

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Building Opportunity through Out-Of-School Time (BOOST) Grant Program
Project Summary and Analysis

Funding Announcement: FY2024-25 BOOST Funding

Applications: 46 Applications

Project Period: February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2027

Description and Recommendation:

On September 9, 2024, PCCD announced the availability of \$11.5 million in state Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) funding to support the FY2024-25 Building Opportunity through Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grant program.

The goal of BOOST funding is to expand out-of-school-time (OST) structured programming opportunities for at-risk school-age youth, which are school-age youth who are at an educational disadvantage because of limited English proficiency, poverty, homelessness, foster care, housing instability, academic difficulties, or economic disadvantage. Funding was eligible to support structured programs or activities with engaged mentors and evidence-based/informed practices provided to school-age youth before school, after school, or during the summer.

School districts, area career and technical schools, libraries, statewide youth-serving nonprofit organizations, and community-based nonprofit organizations were eligible to apply to support projects for an up-to-24-month period. Eligible applicants could submit one proposal under a Local BOOST track or a Statewide BOOST track. Maximum budget amounts were limited to no more than 50% of an organization's actual operating expenditures, up to \$250,000 for the local track, and up to \$1,500,000 to for the statewide track.

To initially solicit interest, PCCD utilized a SurveyMonkey initial request process with a required proposal narrative and budget template for each track. PCCD received 296 request forms and related application materials via SurveyMonkey as of the October 31, 2024 deadline. After conducting an initial review to verify applicant eligibility, 289 applicants were moved forward for review. Formal scoring and review of applications occurred during November and December 2024, with reconciliation meetings conducted in mid- to late December. The VIP Workgroup met on January 8, 2025 for consideration of recommended applications.

Staff and the VIP Workgroup are recommending approval of 44 local applications and 2 statewide applications, totaling 46 applications, not to exceed \$11,599,483 in state VIP funding, pending the resolution of any outstanding programmatic or fiscal concerns.¹

¹ These 46 projects requested a total of \$11,599,483. PCCD anticipates final budget totals will adjust slightly for BOOST and VIP projects following completion of staff fiscal reviews to determine final award amounts.

FY 2024-25 BOOST - Local

<p>Allegheny Youth Development</p> <p>Allegheny County</p> <p>Amount: \$139,520</p>	<p>Allegheny Youth Development (AYD) is requesting \$139,520 to expand its SEL programming and overall service capacity to improve the lives of children in Pittsburgh. AYD collaborates with several key partners, including the Pittsburgh Public Schools' Office of Out-of-School Time, Neighborhood Learning Alliance, and various community organizations.</p> <p>By increasing weekly program hours, enrolling additional students, and enhancing staff training in SEL curricula, AYD seeks to address the social and emotional needs of its students. The program's objectives include increasing student attendance, academic performance, and overall engagement. Specific goals include enrolling at least 115 students over the next two years, achieving a minimum of 75% attendance, and ensuring that 75% of students with low GPAs show academic improvement.</p> <p>Funding will be used to support additional staff hourly wages and benefits for SEL enrichment, including direct program time and training and professional development; student transportation costs; SEL curriculum; afterschool student participation incentives; training costs; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Arts Holding Hands and Hearts Inc (AHHAH)</p> <p>Chester County</p> <p>Amount: \$141,000</p>	<p>Arts Holding Hands and Hearts (AHHAH) is requesting \$141,000 to expand trauma-informed Restorative Justice programming for 630 at-risk school-age youth involved in, impacted by, or at risk of entering the juvenile justice system in Chester County. By funding this project, disadvantaged youth located in Coatesville and surrounding areas will learn techniques to calm minds, improve self-control, and focus attention while discovering they have an impactful and unique voice and agency through artistic instruction, expression, and mindfulness practices.</p> <p>Funds will be used to partially support the salary of the part-time program director providing the restorative justice programming and partially support the executive director's salary; filmmaking equipment; art and project supplies; trauma-informed teaching artists; and space rental costs.</p>
<p>ASAP/After School Activities Partnerships</p> <p>Philadelphia County</p> <p>Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>The ASAP/After School Activities Partnerships is requesting \$250,000 to provide ASAP's four citywide enrichment programs – chess, debate, drama, Scrabble – to 5,000 youth grades (K-12) across the City of Philadelphia through the recruitment, training, equipping, and supporting of dozens of caring adults in partnership with more than 200 schools, libraries, and community and recreation centers to lead its programs. ASAP places special emphasis to place its programs in the following high-priority locations: (1) neighborhood public schools and (2) communities with the highest rates of gun violence (as determined by the City Office of the Controller). By funding this project, ASAP will work to achieve the following outcomes: 70% of all programs will take place in aforementioned high priority locations; 70% of youth served will be from priority locations; 80% of youth surveyed will be on track for graduation or college/career readiness; 90% of club leaders and school principals will report positive impacts on school culture and climate.</p>

	<p>Funds will be used to partially support the salary of the chess, debate, Scrabble and drama managers, the chess coordinator, the operations manager, and the executive director; student transportation; and drama teaching artists.</p>
<p>Boys & Girls Club of Lancaster Lancaster County Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>Boys & Girls Club of Lancaster is requesting \$250,000 to provide structured after-school programming opportunities for 2,000 more at-risk students within four Club locations in the Lancaster community. Funding will be used to provide various afterschool activities five days a week, including Homework Help, Enrichment Activities (including arts and crafts, sports, and STEM activities), Supper Club (hot, nutritious meal), and Life Skills programming (workshops focused on leadership, financial literacy, and social skills, helping them build confidence and prepare for the future). Students also receive 30-60 minutes of gym time, promoting fitness and teamwork, as well as mentorship and guidance. Progress of programming will be measured by monitoring the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average daily attendance at each Clubhouse site; • Number of hours spent in high yield learning activities; • Number of hours spent in homework help and tutoring; and • Retention rate throughout the 2024-2025 academic year. <p>Funds will be used to partially support the salary and benefits of four additional staff at each of the four after-school Clubhouse sites.</p>
<p>Casa Guadalupe Center Lehigh County Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>Casa Guadalupe Center (Casa) is requesting \$250,000 to support its comprehensive, culturally appropriate, bilingual evidence-based out-of-school-time education program. The program will serve 200 K-12 youth and their families during the school year and summer. Casa requests BOOST funds to enhance the programs in vital ways such as increasing the number of youth to be served, employing more STEAM educators, engaging the critically needed services of a local mental health professional, integrating a wider range of diverse evidenced-based curricula, and expanding our community engagement and evaluation strategies. The goal is to enhance our environment so more students can thrive. Casa will recruit approximately 25% more students. Moreover, all program participants will have access to an expanded curriculum as well as a 50% increase in services that focus on mental health and holistic wellness among students and their families. The revised model of program evaluation will reflect a 50% increase in input from multiple diverse stakeholders such as students, families, and community collaborators.</p> <p>Funds will be used to support the hourly wages and benefits of two new teachers and two teacher assistants; equipment costs, including laptops and Chromebooks; classroom activity supplies, including arts and crafts, STEM materials, books, printing materials, and other items related to student events and parent engagement activities; outside contractors and community partners providing programming (including Fruitful Seeds Counseling, DaVinci Science Center; Mindful Child Initiative; Baum School of Art; Firorini & Associates, Casa Guadalupe Center, and Young Adult Art</p>

	<p>researchers) and evaluation (Sandpiper Evaluation); and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Chester County Economic Development Foundation</p> <p>Chester County</p> <p>Amount: \$218,135</p>	<p>The RISE (Readiness Increases Skills & Employability) project developed by the Chester County Economic Development Council seeks \$218,135 in funding to create a structured out-of-school program aimed at enhancing career readiness for over 1,600 underserved students at Coatesville Area High School. This initiative involves a series of activities, including a Career Interest Survey, a Career Fair, After School Mini-camps, and Work-based Learning opportunities, designed to empower students with the skills and experiences necessary for future employment.</p> <p>Funding will support the salaries and benefits of project staff; mileage for travel to the mini-camp locations and employer site visits; project supplies, including materials for a Career Fair, snacks, participation incentives, and mini-camp supplies; Career Interest Survey software; site coordinators for the mini-camps; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Chester Education Foundation</p> <p>Delaware County</p> <p>Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>Chester Education Foundation (CEF) is requesting \$250,000 to support additional activities for structured, out-of-school-time, evidence-based prevention, workforce development, and academic and enrichment programs for 120 at-risk, 11th-12th grade high school students in the Chester Upland School District community and to add 100 9th and 10th graders to this programming. The overall goal of CEF's BOOST Program is to decrease involvement in gun and other violence and to increase school engagement, academic achievement, positive peer and family relationships, and on-time graduation and readiness for post-secondary training and careers. The BOOST Program will help participants achieve competency in the skills that are not only key to success but also have been found to reduce and prevent substance use and violence. BOOST funded activities will be added to CEF's existing, fully funded, workforce development and prevention programs for 16-18-year-old, at-risk students of the community in the Chester Upland School District.</p> <p>Funding will support the salary and benefits for one new program site coordinator; afterschool program and college and cultural trip transportation costs for participants; participant incentives for program component completion; and program supplies.</p>
<p>Downingtown Community Education Foundation</p> <p>Chester County</p> <p>Amount: \$100,000</p>	<p>The Downingtown Community Education Foundation is requesting \$100,000 to launch an afterschool and summer program in the Downingtown Area School District at the four Title 1 schools and schools identified for school improvement. The program aims to support academic success, student engagement and parent involvement to support learning.</p> <p>Funds will be used to support teacher time; bus transportation for students; supplies and operating expenses including art and activity supplies, games, snacks, meals; field trips; and grant administration and reporting costs.</p>
<p>Early Excellence Project</p>	<p>The Early Excellence Project is requesting \$235,446 to expand High Impact Tutoring Program to out-of-school time (OST) settings in the</p>

<p>Allegheny County</p> <p>Amount: \$235,446</p>	<p>Southside of Pittsburgh. Funds will support staffing, equipment, training, and program implementation to provide high-dosage literacy tutoring for 80 at-risk kindergarten, first and second grade students. This funding will enable us to extend our culturally responsive, evidence-based tutoring model into community-based summer camps, ensuring continuous academic support for vulnerable students outside of regular school hours. By funding this project, PCCD will help improve early literacy skills among 80 at-risk students, enhance school engagement, and reduce the likelihood of academic regression during the summer. These outcomes are expected to contribute to long-term reductions in dropout rates and engagement in the criminal justice system, aligning with our commitment to early intervention as a strategy to prevent future delinquency.</p> <p>Funding will support the salaries and benefits of four Youth Engagement Specialists (tutors), and partially support the salary and benefits of the Executive Director and Program Director; staff training and transportation costs; twenty iPads and related equipment; engagement supplies (e.g., snacks, rewards), software licenses, printing, school supplies and books; training consultants; and evaluation support.</p>
<p>Erie Police Athletic League (PAL)</p> <p>Erie County</p> <p>Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>The Erie Police Athletic League is requesting \$250,000 to partially fund salaries of three full-time PAL youth officers, who will support the executive director to coordinate daily after-school tutoring/mentoring, four different summer camps, educational field trips, athletics, recreational, and career exploration opportunities for 1,700 students in 24 locations across the City of Erie. By funding this community policing initiative, PAL can retain the current number of participants and locations and look to sustainably expand the program to reach more of Erie's youth, building community, establishing cop-kid relationships to set students up for success, and preventing/reducing community violence.</p> <p>Funding will partially support the salaries of three officers to assist in providing the after-school activities.</p>
<p>ESF Dream Camp Foundation</p> <p>Philadelphia County</p> <p>Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>The ESF Dream Camp Foundation is requesting \$250,000 to expand after-school and summer violence prevention programs, which address violence prevention and conflict resolution and offer mentorship, leadership training, academic support, and artistic and athletic enrichment. This year-round program is tailored for at-risk youth in Philadelphia's high-crime areas, focusing on fostering emotional intelligence and building safer communities. By funding this project, funds will be allocated to hire specialized directors trained to engage effectively with 175 at-risk youth. It will also cover transportation costs for students to attend the summer camp in Center City Philadelphia, providing them with a much-needed escape from their challenging environments. Additionally, the funding will allow for an extra week of camp.</p> <p>Funding will support the hourly wages for three safety and prevention and emotional support directors, two advanced degree college student-interns, and camp staff for the extra week of camp;</p>

	<p>training for all staff; bus transportation costs for all campers; camp materials and supplies; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Fine Feather Foundation Inc Lehigh County Amount: \$97,074</p>	<p>The Fine Feather Foundation is seeking a grant of \$97,074 to facilitate the expansion of the Excelsior After-School Program to two additional schools: Harrison Morton Middle School and South Mountain Middle School. This initiative is designed specifically for middle school students aged 11-14 from low-income families and intends to work with 50 additional at-risk students. The Fine Feather Excelsior Program emphasizes educational and innovative creative arts-based initiatives that promote a healthy lifestyle for children while addressing mental health awareness. The program offers a variety of classes, including Contemporary and Hip-hop dance, Film Production, Theater, Visual Art, Podcasting, Music Production, Songwriting, and Modern Media. All classes and workshops are conducted by instructors who are professionally trained and qualified in their respective fields. It also provides peer counseling, behavioral therapy, counseling sessions, and music therapy for students with autism.</p> <p>Funding will support the hourly wages of a project manager, two program coordinators, art and dance instructors, a music production contractor, a visual art instructor and other consultants; dance and film production supplies; and operating expenses.</p>
<p>Firetree Place Lycoming County Amount: \$175,474</p>	<p>The Firetree Place is requesting \$175,474 to implement and expand new youth recreation programs in Williamsport during out-of-school time hours including a "Speed to Win" Training Program, Basketball Camp, Soccer Camp, Youth Pickleball Lessons, and Fundamental and Competitive Cheerleading. By funding this project, Firetree Place will be able to provide close to 400 at-risk youth a year with safe enrichment activities during out-of-school hours that will engage and promote a healthy lifestyle – all run by caring and trained coaches and staff who will provide mentorship for youth.</p> <p>Funding will support the expansion of these programs and will include new equipment, staff salaries, independent contractors and consultants, supplies for the youth, and operating expenses.</p>
<p>Forest Hills School District Cambria County Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>The Forest Hills School District is requesting \$250,000 to implement career cluster programs in collaboration with the South Fork Historical Society and South Fork Public Library. Funds will support the development of career pathways in high-demand occupations for the local region, including Technology, Teaching, Environmental Science, Engineering, Trades, Agriculture, and the Service Industry, along with community service projects related to each cluster. These funds will be allocated for curriculum development, industry partnerships, materials, and staff to manage work-based learning opportunities. By funding this project, the District anticipates providing 300 students (150 at-risk) with real-world exposure to various career paths, enhancing their career readiness, and addressing the region's workforce needs, particularly in South Fork, a high-poverty area.</p> <p>Funding will be used to support salary and benefits for educators, librarian personnel, and a program coordinator; stipends for STEAM,</p>

	<p>CADD and Robotics facilitators; staff training; travel expenses for student visits to partner work sites; equipment for CADD and robotics, including software and other resources; equipment and supplies for the local library to support literacy initiatives, digital learning, and recreational programming; equipment and supplies to support the South Fork Historical Society archival efforts; and a career readiness consultant.</p>
<p>Girls First Montgomery County Amount: \$216,920</p>	<p>Girls First is requesting \$216,920 to enhance out-of-school time (OST) programming for 40 at-risk school-age girls in grades 1 through 4 (ages 5-9) in Norristown. Funds will support a structured after-school program, using the artsee© curriculum—an innovative, trauma-informed approach that combines arts, social-emotional learning, and empowerment-based activities. This program capitalizes on the inherent protective factors of art-making, which creates a perfect environment for trauma-informed programming, and, because when researchers look at how arts and culture impact students, the same results are found consistently that at-risk students who have access to the arts tend to have better academic results, better workforce opportunities, and more civic engagement, as well as other positive outcomes associated with high levels of arts exposure.</p> <p>Funding will support the salary and benefits of the Norristown After-School Program Director and partially support the safety and benefits of the parttime program assistant; program supplies, including art supplies and theatre props; teaching artists stipends; technology (software upgrades); staff training; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Girls on the Run Philadelphia Philadelphia County Amount: \$150,000</p>	<p>Girls on the Run Philadelphia (GOTRP) is requesting \$150,000 to bring its sports-based youth development program to 1,050 third through eighth grade girls from economically disadvantaged families in Philadelphia County. Program participants served through this grant will come from families with an annual income of less than \$29,000. The 10-week, 20-lesson curriculum, delivered by trained coaches, offers a research-based social-emotional learning program partnered with running as a platform to cultivate life skills that promote physical and mental well-being.</p> <p>Funds will support program expenses including coach guides, coach training, t-shirts, water bottles, program staff hours, registration and evaluation technology, insurance, and curriculum licensing fees.</p>
<p>Governor Mifflin Education Foundation Berks County Amount: \$97,060</p>	<p>The Governor Mifflin Education Foundation is requesting \$97,060 to enhance after-school programs that support at-risk students in K-12 in developing critical social-emotional and career-readiness skills.</p> <p>By implementing evidence-based strategies for conflict resolution, positive behavior reinforcement, and safe decision-making, students will be empowered to thrive. Through this project, Governor Mifflin Education Foundation anticipates enhanced interpersonal relationships, reduced negative behaviors, and a strengthened sense of community that supports the educational journey of all students.</p>

	<p>Funding will be used to support staff time; transportation costs for participants; supplies such as program-specific supplies, recreation equipment, and art supplies, snacks and meals, and incentives; marketing materials; and costs associated with community engagement and guest speakers.</p>
<p>Harrisburg School District Dauphin County Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>The Harrisburg School District is requesting \$250,000 to implement summer school programs for K-2 and 5-8th grade students. These programs aim to address academic gaps and provide enrichment opportunities during the summer break.</p> <p>Anticipated outcomes of this project include improved literacy and math skills for K-2 students, enhanced readiness for the upcoming school year, and reduced summer learning loss. For 5-8th grade students, the program will foster academic growth, increase engagement in STEM and enrichment activities, and strengthen transitions to higher grade levels. Additionally, the summer program is expected to enhance social-emotional development, leading to better attendance and reduced disciplinary incidents in the following school year.</p> <p>Funding will be used to support partial teacher salaries and benefits and transportation costs for participants.</p>
<p>Highway Mission Tabernacle Philadelphia County Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>Highway Mission Tabernacle is requesting \$250,000 to expand its Performing Arts OST program for youth, ages 6-18, in the Tioga-Nicotown neighborhood of North Philadelphia.</p> <p>Highway Mission Tabernacle has recently piloted a summer OST model and continues to offer weekly workshops but would like to expand to a 5-day program during the school year and a six-week daily program in the summer for 50 youth yearly. By funding this project, under-served and at-risk youth will experience a safe and trauma-responsive program, have access to mentoring and life skills training, expand learning and access to the arts, develop performing talents and skills, receive academic support, develop healthy social and emotional skills, and serve their community well.</p> <p>Funding will be used to support partial salaries and benefits of staff; professional development for staff; supplies including program-specific supplies including musical instruments and equipment, educational materials and curriculum, recreation equipment, and performing arts supplies; workshop-specific consultants; youth stipends; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Hopebound Ministries, Inc. (dba Mooncrest Neighborhood Programs) Allegheny County Amount: \$79,000</p>	<p>Hopebound Ministries, Inc. (dba Mooncrest Neighborhood Programs) is requesting \$79,000 over two years to support a free 10-week summer camp program and a free after-school program serving children in an underserved neighborhood located in an isolated section of Moon Twp., with no public transportation.</p> <p>Through this program, a minimum of 100 children annually, in grades K-8, will be safe and supervised after school, receive daily nutrition, complete homework assignments, receive additional ELL and math support as needed, and experience more art and social enrichment activities to balance the stress of a full school day of learning. Academic achievement through homework completion,</p>

	<p>exploring nature through gardening, challenging STEAM activity, relaxing daily reading, mindful career exploration, team building through sports, fresh air fun, and social well-being opportunities serve to build consideration, kindness, and respect among Mooncrest neighborhood children, fostering character growth to reduce negative behavior and build a vibrant community. In summer, a minimum of 65% of participants will attend regularly, will maintain or advance in grade level learning, and will thoughtfully manage or improve in attitude and tolerance. School year impact will continue with a minimum of 65% of participants attending each day.</p> <p>Funding will be used to support two additional part-time staff; bus transportation for field trips; and consultants providing art instruction and soccer instruction.</p>
<p>Keystone SMILES Community Learning Center, Inc.</p> <p>Clarion County</p> <p>Amount: \$214,873</p>	<p>The Keystone SMILES Community Learning Center, Inc. is requesting \$214,873 to enhance and expand afterschool and summer programming in Clarion, Venango, and Mercer Counties, PA, while resuming services in Jefferson County.</p> <p>These OST programs aim to improve academic engagement among at-risk students by establishing safe havens that provide tutoring, homework help, STEM and service-learning activities, and nutritious meals at community sites. By funding this project, Keystone SMILES Community Learning Center intends to expand its reach by 30%, serving approximately 1,200 students and aims for 80% of participants to show improved academic engagement and improved motivation, leadership, attitude, organization, and behavior.</p> <p>Funding will be used to support the partial salaries and benefits of 3 program coordinators and time for 6 AmeriCorps members; mileage for travel between sites; supplies including STEM and educational supplies, office supplies, art supplies, and building usage costs.</p>
<p>Kid's Innovation Playground</p> <p>Butler County</p> <p>Amount: \$13,360</p>	<p>Kid's Innovation Playground is requesting \$13,360 to create a Lego Robotics Team of 8 youth in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th to engage in weekly meetings and compete in the First Lego League challenges in Pittsburgh in the 2025 and 2026 seasons.</p> <p>By funding this project, marginalized youth in rural western Pennsylvania will be able to explore their talents and potential career paths as they enjoy a much-needed place to belong with like-minded students and mentors.</p> <p>Funding will be used to support a professional educator as facilitator and assistant; student transportation; First Lego League curriculum and supplies; and competition fees.</p>
<p>Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania</p> <p>Allegheny County</p> <p>Amount: \$60,000</p>	<p>The Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania is requesting \$60,000 to provide high-quality reading instruction to at-risk youth within communities with higher needs.</p> <p>Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania aims to support over 100 at-risk students across seven locations in Pittsburgh who struggle with reading because they are more likely to face incarceration and school problems compared to those who read at grade level. By funding this project, the Learning Disabilities</p>

	<p>Association of Pennsylvania will enhance the reading skills of at-risk students who are struggling in school. Additionally, this funding will provide training for local community members to become reading tutors. This community connection will help tutors relate better to the students, leading to improved reading proficiency. Tutoring will be prioritized in locations with high or extreme Community Need Indexes including Pittsburgh Public Schools, local non-profit organizations, and a housing complex in underprivileged areas.</p> <p>Funding will be used to support the partial salaries and benefits of a Program Manager, tutors, and reading interventionists; program supplies including early literary and reading intervention materials; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Lemoyne Community Center Washington County Amount: \$249,782</p>	<p>The Lemoyne Community Center is requesting \$249,782 to support its after-school Homework and More program. The funding requested will allow us to expand and serve over 250 youth in this program, an increase of 100%.</p> <p>This Homework and More program is a free program that operates during the school year and currently serves approximately 125 youth in grades K-12 from various local school districts in Washington County. In addition to helping with schoolwork, Lemoyne Community Center offers a variety of enrichment classes to further supplement student education. Enrichment classes may include book clubs, African Drumming, life skills, STEAM sessions, Girl Scouts, cooking classes, sports, Spanish, recreation, photography, and much more. Students receive a nutritious dinner and a snack every day and transportation is available to and from the Homework & More program.</p> <p>Funding will be used to support partial salaries and benefits; costs associated with participant transportation; and seasonal teacher and tutor costs.</p>
<p>Medard's House (dba The Link 4 Youth) Cumberland County Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>The Link 4 Youth is requesting \$250,000 to expand and enhance afterschool and summer programming to at-risk youth in Cumberland, York, and Dauphin counties.</p> <p>The project will provide comprehensive afterschool and summer services to youth at risk for poor educational outcomes due to economic disadvantage, disability, homelessness, housing insecurity, discrimination, living in foster care, and more. The project will provide daily, zero-cost OST services during the school year and in summer, including academic support and enrichment; health and wellness programming; career exploration and guidance; support for greater family economic stability; life skills groups; health and nutrition programming; opportunities for Social Emotional Learning; and age-appropriate physical activity. By funding this project, at-risk youth will increase their protective factors; improve their social and emotional well-being through positive social engagement; improve their academic readiness and performance; increase their college and career readiness; enhance their personal safety; reduce their risk of engaging in negative and self-defeating behaviors; experience improved food security; and reduce their risk of juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, and substance abuse.</p>

	<p>Funding will be used to support salaries and benefits; transportation for participants; program supplies including food, garden supplies, educational materials, outreach materials, and recreation equipment; and consultant costs for a Nutritionist for programming.</p>
<p>Melting Pot Ministries Allegheny County Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>Melting Pot Ministries (MPM) is requesting \$250,000 to provide OST services to at-risk youth. MPM's OST programming focuses on providing safe, enriching environments for students during outside of school hours, including after-school and summer breaks. The program provides academic support, arts and music, sports, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math), and mentorship programs in a trauma-informed, social-emotional learning environment. MPM aims to increase academic performance, improve social skills, and foster positive behaviors among participants. By funding this project, MPM will be able to expand our impact and reduce barriers for the most underserved students in our community.</p> <p>Funding will be used to support partial salaries of staff; costs associated with transportation for participants; and program supplies including food and other program-specific supplies.</p>
<p>Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line Montgomery County Amount: \$130,930</p>	<p>Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line is requesting \$130,930 to provide high-quality out-of-school learning opportunities to underrepresented K-12 youth in Lower Merion Township, PA through year-long Education Empowerment programming. This includes one-on-one tutoring, homework club, mentoring programs with field trips, and therapeutic sessions, and an empowerment camp. The funding will support increased OST offerings to meet ever-rising needs, staffing structure enhancements, and an impact evaluation. By funding this project, Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line hopes to close the achievement gap in Lower Merion and, in turn, positively impact the cultural climate, its at-risk youth, and the Lower Merion Township community as a whole.</p> <p>Funds will be used to hire a full-time Program Coordinator and support other staff time and benefits; direct program supplies; an impact evaluation; and software for program management.</p>
<p>North Hills Affordable Housing (dba HEARTH) Allegheny County Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>HEARTH is requesting \$250,000 to expand its on-site out-of-school time programming for children and youth in its transitional housing program, all of whom have experienced homelessness and domestic violence. The current OST program will expand from one to three days per week and to include youth ages 6 to 18. The OST programming consists of a range of academic, recreational, and therapeutic activities, including tutoring, homework assistance, hands-on learning opportunities, creative arts and cultural enrichment, mental health support, and mindfulness activities. These activities will be delivered in partnership with the Homeless Children's Education Fund, ABK Learning Center, Allegheny Health Network, and Shaler Area School District, among other partners.</p> <p>Funds will be used to support the partial salaries and benefits of HEARTH's Program Manager and Program Director; staff time for project partners; equipment such as tablets and robotics; program</p>

	<p>supplies including curriculum supplies, food and snacks, art supplies, and an SEL training curriculum.</p>
<p>North Penn Valley Boys & Girls Club</p> <p>Montgomery County</p> <p>Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>The North Penn Valley Boys & Girls Club is requesting \$250,000 to help fund its free daily afterschool program, Project Learn. Project Learn is a supervised afternoon program that serves children ages 6-13 each day from 3:45 pm for a one-hour homework session. After homework completion, students participate in character-building, STEM enrichment, and recreational activities until parents pick them up. Project Learn is offered at three different locations, including Lansdale, Souderton, and Ambler, PA. The program’s objectives are to further academic achievement among their diverse population of financially under-resourced children. Specific measurable outcomes for this project include children attending at least 75 percent of days from September through June each academic year; homework completion at the Boys & Girls Club; a measurable improvement in benchmark test scores, as measured by the North Penn, Souderton Area, and Wissahickon School Districts. Building a sense of belonging and confidence are key goals of the afterschool program, alongside positive academic outcomes.</p> <p>Funds will be used for staff at each location and benefits; staff training; supplies and operating expenses including occupancy, insurance, maintenance and repairs, cleaning supplies, program supplies, snacks, and classroom supplies; and a consultant for outcome evaluation.</p>
<p>Paul W. Delauter Youth Center</p> <p>Juniata County</p> <p>Amount: \$20,000</p>	<p>The Paul W. Delauter Youth Center (Center) is requesting \$20,000 to increase capacity for its out-of-school time tutoring program. The Center partners with the Retired Teachers Association and the Juniata County School District to implement this program. The Retired Teachers Association provides volunteer, retired teachers who work one-on-one with students to increase their academic success, while the Juniata County School District identifies at-risk students in need of additional academic support. The program consists of academic support, physical activities, healthy snacks and mentorship. The Center's goal is to show outcomes of increased academic success, higher test scores, and less problems at school.</p> <p>Funds will support transportation to and from the program; program supplies such as furniture, tablets, a printer, school supplies, snacks, incentives for students and volunteers; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Philadelphia Education Fund</p> <p>Philadelphia County</p> <p>Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>Philadelphia Education Fund is requesting \$250,000 to expand its Spark Philadelphia OST program for 7th and 8th graders from currently serving four schools to three new middle schools during the two-year grant period. The overall goal of the program is to narrow the “opportunity gap” for low-income middle graders through early college and career exposure. By funding this project, Philadelphia Education Fund can increase the number of youths served by 120 during the grant period.</p> <p>Funds will support the partial salaries and benefits of three full-time staff and benefits; bus rentals for student field trips; program supplies including paper, student program materials, copying costs, snacks, and refreshments for students; and stipends to teacher</p>

	leads for supporting student recruitment, chaperoning trips, securing meeting space and completing surveys.
Pittsburgh Area Community Schools Beaver County Amount: \$250,000	<p>Pittsburgh Area Community Schools is requesting \$250,000 to create a new after-school program at Aliquippa Elementary School. Aliquippa Elementary School does not currently have any formal clubs or after-school programming. This program will serve 80-100 students annually, in a four day-a-week after school initiative that will create opportunities for enrichment through the arts, technology, and more, inspiring students to attend school and stay on a path to success.</p> <p>Funds will be used for salaries and benefits of staff; transportation of students to and from the program; program supplies; contractor costs for program implementation; and indirect costs.</p>
Regional Engagement Center Snyder County Amount: \$167,000	<p>The Regional Engagement Center (REC) is requesting \$167,000 to expand and improve its free drop-in program for youth in grades 3-12 that serves the greater Selinsgrove area. The funds will support the expansion of the program with increased hours, becoming a year-round program, including the summer months and academic year school breaks. By funding this project, REC will be able to support the local community and school districts by providing age-appropriate positive youth development programming, mental health resources, and food security that benefits the whole family.</p> <p>Funds will support additional staff; program supplies including food, art supplies, recreation equipment, and workshop supplies; and indirect costs.</p>
School District of Borough of Morrisville Bucks County Amount: \$250,000	<p>The School District of Borough of Morrisville is requesting \$250,000 to provide a new out-of-school time program at Morrisville Middle and High School. The program will consist of homework help, tutoring, credit recovery, STEAM activities, career-readiness, and other enrichment activities. Additionally, they plan to recruit a dedicated pool of college student volunteers to provide small-group tutoring, fostering personalized support and mentorship for participating students. The goals for the program include improved academic performance, increased attendance, and enhanced engagement in school. This initiative hopes to empower students to thrive academically, build critical skills, and create a pathway to long-term success.</p> <p>Funds will be used for teacher, tutor, coordinator, and aide time and benefits; costs associated with transportation to and from programming; supplies including laptops, curriculum and books, and snacks; consultants for specific enrichment activities; and indirect costs.</p>
SLB Radio Productions Inc Allegheny County Amount: \$192,410	<p>SLB Radio Productions is requesting \$192,410 to provide a full day, 5 days/week, 6-week OST program for at-risk teens at its Youth Media Center located in Pittsburgh's Northside during Summer 2025 and Summer 2026. This would be an expansion of its existing, successful OST program that currently operates during the school year. Activities include creating podcasts, commentaries, interviews, and other media features, allowing participants to learn more about</p>

	<p>the world around them while also sharpening 21st century skills such as reading, writing, speaking, active listening, working as part of a team, and time management.</p> <p>Funds will be used for staff time and benefits; staff training expenses including mileage, parking, and meals; equipment usage costs of digital recorders, microphones, computers, and other relevant gear; program supplies such as office supplies, food, snacks, and event supplies; a consultant fee for program evaluation; and bus passes and stipends for student participants.</p>
<p>St Anthony Youth Center of Easton, Pa Inc (dba Easton Area Community Center)</p> <p>Northampton County</p> <p>Amount: \$182,206</p>	<p>Easton Area Community Center is requesting \$182,206 to support the enhancement and expansion of its OST programs, which includes the after school and summer camp programs. The Easton Area Community Center will be able to provide transportation and increase its capacity, add new programs and collaborations with an expanded set of community partners/ contractors / instructors, and expand the utilization of current evidence-based and evidence-informed programs and practices with proven partners/collaborators to drive positive youth development.</p> <p>Funds will be used for the partial salaries of the Program Director, Program Coordinator, and transportation staff person; program supplies including classroom chairs, cushions, and desks; consultant costs associated with a new SEL and mindfulness curriculum, arts program, and dance and yoga instruction; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Steel City Squash, Inc.</p> <p>Allegheny County</p> <p>Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>Steel City Squash is requesting \$250,000 to expand its out-of-school time programming that utilizes education, athletics, and mentorship to empower under-resourced youth to achieve academic, athletic, and personal success. Funding would allow for increased capacity for more youth served and year-round programming. By combining academic support, squash instruction, and life skills training, Steel City Squash provides a holistic approach to development, creating pathways to high school graduation, college enrollment, and career readiness.</p> <p>Funds will be used for staff time and benefits; staff training; transportation for students; program supplies including all squash equipment, snacks, and academic materials; field trips; participant rewards and incentives; and indirect costs.</p>

<p>The Niche Clinic Philadelphia County Amount: \$248,000</p>	<p>The Niche Clinic is requesting \$248,000 to expand and enhance its OST programming by doubling the amounts of diverted youth who engage in internships to 200 per year and doubling the number of school partners to 4. The program’s components include paid work placements, the structured use of financial products and accounts, and the Niche Clinic’s PA State Economic Education Standards-aligned curriculum. They serve individuals—primarily youth aged 13-18—from low-income backgrounds in Philadelphia. Roughly one-third are involved with the justice system.</p> <p>By funding this project, the Niche Clinic will seek to ensure the successful graduation and matriculation of 2,000 high school seniors into a full-time job or post-secondary educational institution.</p> <p>Funds will be used for additional staff time and for the new hire of a Finance Coach; rental costs; consultants to provide trauma-informed programming; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>The Parkesburg Point Youth Center, Inc Chester County Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>The Parkesburg Point Youth Center, Inc. is requesting \$250,000 to enhance and expand its out-of-school time (OST) program by increasing the organization’s capacity to accommodate increased participation. The OST program focuses on improving social, emotional, academic, and career readiness outcomes for 1,000 at-risk/low-income youth in their community. Program activities include academic enrichment, health and nutrition, sports and recreation, mentorship, art, leadership development, career readiness, outreach, and crisis support.</p> <p>Funds will be used to hire a full-time Program Coordinator and two part-time Program Associates, and provide wage increases for 10 part-time staff.</p>
<p>Tioga County Partnership for Community Health Tioga County Amount: \$250,000</p>	<p>The Tioga County Partnership for Community Health is requesting \$250,000 to expand its after-school programs under the Community Care Initiative to two additional school districts in Tioga County, serving an additional 120 youth in grades K through 6th over the next two years. By funding this project, program participants will realize a gain in academic scores, have improved school attendance, and learn beneficial emotional and physical self-regulation skills.</p> <p>Funds will be used for the salary and benefits of a Program Coordinator for project oversight of two sites; mileage reimbursement; supplies and operating expenses such as a laptop and printer, art supplies, recreation items, snacks/beverages, insurance, and curriculum and other program supplies; stipends for coordinators and aides; and specific-workshop consultants.</p>
<p>Tree House Books Philadelphia County Amount: \$125,000</p>	<p>Tree House Books is requesting \$125,000 to increase services of its After School Studio and Summer Studio OST program to serve more youth and raise literacy levels in North Central Philadelphia. By funding this project, students will be reading on or above grade level, finding accomplishment in reading skills, developing a love of books, and finding their place within community.</p>

	<p>Funds will be used to partially support the salaries and benefits of the Program Director, Assistant Teachers, and Managing Director; field trips; supplies such as books, educational materials, and food; consultants for artists teachers and outside trainers; and insurance.</p>
<p>University City Science Center</p> <p>Philadelphia County</p> <p>Amount: \$249,884</p>	<p>The University City Science Center is requesting \$249,884 to provide out-of-school time (OST) programming through its FirstHand program in West Philadelphia. The OST program is centered on STEM career exposure in an afterschool and summer program, with comprehensive evidence-based supports and mentorship for at-risk high school students. By funding this project, UCSC will reach 200 at-risk youth during the grant period in high-quality OST programming with the potential to positively change the career and educational trajectories of at-risk youth.</p> <p>Funds will be used to support partial salaries and benefits of 5 staff positions; program supplies; consultants for program evaluation; participant supports including wage stipends and transit passes; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania</p> <p>Allegheny County</p> <p>Amount: \$208,184</p>	<p>Volunteers of America of Pennsylvania is requesting \$208,184 to enhance its OST program, The Youth Empowerment Program, in Sharpsburg, PA. The Youth Empowerment Program is dedicated to supporting underserved and underrepresented youth in a trauma-informed, safe space that fosters connections and positive development. By funding this project, 100 at-risk youth will regularly and consistently choose to attend YEP's no-cost OST programming, ultimately empowering them with the skills and confidence needed for future success.</p> <p>Funds will be used to support a part-time STEAM Coordinator and student staff; the partial salaries and benefits of 2 staff persons; travel costs including maintenance, mileage, and training fees; supplies and operating expenses including office supplies, STEAM kits, a STEAM curriculum, membership fees, food, incentives, utilities, and rent; consultants for specific programming; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Youth Opportunities Development</p> <p>Allegheny County</p> <p>Amount: \$138,225</p>	<p>Youth Opportunities Development is requesting \$138,225 to provide daily, year-round afterschool and summer programming for underserved youth in Clairton, PA. The focus of this initiative is on mentoring, education, and recreation. This includes weekly educational lessons covering topics such as world cultures, current events, history, financial literacy, and character development as well as at least six educational field trips for each student annually.</p> <p>The program aims to achieve several impact goals: 80% satisfaction from both participants and parents, 80% of youth achieving a GPA of 2.5 or higher, 70% experiencing one or fewer out-of-school suspensions, and 70% having fewer than eight unexcused absences from school each year.</p> <p>Funds will be used to support partial salaries and benefits of 3 staff persons; travel costs associated with field trips and transportation costs for participants; supplies including meals and snacks, program</p>

	materials, computers, games, and recreation items; and indirect costs.
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FY 2024-25 BOOST - Statewide

<p>Pennsylvania Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs</p> <p>Counties: Allegheny, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Elk, Erie, Franklin, Lackawanna, Northampton, and Philadelphia</p> <p>Amount: \$1,500,000</p>	<p>The Pennsylvania Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs is requesting \$1,500,000 to expand statewide OST services for school-aged at-risk youth. Funds will support sub-grants to 12 affiliated Boys & Girls Clubs that currently offer OST programs and represent low-income urban, rural and suburban communities across the state. Clubs will reduce barriers to participation in the free or low-cost OST programs through trauma-informed, culturally competent, conveniently located programs. Each club is experienced in providing successful OST programs that result in proven outcomes, including improved social emotional learning, improved academic skills, and school attendance; engagement in career-based programs; reduction in negative behaviors; and provision of safe OST environments. The Alliance will oversee grant management for the participating clubs and will support the Clubs in program implementation in an advisory and consultative capacity.</p> <p>Annually, Pennsylvania Boys & Girls Clubs serve over 43,600 youth with OST programs. Of these youth, 68% are 12 and younger and 32% are teens; 56% identify as male and 40% as female; 77% come from minority races/ethnicities; 83% qualify for free or reduced lunch; and 43% live in single-parent households. By funding this project, the PA Alliance will remove barriers thereby increasing youth participation in robust, trauma-informed, evidence-based, OST programming throughout the state.</p> <p>Funds will be used for each location's specific needs. Funds will support staff time and benefits; transportation and associated costs for participants, field trips, and staff training; office supplies and program supplies including program-specific supplies, recreation and game equipment, tablets, food, and incentives; free membership fees for participants; outreach materials; operational expenses; professional development and uniforms for staff; consultants for specific content areas; and indirect costs.</p>
<p>Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCAs</p> <p>Counties: Allegheny, Berks, Butler, Cambria, Chester, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Indiana, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Somerset, Westmoreland, and York</p> <p>Amount: \$1,500,000</p>	<p>The Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCAs is requesting \$1,500,000 on behalf of 14 Pennsylvania YMCA Associations to provide safe, supervised and structured programming for over 15,800 at-risk youth throughout the Commonwealth. The local YMCAs employ a variety of evidence-based afterschool and summer programming that inspires learning, provides enriching activities, and meets specialized needs. These funds also give many YMCAs the opportunity to reinstate programming that lost funding during the pandemic. By funding this project, YMCA programs will reduce juvenile crime, boost academics, improve behavior, and lead to healthier decisions and habits.</p> <p>Funds will be used for each location's specific needs. Funds will be used to support staff time and benefits; field trips and training in specific EBP curriculums and other professional development trainings; costs associated with transportation for participants; office</p>

	supplies and program supplies including program-specific educational materials, technology equipment, and gaming systems; marketing costs; league memberships; t-shirts; prizes and incentives; meals; consultants for specific content areas; operational expenses; youth membership fees; and indirect costs.
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