Learning Links + COVID-19 Classroom Relief Request for Proposals

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had significant impact on the educational attainment of students in the Greater Cincinnati area. Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) invites your school to apply for a Learning Links + COVID-19 Classroom Relief grant. An invitation to submit a proposal in no way guarantees a grant award. This is a competitive process. Due to school closures in Spring 2020, the deadline for proposal submission has been extended to **Friday, August 7, 2020, by 5:00 p.m.**

These grant funds are available because of the generosity of our donors and the continuing support of Charles H. Dater Foundation. The maximum grant award is $1,000, but we accept grant requests for lower amounts. Projects or events must take place during the 2020-2021 school year. Each school may submit up to two applications, either for two distinctly different programs or the same program for two different groups of students.

**Funding Focus**
With help from a team of passionate donors and community volunteers who will review the applications, GCF intends to focus on investing in the following areas:

- Allow local K-12 educators the opportunity for creative and interesting projects or events they would like to bring to their school or classroom.

- Allow local K-12 educators to initiate programming and/or obtain equipment or devices to address learning loss from the 2019-2020 school year due to COVID-19.
Use of Funds
Funding may be used to support, expand or strengthen existing projects or events or launch new projects or events. In addition to classroom programming, projects or events can include after-school programming and service learning projects. Funding may also support capital costs for equipment, devices or supplies which then become property of the school.

Criteria
• Applicants must be teachers, principals and other educators at local schools serving students K-12.
• Schools must be located in the Greater Cincinnati region which includes the counties of: Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont in Ohio; Boone, Kenton and Campbell in Kentucky; and Dearborn in Indiana.
• Preference will be given to projects that:
  o Inspire innovative, creative and fun ideas that encourage student participation.
  o Promote diversity, multicultural or intergenerational events.
  o Projects or programs that boost students’ academic performance and address learning loss from the 2019-2020 school year due to COVID-19.
  o Projects or programs that provide students opportunities to engage and serve the community.
  o Have lasting impact on students, the school and its staff.
• Proposals will be accepted by schools who meet the criteria and align strongly with the purpose of this RFP.
• Schools applying for funding should verify that all vendors paid with grant funds are on their district’s approved vendor list.

Application Process
Respond to this RFP via GCF’s online grantmaking system using the “Learning Links Application.” After creating a new account and/or logging in, complete the application and submit by the deadline listed in this RFP. Please reach out to GCF staff if you are unsure if your organization or school has an existing account.
Upload the Project Budget in the final section of the application. While not required, it is highly encouraged that you use the template provided.

**RFP Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Steps</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposal Deadline</td>
<td>August 7, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Committee Review</td>
<td>Mid-August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision Communicated</td>
<td>Early September 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Questions**

Answers to general questions are available on our website at [www.gcfdn.org/faq](http://www.gcfdn.org/faq).

Please direct any additional questions that you may have to Rosie Polter, Grants Associate, rosie.polter@gcfdn.org, 513-768-6154. Thank you for considering partnership with Greater Cincinnati Foundation. We look forward to your submission.

**GCF Mission**

As a trusted and connected partner, we inspire generous people to invest in a more equitable and vibrant region, now and for generations to come.