids and the State of Michigan

Partnership

The City of Grand Rapids

PROJECT #280

ACO Professional Development & Advancement Program



Identify the need for the proposed project

Asian Community Outreach is a community organization that serves the Asian community in Kent County. Through our work with volunteers and youth since our inception, we have observed that young people in our community who are children of immigrants do not have access to, or opportunities to build, local professional networks to leverage once they enter the workforce. Through this proposal, we seek to create an internship program that gives youths from the Asian community the opportunity to develop their skills and professional network.

Brief Description

We propose the creation of an internship program for college students that compensates the students for applying their skills on projects for the organization and provides them with mentorship and training with professionals and organizations in Kent County. The program will consist of teams of students working on various community projects in the areas of health, financial security, access to legal services, and education (all of which are core focus areas for the organization). The students will be compensated at market rate for their services and provided with meaningful feedback and opportunity to network within the greater community. The program will help students develop their professional networks by pairing them with Asian professionals in Kent County for mentorship; the program will also cover the costs of education and training for students' professional development.

Long-Term Benefit

The benefit is to build and retain talent in Kent County and provide opportunities for young adults of color to develop their professional network for which they can leverage on graduation from university. Our goal is to encourage the brightest to come back and work in Kent County; we believe young professionals of color would be more willing to do so if they have networks and opportunities in place.

Intended Beneficiary

Local government and business organizations in Kent County that seek diverse and talented workforce as well as young adults of color who come from backgrounds with certain barriers (e.g., children of new arrivals, low-income household, households where English is not the primary language, households where the student is among the first in the family to attend college, etc).

Estimated Cost

1000000

Project Management Experience

The organization previously received funding from Kent County under the CARES Act to provide emergency relief to our constituents in Kent County. Our executives have also worked on County sponsored projects providing technical assistance and outreach to the Asian business community.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000

Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Crystal Bui

Organization:
Asian Community Outreach

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a



Federal Funds Experience

Yes, we received funds under the CARES Act from Kent County through our local United Way in 2020. We served over 200 individuals/households.

Studies on Impact

Yes, though not entirely on point, there have studies about the availability of and access to career development activities for youths. See "Availability of and Access to Career Development Activities for Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities" in the journal of Career Development for Exceptional Individuals. Volume: 33 Issue: 1 page(s): 13-24. First published online: August 24, 2009. There have also been articles concerning the impact of sustained professional development through project-based learning. See "Impact of Sustained Professional Development in STEM on Outcome Measures in a Diverse Urban District" from the Journal of Educational Research, Volume 109, 2016 - Issue 2.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$1,000,000
Maximum Cost: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Crystal Bui
Organization:
Asian Community Outreach

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development
Project Theme: Education
Project Status: New Project
Matching Funds: No

Eligibility: 
Sustainability: 
Feasibility: 
Impact: 

Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes



Eligibility

Workforce development for the unemployed is eligible



Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.



Feasibility

PROJECT #278

GRPS- Ottawa Hills High School Culinary Arts Program



Identify the need for the proposed project

Pre-pandemic the Grand Rapids Public Schools identified multiple industry growth areas in the West Michigan marketplace. One of the areas of growth was the hospitality and tourism industry, inclusive of culinary arts. The Academy of Hospitality & Tourism was launched during the 2019- 2020 school year. During the first year, the academy was awarded the Governor's Award for Innovation Tourism Collaboration between the Grand Rapids Public Schools and Experience Grand Rapids. At the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, we had to re-launch the program due to the challenges with the pandemic. It was difficult to recruit scholars for the program due to the delivery of instruction, virtual and in-person. Since that time, we identified a need to expand the program to support the interests of our scholars. The interests were identified through a survey conducted by the Principal at Ottawa Hills High School. This led to discussions with the local community college, Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC).

Brief Description

The proposed purpose of this project is to create a culinary arts program to support the scholars of Ottawa Hills High School. In addition, the program would have the potential to support the families and surrounding community members of the school during the evening hours. The program will provide culinary skills sets and certifications that will allow scholars of Ottawa Hills High School to enter the growing industry of hospitality & tourism from an entry level position. In the Greater Grand Rapids marketplace alone, there is a high need of certified culinary specialist in a variety of areas, such as food, bake, and beverage, etc. The program would partner with Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) - Secchia Culinary Institute. GRCC would assist in the development of courses to be offered at Ottawa Hills High School as dual enrollment credit. In addition to the dual enrollment credit, scholars will also be assessed to earned certification credentials. In addition, scholars will be enrolled in dual enrollment courses on the campus of the GRCC during their senior year. This will assist students who plan to have the collegiate experience and transition into the Secchia Culinary Institute. Scholars who do not plan to continue with the postsecondary experience will have the option of entering the culinary workforce with their earned credentials.

Long-Term Benefit

- Creates and supports a diversified workplace in the hospitality & tourism industry.
- Provides opportunity to the underserved population of scholars who attend Ottawa Hills High School - 95% scholars of color, greater than 87% of scholars who receive free lunch.
- Guarantees credentials and college-level credits for the scholars.
- Stabilize and increase the enrollment of Ottawa Hills High School
- Creates a viable high school option on the southeast side of Grand Rapids.

Intended Beneficiary

The proposed project benefits multiple stakeholders. The scholars enrolled in the program at Ottawa Hills, the workplaces of the greater Grand Rapids community, the southeast side of Grand Rapids, and Grand Rapids Community College. Lastly, the patrons who select to eat within the workplace that our credential scholars work.

Estimated Cost

542143

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$542,143

Maximum Cost: \$542,143

ARPA Request: \$542,143

Submitter Info

Name: Rodney Lewis

Organization: Grand Rapids Public Schools- Ottawa Hills High School

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

approximately 10-15%- \$54,214-\$81,321

Partnership

Grand Rapids Community College



Project Management Experience

The Grand Rapids Public Schools has managed an assortment of bond projects in support of our facilities and infrastructure, located within Kent County. Our organization partners and collaborates with many third-party vendors in design, building, and finishing our projects.

Federal Funds Experience

Our organization manages approximately \$30 million annually, excluding ESSER funds. This includes line items such as 31a, Title I, Title II, and Title III funds.

Studies on Impact

Research does not exist that supports the disproportionately impacted communities; however, there is a need in the scholars served at Ottawa Hills High School, as well as the community of color on the southeast side of Grand Rapids.

Studies on Impact

- 1. [Letter of Support](#)
- 2. [Equipment Quotes](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$542,143

Maximum Cost: \$542,143

ARPA Request: \$542,143

Submitter Info

Name: Rodney Lewis

Organization: Grand Rapids Public Schools- Ottawa Hills High School

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:

Sustainability:

Feasibility:

Impact:

Source of Funding

approximately 10-15%- \$54,214-\$81,321

Partnership

Grand Rapids Community College

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Sustainability

Feasibility

May qualify as enhanced funding to a high-poverty district

Lacking guaranteed funding after 2026 though partners were identified

PROJECT #213

The Junior Achievement Free Enterprise Center: "Building Futures...Inspiring Dreams"

Identify the need for the proposed project

In Kent County, 20 percent of children under the age of 18 live below the federal poverty level [1]. While our education system prepares students with knowledge on various academic subjects, many young adults graduate and enter the "real world" with little understanding around employability/entrepreneurship and financial education. In fact, more than half of American adults do not have a budget and 75 percent of college graduates wish they had received more help preparing for their financial futures. [2] This is particularly important for people of color, who are disproportionately living below the federal poverty level and face significant educational and economic disparities. [3] Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes (JAMGL) is the West Michigan chapter of Junior Achievement (JA) USA which is a Regional Operating Center of JA Worldwide, an organization serving over 12 million students across the world annually and in 2022 was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. JA's mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. JAMGL seeks to address these disparities and provide youth in Kent County with opportunities to learn key job skills and gain valuable business experience, ultimately setting them on a path for greater economic and career success. JAMGL's programming provides youth with opportunities to learn about different business opportunities, gain critical job skills, and explore their personal interests and passions. Our programming also helps cultivate skills such as creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, and self-efficacy, giving students the support and confidence to build a meaningful future.

At JAMGL, we traditionally serve nearly 70,000 students each year in a 50-County Michigan footprint, serving approximately 25 percent of the K-12 student population in Kent County, and providing a variety of educational programs, including proven lessons in financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship to positively impact the lives of young people. These lessons align with national and state educational standards and are delivered to millions of students across the country with the help of our education partners and volunteers from the local community. Research shows that JA Alumni are more likely to have a college degree, feel confident managing money, have career success, and to have started or run their own business as an adult. JAMGL has been offering programming in Kent County for over 65 years beginning with the JA Company program as JA's only program and transitioning to in-school programming beginning in the early 1970s. When the JA BizTown and JA Finance Park experiential learning labs were developed by JA USA and came online in JA areas across the nation, JAMGL president, Bill Coderre, began investigating these programs for possible placement in the JAMGL footprint. As the programs developed and matured, the evaluation results showed them to be some of the most powerful student impact programs that JA has to offer. It was then that Bill Coderre and the JAMGL Board became convinced that Kent County and West Michigan young people should have the same opportunities to experience these highly impactful programs directly addressing the challenges of financial literacy and work readiness as young people in other communities. As the plan emerged to develop a facility to hold these two new JA USA programs, it became obvious that West Michigan needed a third learning lab, one focused on entrepreneurship. JAMGL has conceived of and created a vision for a new and locally developed Entrepreneurship Incubator to add to the entrepreneurial ecology that has emerged in West Michigan, where roughly 25 percent of employees work at small businesses. [4] Helping high school young people start and run a business is incredibly impactful as small businesses are integral to our community's economy. Small businesses allow entrepreneurs to provide the community with specialized services or products, create meaningful jobs, and keep more money circulating locally.

References: [1] Kent County Health Department. (2018). Kent County Health Equity Assessment. Retrieved from https://www.accesskent.com/Health/HealthEquity/pdf/2019_Health_Equity_Report.pdf. [2] Rose, S. (2021). 10 eye-opening financial literacy statistics. OppU. Retrieved from <https://www.opploans.com/oppu/articles/statistics-financial-literacy/>. [3] The New Teacher Project, "The Opportunity Myth" (New York: 2018), available at <https://opportunitymyth.tntp.org>; Chad Stone and others, "A Guide to Statistics on Historical Trends in Income Inequality" (Washington: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2020), available at <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/a-guide-to-statistics-on-historical-trends-in-income-inequality>. [4] U.S. Small Business Administration. (2021). 2021 Small Business Profile: Michigan. Retrieved from <https://cdn.advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/30142526/Small-Business-Economic-Profile-MI.pdf>.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$16,488,250

Maximum Cost: \$16,488,250

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jay Ediger

Organization: Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$16,488,250

Maximum Cost: \$16,488,250

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jay Ediger

Organization: Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Brief Description

JAMGL is establishing a new facility called the JA Free Enterprise Center in Grand Rapids, which will house three unique, state-of-the-art learning labs. Trained volunteers will guide the student experience in the labs: • JA BizTown (5th - 6th Grade). Preceded by up to 20 in-school lessons, students learn how to run a town. Students experience the lab for a day working in their storefronts and living their lives as consumers, taxpayers, and citizens. All students earn a paycheck, purchase things, and vote to establish laws and elect a major. • JA Finance Park (8th - 12th Grade). Preceded by up to 20 in-school lessons, students visit the lab, are assigned a career, and visit storefronts representing aspects of their budget, which they must decide how to manage. Lessons cover: Career Exploration; Income and Taxes; Saving and Investing; Managing Risk; and Credit and Debt. • JA Entrepreneurship Incubator (10th - 12th Grade). Students participate in a signature business education leadership experience. Students will develop and run their own small businesses. This facility will also house the JA West Michigan Business Hall of Fame, a Spirit of Freedom Gallery and a volunteer training center to equip JA's extensive volunteer network.

Long-Term Benefit

JA's impact on young people is significant. National research shows that JA programs increase equitable access to economic opportunity, high school graduation rates, and employment rates. This project brings JA's most powerful programs to West Michigan and establishes the facility needed to house them. Generations of Kent County young people will be prepared to enter the workforce, manage their finances, and create businesses, ergo have the skillset and mindset to build a thriving West Michigan.

Intended Beneficiary

Children and youth in Kent County will benefit from this project. JAMGL traditionally annually serves 25 percent of school-aged children in Kent County and 94 percent of the school districts in Kent County. For the proposed facility, the focus will be on students in grades 5 – 12 who live within an hour radius of this Kent County facility. In fact, we anticipate 85 percent of students served will be residents of the Grand Rapids region. The remaining students will come from other counties adjacent to Kent County and from within JAMGL's footprint. Approximately half of the students JA serves on an annual basis come from Low-to-Moderate-Income households. The JA Free Enterprise Center will provide 20,000 students per year with opportunities to increase their knowledge of financial literacy, workforce readiness, and entrepreneurship. Helping students strengthen their understanding of these concepts will have a positive impact on their financial futures and the economic wellbeing of themselves and their families.

*Partnership

Junior Achievement is collaborative by design. All of our programs involve partnering with Kent County organizations who have young people and partnering with organizations who have employees who can volunteer. In the last three years, just in Kent County, JAMGL has partnered with school districts to deliver programs in classrooms in 189 different schools with volunteers from 145 different organizations. JA is in discussions with school districts and schools across Kent County regarding these new programs which has been met with enthusiasm and JA is directly partnering with the following companies who have committed to Storefront Sponsorships in these learning labs: BISSELL Homecare, Meijer, Gordon Food Service, LMCU, Independent Bank, The Eileen DeVries Family Foundation, Perrigo, Scott Pranger Family Foundation, Northpointe Bank, Biggby Coffee, Chick-Fil-A, Spectrum Health, Mercantile Bank, Fox Motors, and The Huizenga Group.



Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$16,488,250

Maximum Cost: \$16,488,250

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jay Ediger

Organization: Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Estimated Cost

\$16,488,250.00

*Source of Funding

JAMGL has received over \$14 million to-date from a variety of sources for this project including individuals, corporations, foundations, and governmental agencies. These sources of funding include: • Tom & Mickie Fox (\$1,000,000.00) • Susan Hascall (\$1,000,000.00) • Haworth (\$1,000,000.00) • L.J. "Midge" VerPlank (\$700,000.00) • Bissell (\$625,000.00) • Jandernoa Foundation (\$500,000.00) • Kraig & Mary Klynstra (\$500,000.00) • John & Nancy Kennedy (\$500,000.00) • Eileen DeVries Family Foundation (\$475,000.00) • Frey Foundation (\$315,000.00) • 80/20 (Don Wood) Foundation (\$290,357.00) • Don & Jodi Heeringa (\$250,000.00) • Meijer, Inc. & Meijer Foundation (\$250,000.00) • State of Michigan Appropriation - MEDC (\$250,000.00) • The Pranger Family Foundation (\$250,000.00) • Spectrum Health Hospital Group - Helen DeVos Children's Hospital (\$250,000.00) • Doug & Maria DeVos Foundation (\$250,000.00) JAMGL is requesting \$1 million from the Kent County American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to help cover costs related to building maintenance, technology/infrastructure, and COVID-19 mitigation strategies (i.e., enhanced digital capabilities). This support will allow us to invest in the future of Kent County's economy and contribute to the development of a thriving, innovative, and sustainable business climate with a knowledgeable and skilled workforce.

Project Management Experience

JAMGL has significant experience managing and implementing large county-wide projects as we have been providing programming in Kent County for more than 65 years. In the last 10 years, JAMGL has served over 300,000 Kent County young people averaging over 30,000 Kent County young people per year. This is equal to approximately 25 percent of the Kent County K-12 population to which JAMGL has delivered programming to annually.

Federal Funds Experience

Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes has a strong track record of managing state and federal funds. For example, JAMGL successfully received and managed two Payroll Protection Program loans, both of which were in excess of \$200,000 and completely forgiven as we adhered to the loan rules and requirements. In addition, JAMGL received and managed a \$250,000 gift from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for this project. We are confident that we have the expertise and resources to successfully manage federal funds, adhering to all requirements and expectations outlined in a grant agreement.

Studies on Impact

Junior Achievement is one of a few nonprofits to use independent, third-party evaluators to gauge the impact of its programs. Since 1993, independent evaluators have conducted studies on Junior Achievement's effectiveness. Findings prove that Junior Achievement has a positive impact in a number of critical areas including financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills. In addition, Harvard University's Global Education Innovation Initiative has identified the JA Finance Park model as an innovative curriculum and teaching initiative related to 21st-century skills in financial literacy education. JA conducted third party evaluations of the impact of these labs on urban, suburban, and rural school students from across the U.S. who participated in these programs. These studies have shown that the JA BizTown and JA Finance Park learning labs are the most powerful programs JA has to offer.



Supporting Documentation

- [1. Impact Statistics & Artist Renderings](#)
- [2. Junior Achievement Endorsement Letter](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$16,488,250

Maximum Cost: \$16,488,250

ARPA Request: \$1,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Jay Ediger

Organization: Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes


Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

May be eligible if it targets high-poverty school districts/disproportionately impacted communities.

Sustainability

The learning labs may not be able to continue without funding, but there are multiple partners

Feasibility

Risk to 2026 completion

PROJECT #227

Full STEAM Ahead: A Dedicated STEAM Learning Space for Kent County



Identify the need for the proposed project

Grand Rapids Children's Museum (GRCM) is a social space central to building community and providing educational opportunities for children, families, and visitors alike. More than a community attraction, the GRCM has taken on the charge of shaping the next generation of the workforce by providing a safe space where all children can explore, tinker, play, and wonder. The digital economy demands we prepare today's learners for tomorrow's careers. Successful learners in the 21st century embrace critical thinking, creativity, curiosity, collaboration and courage. The future workplace landscape must include a new generation of innovators, inventors, analysts and revolutionary designers prepared to conquer the challenges they inherit and the new ones that arise. Their training begins with age-appropriate play in spaces that inspire! In 2018, as we were developing a five-year strategic plan with support from renowned consultant Michael Kaiser of the DeVos Institute of Arts Management, we identified the need for a dedicated STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) space with a focus on educating children in upper elementary to middle school. We have served millions of children through carefully curated experiences that bring tangible expression to learning, but our ambitions to expand our educational offerings are larger than our current spatial resources. Our community stakeholders, including school districts, after-school providers, and other community-based organizations, have acknowledged the gap in Grand Rapids' current ability to serve children in upper elementary and middle school and support our desire to create a space to serve them. In their formative years, this young demographic is balanced precariously between being kids and becoming young adults. It's a time when learning runs the risk of drudgery, curiosity is lost and kids begin to self-impose limitations on what they can and can't do. This is especially true among minorities and females. An expanded space will allow us to truly serve all children throughout West Michigan!

Brief Description

The shared vision of the GRCM and the Grand Rapids Public Library for a STEAM learning center will introduce an exciting new amenity for critical development to Grand Rapids and beyond; one which will facilitate the development of children into critically thinking teens, and offer not only educational opportunities, but also a necessary resource for underprivileged community members. This new structure will be an inclusive, unrestrictive, and dynamic cultural space for STEAM learning including: dedicated workshop and classroom spaces for inquiry and innovation, flexible spaces for ephemeral installations and collaborative programming, and supplemented parking for the Library, the City of Grand Rapids, and visitors. Located at 181 Library St NE in Grand Rapids, the building will combine parking and programming into a unified 150,000 SF structure mindful of both the historic Ryerson Library adjacent and the urban fabric of the neighborhood. The GRCM will be the primary steward of the 60,000 square feet of finished space and will lead the charge to collaborate with other community organizations to bolster activity and enhance rotating programs. The GRCM on behalf of our institution, our partners, our collaborators and the community is requesting \$14 million in ARPA support to aid in the realization of this building. This project improves the quality of life in our community, creates an even larger draw for local and out-of-school for all children in our community.

Long-Term Benefit

It is our long-range plan, but also our social responsibility, to shape the next generation of the workforce by providing a safe space where all children can embrace objective analysis, creativity, curiosity and collaboration. Some of the greatest minds in history were successful because they could fail, explore, and be curious. Our mission is to provide a welcoming and inclusive space with positive learning experiences and influence the next wave of critically thinking professionals.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$62,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$62,500,000

ARPA Request: \$14,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)



Project Cost

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Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Intended Beneficiary

Children in Kent County will benefit the most from this project. We hope to instill a love of lifelong learning in the children who visit our space for generations to come. Our STEAM educational approach to learning guides inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. The end results are children who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, work through the creative process, and carry these skills into adulthood. This project will create a permanent exhibit that provides the tools for successful future-focused learning, in addition to the representation needed to help children of all colors and genders see themselves in careers that support the next generation of industry and innovation: providing great ROIs for our children and our community! The Museum, in collaboration with project partners, will accomplish this by incorporating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) in its exhibits, programs, and events. The STEAM movement (incorporating the arts into STEM) was championed by John Maeda, president of the Rhode Island School of Design from 2008-2013, who believes that the arts are critical components to innovation. The concept incorporates the artistic and design-related skills and processes in STEM. "Yes, we have an alarming STEM shortage in our country. But every engineer who comes up with a new innovation, practices far more than math, engineering, and technological prowess. They also use design-thinking, creativity, communication, and artistic skills to bring those innovations to fruition...Today's innovators are creative beasts, working collaboratively in open workspaces, sharing ideas globally with other thinkers, and combining their STEM powers with some killer STEAM talents. Today's Google workers aren't just software engineers or coders sitting in dark rooms lit only by computer monitors. They're design-thinkers...Today's trailblazers are communicators who design, craft, experiment, and pioneer in the light." (Why the "A" in STEAM Education is Just As Important As Every Other Letter, Gunn).

Despite this compelling research, however, the National Institute for STEM Education reports that only 42 schools in the United States today have received a STEM certification. Children rely on their caregivers, their individual teacher's ability, and community-based resources for these STEAM experiences that are so critical to their development. As such, GRCM's offerings are designed within the framework of open-ended and child-directed play, a proven critical component of healthy child development. It is our goal and priority to serve a target audience that reflects the diverse demographics of our community. To increase a child's access to developmental play regardless of income, we created Play it Forward to break down barriers including Field Trip Scholarships, reduced admission nights, memberships for social service organizations, a Mobile Museum, and Museums for All. Museums for All is a national initiative to encourage museum attendance among low-income and underserved families that allows EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) card holders to qualify for a reduced admission rate of only \$1.75 per person for up to four people. GRCM chose to expand this program to include coverage for WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) recipients and allow up to 12 family members. Museums for All has been wildly successful! Our attendance numbers grew steadily prior to the pandemic, specifically attracting many first-time visitors to the Museum. We expanded the program again last spring to include Pay What You Can Annual Memberships. Qualifying families pay \$20 plus a donation of what they can afford for full membership benefits. Since its inception in June 2021, 250 qualifying families have signed up! Currently, 25% of our guests are Museums for All participants, helping us support families who were most negatively impacted by the pandemic according to research. Beyond improving the Quality of Life for our community, this project will also benefit Community Health and Economic Innovation and Workforce Development: Community Health - Several studies demonstrate the impact STEAM and developmental play has on the physical, mental, and emotional health of both children and adults.

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Intended Beneficiary (continued)

A 2018 study conducted by the American Academy of Pediatrics confirmed that “play provides a singular opportunity to build the executive functioning that underlies adaptive behaviors at home; improve language and math skills in school; build the safe, stable, and nurturing relationships that buffer against toxic stress; and build social–emotional resilience...The health benefits of play involving physical activity are many. Exercise not only promotes healthy weight and cardiovascular fitness but also can enhance the efficacy of the immune, endocrine, and cardiovascular systems. Play decreases stress, fatigue, injury, and depression and increases range of motion, agility, coordination, balance, and flexibility. Play not only provides opportunities for fostering children’s curiosity, self-regulation skills, language development, and imagination but also promotes the dyadic reciprocal interactions between children and parents, which is a crucial element of healthy relationships. Through the buffering capacity of caregivers, play can serve as an antidote to toxic stress, allowing the physiologic stress response to return to baseline.” Economic Innovation and Workforce Development - Workforce development begins early in life. Spaces like the GRCM, where children can explore, tinker, and create, are foundational for the economic health of our nation. Study after study confirms this fact. A 2018 study of middle schools in New York City “found that students who completed the Young Engineers Program under STEAM demonstrated a greater interest in technical career fields, increased confidence in their ability to do math and an increased belief that learning science can be useful to solve problems later in life.” Our local STEM Greenhouse’s 2019 study found that “Almost three times as many participants who were not proficient in math...developed more favorable attitudes toward STEM. Similarly, their STEM Career Interest also increased, suggesting that low-performing students may especially benefit from further exposure to STEM programming.”

Project Cost

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Maximum Cost: \$62,500,000

ARPA Request: \$14,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Partnership

We are partnering with several organizations to help us expedite the construction and fundraising of our community's new STEAM Lab to meet the 12/31/2026 spending deadline including the City of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Public Library, Fishbeck, and The Breton Group. ARPA Funds will be invested in the beginning stages of this large project and we feel confident it will be fully expended well before the deadline. Please see the project schedule in the Supporting Documents. We are also partnering with many community organizations for program development including the Civic Theater, STEM Greenhouse, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Boys & Girls Club of Grand Rapids Commonwealth, and Our Community's Children.

Estimated Cost

The costs outlined below include both the construction costs (soft costs not included) of the new building and programmatic costs to ensure the success of the space over a period of 5 years. The costs associated with both categories will be covered by various stakeholder organizations. The GRCM is requesting ARPA funds to support approximately 22% of the overall project costs. Below is an in-depth breakdown established by Fishbeck and the GRCM: \$22.5 M Parking Structure (Including: Foundations, Structure, Vertical Circulation) \$2.5 M Green Roof \$4 M Exterior Facade \$1 M Site Improvements \$14 M Interior Buildout \$13 M Permitting/Survey/Geotech/Environmental Fees \$ 5 M STEAM Exhibits \$500,000/yr Consumable Materials for Exhibits



Project Cost

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ARPA Request: \$14,000,000

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Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

*Source of Funding

The Kent County community is blessed with several private family foundations and philanthropic individuals, many of whom have been kept abreast of this project's progress over the past 3 years and have communicated strong interest in providing funding to the project. While we believe 33% of the funds required for this project have been raised, due to requests for anonymity (at this point in time) and/or others waiting upon the final determination of the ARPA request for funding, we are unable to share the full breadth of our funding commitments at this time. We have secured \$1,300,000 from the State of Michigan and have the opportunity to receive more should we be granted the ARPA award. We have also hired a professional fundraising consulting firm to lead our efforts and they are actively running a soft feasibility study. We have plans to complete a donor survey, which was interrupted by COVID, and appoint a campaign funding team of local leaders to raise funds for the projects.

Project Management Experience

GRCM has experience with leading and managing the day-to-day of large scale projects. Our CEO, Maggie Lancaster, has been in this position for six years, leading many large events across the community and has several years of prior experience serving as a board member and/or event committee chair for several non-profit organizations. Our COO, Erin Crison, has 16 years of experience in leading nonprofits. To ensure this project is completed on time and on budget, we have intentionally brought in other partners: Fishbeck, an architecture, engineering, environmental sciences, and construction management firm based in Grand Rapids and located throughout the Midwest, will be our design partner for this unique project. Their track record of designing forward-thinking spaces, experience in complex projects, and commitment to the community makes them an excellent fit for the realization of this vision. The Fishbeck team has recently worked with Grand Valley State University, Feeding America West Michigan, Spectrum Health, Gerald R Ford International Airport, Gerald R Ford Presidential Museum, and many others within our community on projects in excess of \$100,000,000. In close collaboration with GRCM, Fishbeck will lead us through the complex design process, ensuring we engage our community and maximize the investment. We have partnered with The Breton Group to help us create a capital campaign and achieve our fundraising goal. The Breton Group possesses 25 years of experience in fundraising including feasibility studies, capital campaigns, and fund development planning. The Breton Group has worked with our Board of Directors and leadership staff to develop a longterm development plan and will help us create a new community of donors to support this project and the long-range vision of the Museum. We are also in the process of identifying a creative design and exhibit building firm that will help us design and build our STEAM exhibits. We are interviewing organizations who specialize in unique and creative design for spaces and who will bring extensive experience to this project. Once engaged, this partner will work under the direction of our STEAM Director to create, design, and deliver exhibits that are engaging and accessible for all children.

Federal Funds Experience

GRCM has experience in managing the compliance requirements of federal grant dollars. In fact, much of the funding GRCM receives comes with strict requirements such as the funding we receive annually from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. Erin Crison, our COO, has over 16 years in nonprofit management at many organizations that receive federal funding including the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Holland, and Boys & Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth. She has set up our system to ensure all the many and varied compliance requirements are met. Due to the availability of COVID-related funds, approximately 25% of GRCM's funding in the last two years was federally sourced.



Studies on Impact

Quality of Life: Graham, Nicholas James. Using arts integration to make science learning memorable in the upper elementary grades: A quasiexperimental study, 2016. Cunninton, Marisol. Cultivating Common Ground: Integrating Standards-Based Visual Arts, Math and Literacy in High-Poverty Urban Classrooms, 2014. A study on the relationship between theater arts and student literacy and mathematics achievement, 2014. Douma, Kara. Playing to Learn in Middle and High School, 2022. Community Health: Yogman, Michael. The Power of Play: A Pediatric Role in Enhancing Development in Young Children, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2018. Gray, Peter. The Play Deficit, <https://aeon.co/essays/children-today-are-suffering-a-severe-deficit-of-play>, 2013. Economic Innovations and Workforce Development: Belastock, Elieen. How STEAM Education Can Prepare Students for the Workforce, 2019. Community Research Institute. STEM Greenhouse STEAM PLC Pilot Report, 2019.

Supporting Documentation

1. [Letters of Support](#)
2. [Renderings](#)
3. [Project Schedule](#)
4. [Project Competency](#)
5. [Case for Support](#)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$62,500,000

Maximum Cost: \$62,500,000

ARPA Request: \$14,000,000

Submitter Info

Name: Maggie Lancaster

Organization:

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

Project Overview

Funding Group: Quality of Life

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility: 

Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

Impact: 

Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

Partnership

(Listed in main description)

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Possibly eligible under non-profit support or under education to disproportionately impacted communities. Could be clarified during program design.

 **Sustainability**

Lacking guaranteed funding though partners were identified

 **Feasibility**

22% of the project cost is requested. That must be spent by 2026



PROJECT #302

Public Education for Adults and Children Everywhere (P.E.A.C.E.) Television & Radio

Identify the need for the proposed project

Community door knocking campaigns, GR city government meetings, meetings with GRPD officials, deep listening sessions with thousands of residents in 49507, local survey, research and this process.

Brief Description

Host a 49507 community based television and radio shows that focus on community education regarding local issues, promoting public safety strategies and inspiring robust constructive dialogue relating to the most sensitive issues impacting our residents throughout W. Michigan. Equity, diversity and inclusion experts will lead social activities that strengthen communities, and transform how we address public safety issues.

Long-Term Benefit

The long-term benefits include transforming how our community leverages it's unique W. Michigan economic profile and history to produce new, and advance community engagement and transformation strategies.

Intended Beneficiary

All citizens of W. Michigan, specifically citizens of 49507.

Estimated Cost

\$100,000 - \$200,000

Project Management Experience

Project Management Experience

Federal Funds Experience

Extensive experience working in government, and with federal funds.

Studies on Impact

Please see the article in below link:

<https://www.boreal-is.com/blog/improve-community-relations/>

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$100,000

Maximum Cost: \$200,000

Submitter Info

Name: Regenail Thomas

Organization: Seeds of Promise

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 76% or greater

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Local governments, businesses, residents and philanthropist.

Partnership

Seeds of Promise, GRPD, GVSU

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Risks around any sort of lobbying or political work through this program

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**

PROJECT #102

Literate Kent County



Identify the need for the proposed project

In the largest, most comprehensive evidenced-based review ever conducted of research on how children learn to read, a congressionally mandated independent panel concluded that the most effective way to teach children to read is through instruction that includes five major components: breaking apart and manipulating sounds within words (phonemic awareness), teaching that sounds are represented by letters of the alphabet which can then be blended to form words (phonics), practicing what is learned by reading aloud with guidance and feedback (fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension). Phonics Fundamentals© incorporates all five components in reading in its program. Teachers are frequently underprepared for the complexities awaiting them in the classroom and expectations are increasing. The lack of early and adequate intervention are contributing to serious consequences: According to Grand Valley State University Community Research Institute's (CRI) most recent estimate; 35% of Kent County youth are living below the poverty level, thirteen percent of adults in Kent County and the State of Michigan do not have a high school diploma and of the 2014 MEAP Scores- 38% of third grade students in Kent Intermediate School District were not proficient in reading. According to First Steps Kent, for the 2017-2018 school year, Kent County was ranked 24th of 83 counties in Michigan for literacy – 49.3% of students were proficient readers in third grade. There is a further disparity in literacy when broken down by race, with BIPOC students averaging 23% (Black) and 29% (Latinx). We have had a partnership with MLK Academy in partnership with the Keller Foundation for the past several years, and have seen a growing need for literacy intervention services since the pandemic. We know that there are schools in Kent County that are often overlooked for grant-funded programs- schools that exist in the margins of need and visibility, and we believe an investment of ARPA funds will be pivotal in closing the achievement gap in 12 of these schools.

Brief Description

Literate Kent County is a 3 year pilot program proposed by SLD Read, intended to provide direct 1:1 student interventions as well as whole-school professional development for the teaching staff in Orton Gillingham based phonics instruction. During Year 1 we plan to build program infrastructure, develop staff, build relationships with schools and funders, facilitate outreach to target schools, and develop self-assessment for districts/buildings to identify the schools that have the greatest opportunity to close their reading achievement gap. During Year 2 we will be providing individualized 1:1 grantfunded tutoring to 60 students across 6 schools. In those same 6 schools we will be providing professional development to the teachers of that school, resulting in a total of 2100 students across the schools benefiting from the professional development of their teachers. In Year 3 we will have a continuation of our work plan, including adding 6 additional schools for both tutoring and professional development (2100 additional students being served). We will also be finalizing our sustainability plan as well as a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program.

Long-Term Benefit

This funding request falls in both Community Health and Quality of Life. There are numerous studies that link low literacy levels to poor individual health outcomes, and the link between literacy and incarceration is well-established. 85% of juveniles who interact with the juvenile justice system are functionally low-literate, and Juvenile incarceration reduces the probability of high school completion and increases the probability of incarceration later in life.

Intended Beneficiary

K-12 students as well as K-12 teachers in 12 targeted schools

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$415,000

Maximum Cost: \$415,000

Submitter Info

Name: Bex Takacs-Britz

Organization: SLD Read

Project Overview

Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

We anticipate being able to secure grant funding from local foundations and individual donors for 10% of the project cost

Partnership

This plan will involve partnering with 12 schools that will be identified during the Year 1 workplan



Estimated Cost

\$415,000.00

Project Management Experience

Since 1974, SLD Read has implemented our educational services in 14 counties in Western Michigan. SLD Read provides a scope and depth of services to people with language-based learning difficulties that is unmatched. SLD Read is dedicated to decreasing the literacy gap through intensive 1:1 language instruction based on the OrtonGillingham learning model.

Federal Funds Experience

Our CEO has 10+ years experience managing state and federal grants, including work plan development, data analysis, and reporting. Specifically, the grants managed were through Michigan Rehabilitation Services (state) and Department of Education, Administration for Community Living.

Studies on Impact

Report of the National Reading Panel: "Overall, the findings showed that teaching children to manipulate phonemes in words was highly effective under a variety of teaching conditions with a variety of learners across a range of grade and age levels and that teaching phonemic awareness to children significantly improves their reading more than instruction that lacks any attention to PA. Specifically, the results of the experimental studies led the Panel to conclude that PA training was the cause of improvement in students' phonemic awareness, reading, and spelling following training. The findings were replicated repeatedly across multiple experiments and thus provide converging evidence for causal claims." (<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubs/nrp/findings>) Low health literacy is associated with more hospitalizations; greater use of emergency care, lower receipt of vaccines, poorer ability to demonstrate taking medications appropriately, poorer ability to interpret labels and health messages; and, among elderly persons, poorer overall health status and higher mortality rates. Poor health literacy partially explains racial disparities in some outcomes (<https://tinyurl.com/3b4ev4fu> Berkman, et. al, 2011)

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$415,000

Maximum Cost: \$415,000

Submitter Info

Name: Bex Takacs-Britz

Organization: SLD Read

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Funding Group: Community Health

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: New Project

Matching Funds: 0-25%

Eligibility:

Sustainability:

Feasibility:

Impact:

Source of Funding

We anticipate being able to secure grant funding from local foundations and individual donors for 10% of the project cost

Partnership

This plan will involve partnering with 12 schools that will be identified during the Year 1 workplan

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

Sustainability

3 year pilot program

Feasibility

PROJECT #220

Mavin project for K-12 Talent Development

Identify the need for the proposed project

Employer demand for skills in construction, computer science, and engineering has surged in Kent County over the past 5 years, with average monthly job postings growing by 72 percent over the relevant period (an increase of 1,837 ads, per month, from 2015 to the first half of 2022). The trend is only expected to continue over the next 10 years, with the county projected to gain over 1,500 jobs in these fields alone by 2032. Despite rising demand, however, the volume of talent entering the workforce each year with the skills and credentials to succeed has shrunk by 8.6 percent since 2017. In addition to yielding high growth rates, these are lucrative careers offering a combined median wage of \$34.01 per hour as recently as 2021 – significantly higher than the county-wide median wage of \$22.13. With over 20 percent of the current workforce in these occupations expected to reach retirement age by 2032, it's critical for students in Kent County to begin learning about these emerging career opportunities and to develop the skills necessary to ensure success upon entering the workforce.

Brief Description

The grant award will be used to purchase 1,000 Students 2 Business Kits from the Google Education Marketplace for student in grades 3rd through 8th at five (5) public school districts in Kent County: Northview, Sparta, Godwin Heights, Kelloggsville, and Kent City to engage in career aligned project based learning that will provide exposure to technical skills in additive manufacturing, cyber security, materials sciences, and learn how those skills/tools/technologies are applied to local careers in Food Supply Chain, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Apparel Design, and Public Services in Kent County. Through the hands-on project based modules, there are embedded exercises including communication skills, employability skills and financial planning. Subsequent to completion of each project-based activity, students then explore local jobs aligned to the skills and competencies they just demonstrated along with the educational pathway opportunities available to them beginning in high school. The innovative instructional experience will facilitate a robust and experientially based Educational Development Plan for each participating student including developing a digital talent portfolio highlighting their accomplishments. The project performed in other counties around Michigan and the country has proven to increase interest and confidence in STEM skills and motivate students to pursue careers in high paying STEM related jobs where talent domestically is lacking.

Long-Term Benefit

This will not only impact over 1,000 students but provide a new way for the county to address student learning loss post-pandemic, increase student interest in STEM careers in employment opportunities in the region, increase employment to these highdemand and high paying jobs with the necessary 21st century skills, and support the talent needs of local employers with these jobs.

Intended Beneficiary

County employers focused on manufacturing, construction, IT, students, and educators. According to Vishnu Mano, a Mavin Project contributor and rising Senior enrolled at City High Middle School International Baccalaureate program in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the proposed project helps students from 1st grade through 8th grade gain a greater understanding of the role of technology in different sectors of the workforce. Currently, the only technology-based class that is built into the curriculum at most conventional schools in Kent County is AP Computer Science. Many students, especially those without any prior programming experience, struggle to understand the core concepts of this class, which leads to computer science having one of the highest dropout rates (9.8%), according to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). After this initial experience with programming in their AP class, many students immediately rule out software and computer science as possible future careers. By implementing the proposed project with both elementary and middle schools in Kent County, students receive an opportunity to explore the applications of programming across different industries in the workforce, from agriculture and apparel to water and waste. By providing this earlier introduction to programming, the proposed project helps students more accurately choose and have confidence in highly skilled STEM career paths by enabling them to discover the potential that the applications of skills they performed have across a diverse range of industries.

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$350,000

Maximum Cost: \$350,000

Submitter Info

Name: Kevin Stotts

Organization: TalentFirst

Project Overview

Funding Group: Economic Innovation and Workforce Development

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Existing Project

Matching Funds: 26-50%

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

Kent County Corporations support - cash and in kind

Partnership

The partnering K-12 districts include Northview, Sparta, Godwin Heights, Kelloggsville, and Kent City Public Schools. Supporting employers include Meijer, Wolverine Worldwide, GFS, Cascade Engineering, Autocam Medical and others.



Estimated Cost

\$350,000.00

Project Management Experience

TalentFirst is a catalyst working to ensure an ongoing supply of world-class talent for West Michigan. Composed of over 125 CEOs from the region, TalentFirst illuminates gaps, evaluates leading practices, and advocates for the implementation of those leading practices to make West Michigan a top 20 employment region by the year 2025. TalentFirst works in partnership with key stakeholders, CEOs and educational leaders to facilitate an efficient collaboration that integrates resources, streamlines processes, and leverages energies to address the talent demand needs of each sector.

Federal Funds Experience

TalentFirst has a proven track record of advocating for and securing grants to support educational and workforce development advancement and innovation. Recently, through the partnership with TalentFirst, the Mavin project, and Ravenna Public Schools in Muskegon County, Ravenna was awarded a \$100,000 rural tech grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Ravenna was one of just five schools across the United States selected for the grant. This grant is intended to provide technology education solutions that use competency-based, project based learning to support student's technical skills for in demand and high wage careers in our region.

Studies on Impact

<https://proceedings.open.tudelft.nl/cte-stem2022/issue/view/6/3> Pg.64 - Teaching Computational Thinking with Digital devices Note: CT is analogous to what we would call problem solving/analytical reasoning skills. Pg.83 - Specific Problems with Computational Thinking Note: This specifically talks about the value of integrating multiple disciplines (B-STEAM) into CT projects, not teaching computer science or CT exclusively in a computer programming course. Pg. 88 - Computational Thinking in Language Arts When Teaching Creative and Expository Writing Note: This identifies that when elementary teachers are more exposed to scenarios that involve computational thinking, they are more likely to integrate this into regular instruction activities. As students speak and write about the activities in their learning, this context is offered to the student and the teacher. Pg. 104 - Developing a Continuous, Rather Than Binary, Classification for Measuring STEM Jobs Note: Profiling jobs in Mavin is ultimately to create what is called a STEM index to help granularize the academic skills used in specific jobs to then better help identify and develop talent in K-12 and displaced workers.

Project Cost

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Sustainability: 

Feasibility: 

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Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

Individuals or communities served is not clear or does not align with Treasury guidelines' definition of 'impacted' or 'disproportionately impacted'.

 **Sustainability**

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

 **Feasibility**



PROJECT #298

Sitting Pretty of Michigan Event & Decor Innovative Space

Identify the need for the proposed project

There are many young students that have expressed interest in the event décor profession. Having a space where student can come and learn more about creative ways on decorating and staging an event.

Brief Description

There are no internships that provide students with the opportunity to grow and learn through events & décor. This space not only helps student who have the passion in the event décor and planning. Providing workshops and year round internships to students, will not only contribute and grow there creativity with events, but also will teach them about project management for events.

Long-Term Benefit

The long term goal for this innovation space will not only provide opportunity for students, but those who have upcoming events, such as weddings, bridal and baby showers, galas, open houses and other events. As this innovation space provide clients with a on stop shop, by providing Chiavari chairs, linens, centerpieces, event staging and all other items for an event. Providing the top notch ambiance to those clients who have lower budgets.

Intended Beneficiary

This will benefit young students and lower income clients who want a quality event, but at a more reasonable cost.

Estimated Cost

\$200,000 - \$400,000

Project Management Experience

The CEO/Owner has over 10 years of managing/leading a large county projects, in per current and previous companies,

Federal Funds Experience

n/a

Studies on Impact

n/a

Project Cost

Minimum Cost: \$200,000

Maximum Cost: \$400,000

Submitter Info

Name: Elisea Barnes

Organization:

Sitting Pretty of Mid Michigan

Project Overview

Funding Group: Improving Government Operations

Project Theme: Education

Project Status: Expanded Project

Matching Funds: No

Eligibility:



Sustainability:



Feasibility:



Impact:



Source of Funding

n/a

Partnership

n/a

Guidehouse Ranking Notes

Eligibility

This does not support a qualified group. This is not a government services and therefore not eligible for revenue replacement.

Sustainability

Does not include a funding plan or fund availability after expending all the ARPA dollars.

Feasibility