



CFMC Grant Application

COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FOR FUNDING REQUESTS FOR THE Community Foundation of Middlesex County Competitive Cycle.

Instructions: Complete the application on the website. You may "Save and Continue Later" - the site will email you a link which is active for 30 days. Review instructions document for full details before completing. Complete all questions.

Section V requires certain documents to be uploaded to the form - see the Application Instructions Document for a list of the required items. All items must be uploaded as PDF Files. The CFMC Budget Summary form is available on the website in Word. This document must be submitted as PDF file as well.

I. Application Information

Legal Name of Organization

Connecticut Science Center

Division or Department Name (if applicable)

Other Tax Exempt Entity?

Are you a 501(c)3 Organization

Yes

EIN #

06-1538101

If your organization is not a 501(c) 3 tax exempt entity or division/department of a 170(c)1 government agency or religious organization, please contact Thayer Talbott, 860.347.0025, for further information before completing the application.

Total Cost associated with request \$

6814

Dollar Amount Requested \$

5000

Summary Statement

With funding provided by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, the Connecticut Science Center will provide 15 classrooms with either STEM Enrichment Kits or Science in Motion programs for afterschool delivery to grades 6 through 8, in addition to one 90 minute professional development workshop for educators in those grades. This programming and education will reinforce critical STEM concepts in an Alliance District.

II. Funding Request Information

1. Proposal / Purpose

The Connecticut Science Center requests \$5,000 to support STEM education programs for students in Beeman Middle School within Middletown Public Schools, one of 36 Alliance Districts in Connecticut. Alliance Districts are a designation for the lowest performing school districts in Connecticut on a criteria of performance in state testing in English/language arts, math, and science. These districts often encounter other challenges, including access to extracurricular education and field trips due to lack of funding. In an effort to eliminate barriers to access, the Science Center seeks funding to underwrite these after-school experiences for students. This project will help serve Beeman Middle School students after the after-school programming budget was cut by 50%, in addition to providing site staff with a mini-workshop to help build capacity and facilitate STEM experiences, specifically Navigating STEM: Meaningful STEM Engagement in Afterschool Settings.

Each exhibit, after-school program, and demonstration within the Science Center's portfolio is connected to standardized science curriculum expectations and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Teachers who bring their students to the Science Center or who participate in any of our Science in Motion Programs have the ability to directly connect what students learn to their own curriculum. This supplemental learning experience is essential to increased student engagement and ultimately, performance in STEM topics. According to the International Journal of Environmental & Science Education, experiential learning is essential to cultivating and growing a student's ability to process information in the formal school setting. By offering these experiences, the Science Center directly supports overall school performance for these Alliance District students. Beeman Middle School educators will have the opportunity to choose Enrichment Kit or Science in Motion programming to build upon their students' ability to excel in these STEM topics and beyond.

Potential challenges for this project include any obstacles presented by COVID-19 and other health-related outbreaks. While the Science Center has worked diligently and successfully to overcome the pandemic since 2020, staffing can still be affected by positivity rates and illness. This may affect communication lines, and ultimately the ability to schedule Science in Motion Traveling Programs and Enrichment Kit presentations, and coordinate with participants in a timely fashion. However, the Science Center has had practice circumventing these issues. By offering flexibility for participants and re-scheduling where possible, the Science Center is acknowledging that things can happen outside of our control and providing solutions that do not sacrifice programmatic participation.

In the short-term, we expect to see students learning through play, actively engaging in hands-on activities and STEM learning through Science in Motion programs. Research shows that even in short-term applications, STEM learning in an in-formal setting outside of traditional classroom curriculum can positively influence academic achievement and personal skill building. By providing these programs and continuing to have a presence within these critical districts, the Science Center is impacting multiple aspects of students' academic and daily lives in the short term, as well as building the skills of their teachers to meet their needs.

Research published in the Journal for Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Science Education Research has found that informal science learning experiences (ISL) build upon an individual's ability to retain information pertaining to STEM topics, contributing not only to academic success, but also personal success. Long term outcomes following this project for students include a heightened awareness of STEM topics, where students feel more confident in their personal STEM identity not only in the classroom, but as future members of the workforce. Students are often asked to use such developmental skills as teamwork, organizing materials, asking meaningful questions, employing patience, taking measured risks, and other skills that will serve them far beyond their Science Center experience. By working with the Charles Nelson Robinson Fund to increase access to educational resources for these students, together we are cultivating a genuine interest in science in the long term and empowering school readiness in the short term.

Measurement and program evaluation is a priority for the Connecticut Science Center. Participants in Science Center programs respond to post-program surveys designed to capture data about program impact. The increase of interest in STEM, enjoyment of STEM, and new concepts learned is measured in surveys, with many participating students providing anecdotal responses in the form of cards. The number of children served, number of community partnerships, and number of onsite programs executed will also be measured. This project will be considered successful when all funds have been expended, providing students and educators from Beeman Middle School access to these experiences.

Out-of-school or after-school experiences can be critical to a student's achievement in the classroom, and by providing informal STEM such as Enrichment Kits and Science in Motion programs that are directly tied to the curriculum material, the Connecticut Science Center is directly impacting student achievement during the academic year. Following participation, students are more prepared to return to their classrooms with regained enthusiasm for science and a fresh curiosity about the world around them. The Science Center believes that informal learning is essential to cultivating children's curiosity and wonder, which is in turn essential for a long-term positive relationship with STEM. The Science Center's Enrichment Kits and Science in Motion programs not only teach scientific concepts but require students to directly engage with the scientific process in short term applications.

2. Sustainability and Assessing Impact

Feedback on our programs and initiatives is collected on a regular basis. Quantitative data is reviewed at management and planning meetings, and qualitative feedback is shared widely. Past comments directly from participants have included:

- "I learned how a river bed was formed, and how rocks can make the water go in a different direction!"
- "The butterfly exhibit was a great way to learn about the different species of butterfly and their habitat"
- "I like the engineering lab because it was a fun challenge to try and pull ourselves up!"

Sample survey data from piloted traveling programs has included:

- 74% agreeing with the statement "I succeeded today"
- 89% agreeing with the statement "I want to learn more about science"
- 83% agreeing with the statement "I can use what I learned outside of school"
- 78% agreeing with the statement "I can be a scientist"

The responses to surveys directly inform the trajectory of a program. For example, feedback from educators suggested that entirely virtual program offerings were not being requested as often due to the level of physical engagement in the STEM activities as pandemic restrictions were lifted (i.e. location visits to the museum, welcoming Science in Motion programs into schools). In response to this, the Science Center has piloted more in-person programs to meet demand, while continuing to offer virtual programs in the event a resurgence of COVID-19 occurs or a school requests it explicitly. Answers to these surveys and provided feedback will be utilized to track if our programs are successful.

The Science Center will continue to seek funding to provide programming to these students as long as they are in demand, and will continue cultivating a relationship with Beeman Middle School as well as administration within Middletown Public Schools in order to meet the needs of students and educators.

III. Grant Program / Project Information

Organization Area of Impact (choose ONE)

Education (Community Wide/Schools)

Grant Type (choose ONE)

Program Development/Implementation

Target Demographics (Select all that apply):

- Youth (ages 13-17)
- Children (ages 6-12)

Geographic Area(s) Served By This Application:

- Middletown

Total Number of People in Middlesex County Personally Impacted

175

IV. Organization Information

Board of Directors / Trustees Information

Percent (%) of Directors/Trustees who contribute annually to Operations

75% or more

Total Number of Directors/Trustees:

41

Average number attending in person:

Total Number of Board meetings held last year:

4

Year of Return:

2022

Date most recent IRS Form 990 was filed:

5/8/2023

Organization's Total Operating Budget

9495000

Organization's Fiscal Year

Jan 1 - Dec 31

Division Operating Budget Information

National Organization Chapter Information

Did you RECEIVE a competitive process grant in the:

Brief Background Statement of the Organization:

The Connecticut Science Center's mission is to inspire lifelong learning through interactive and innovative experiences that explore our changing world through science. In addition to being one a leading tourist destinations and a venue for interactive, enriching family entertainment, the Science Center serves a serious educational purpose. Our programs help teachers and parents engage children in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields that are critical to the development of a well prepared future workforce, and are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We have served more than 4 million people since opening to the public in June 2009.

V. Additional Information To Be Included with the Application

Please Note: Additional information requested below MUST be uploaded in PDF files. Other document formats will not be accepted by the application form. Attempts to upload other file formats could result in a loss of all application data entered.

A. Current Organization Operations Budget (Required)

- CSC-2024-Operating-Budget.pdf

B. Board of Directors and Officers List (Required)

- CSC_BoardList_January-2024.pdf

C. IRS Tax Exempt Determination Letter

- 501c3_IRS_letter.pdf

D. For Program/Project Requests only - CFMC Budget Summary Form:

- CF-of-MC-Budget-CSC.pdf

E. Organizations serving a region greater than Middlesex County - county-based budget summary:

CF-of-MC-Budget-CSC1.pdf

F. America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Yes

ARPA Funding detail

Additional financial documentation, including the organization's most recent audit, annual report, and IRS Form 990 may also be required. Only provide this information if requested.

For programs or projects which are collaborations among two or more organizations or where an organization provides in-school or after-school programming for schools, the Community Foundation requires a list of organizations or schools partnering with your organization as well as Letters of Support.

For the purposes of this application, collaborations are defined as partnerships where two or more agencies are committed through staffing, funding, and resource allocation to the goals and objectives of the program described. Because the nature of the collaboration requires two or more entities to work together, for the purposes of funding, only one organization may complete the application, and in doing so, accepts responsibility for all evaluative and fiduciary reporting.

For all collaborations, the Community Foundation requires letters of support from the non-applicant organization(s) and/or from the school(s) and school district(s) at which the applicant organization is the program.

Is this application in collaboration with a School(s) or School District(s)?

Yes (Letter(s) of Support REQUIRED)

Is this application a collaboration of two or more nonprofit organizations (NOT schools)?

No

If this is an On-Going Collaboration, how long has the collaboration existed?

If Yes, is this a New or On-Going Collaboration?

New

List of Collaborators

Connecticut Science Center - Matt Fleury, President & CEO

Beeman Middle School - Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos, Superintendent of Schools

Letters of Support (if a collaboration with schools or other nonprofits))

- [Middletown-Superintendent-LoS.pdf](#)

VI. Organization Contact Information

Are you a new nonprofit applicant to the Community Foundation?

No

Title

President & CEO

Executive Officer's Name

Matt Fleury

Executive Officer Email

MFleury@ctsciencecenter.org

Phone

(860) 520-2102

Title

Grants Manager

Contact Person

Emily Borne

Application Contact Email

eborne@ctsciencecenter.org

Phone

(860) 520-2176

Mailing Address

250 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
United States

Street Address

Connecticut
United States

Website

www.ctsciencecenter.org

Social Media Channels

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/ConnecticutScienceCenter>, Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/ctsciencecenter/>

VII. Non-Funding Needs

The Connecticut Science Center is thankful to the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and its support of our mission to explore our changing world through science.

VIII. Marketing and Public Relations

Organizations receiving grants from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County must promote their funding awards according to the marketing and public relations guidelines established by the Community Foundation. By signing the application below, the CEO/Executive Director understands the Community Foundation's marketing and public relations requirements if awarded a grant. The Community Foundation will host a seminar on marketing guidelines and tips for grantees annually. The Community Foundation's Grantee Communications Kit may be downloaded on our website in the Nonprofit Resources section, middlesexcountycf.org/nonprofits/resources/forms-pr-guidelines/.

IX. Tax Exempt Standing and Use of Grant Funding Certification

By signing this application, the CEO/Executive Director/Board President is certifying that your organization is a qualified 501c3 organization or other charitable organization recognized and currently in good standing with the IRS, or 170(c)(1) governmental agencies. Should a grant be approved by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, these funds may only be used for the purpose outlined in your original application; you must notify us if you are unable to do so. If grant funding is provided, you may only use these funds for charitable purpose as described in Section 170(c)2 of the IRS code, and funds may not be used for any political or lobbying activity. In addition, no tangible benefits, goods or services may be received by our donors or by staff members of the Community Foundation of Middlesex County in exchange for grant funding.

Signature Certification

I certify that my printed name as stated and assigned below constitutes my signature and may be accepted as such.

Title

Grants Manager

Printed Name

Emily Borne

Date

03/07/2024