



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

Study Hall Inc

Division or Department Name (if applicable)

Other Tax Exempt Entity?

Are you a 501(c)3 Organization

Yes

EIN #

88-1551434

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 \$

55,440

Dollar Amount Requested \$

5,000

Summary Statement

Study Hall is looking for funding to take its growth to the next level. Improving administrative infrastructure will increase operational efficiencies, better manage scheduling and billing, and free up the Executive Director's time to network and increase the student, tutor, and funder base.

II. Funding Request Information

1. Proposal / Purpose

To achieve academic success, every student needs to develop effective study habits and skills. Study Hall, a 501(c)(3) organization located in Clinton, Connecticut, provides in-person, subject-specific, individualized tutoring and academic support to any student grade three and up regardless of financial need. Study Hall aims to ensure that each student has the opportunity to reach their full academic potential, irrespective of any learning challenges or personal obstacles.

Study Hall offers services throughout Middlesex County, however, the majority of our students come from Clinton and Westbrook. Although our community's challenges may not be unique, they are nonetheless issues that impact our students and Study Hall's support has proven to help not only with academics but also to improve confidence and self-esteem.

- According to United Way, only about 30% of families in Middlesex County meet the 100K income threshold required to meet basic needs. Study Hall recognizes that even most middle-income families can not afford the area's market rates for academic support.
- The numbers of non-English speaking families in both Clinton and Westbrook are increasing, and in fact, Westbrook's population of foreign-born residents is both above the County and State average. Many immigrant parents need assistance to help their students with coursework and navigating college application/post-high school planning.
- In Clinton alone, there are over 60 families of grandparents raising grandchildren. Many of these grandparents, faced with the challenges of raising students in a technology-dependent education era, need both educational guidance and financial support for assistance (US Census 2021).
- According to the US Census Bureau, more than 50% of the population in Middlesex County is not college-educated and many of these parents face challenges helping their students navigate the college application process.
- The homeschooled population is increasing in Connecticut but there is little to no oversight for these students. Unlike other states, homeschooled students are not allowed to attend classes at the public school, often leaving them without access to effective instruction. It is difficult to determine with certainty the number of homeschooled students in Middlesex County, but it is estimated, for instance, that Clinton alone may have more than 20 homeschooled families in their district. Study Hall can provide academic support and enrichment for homeschooled students struggling with difficult subjects.

2. Sustainability and Assessing Impact

Study Hall's Board of Directors has identified several objectives:

- Recruit additional qualified tutors and teachers for Study Hall
- Increase participation in Study Hall programs for homeschooled and ESL families
- Continue to increase operational efficiency
- Expand funding opportunities

Over the last year, Study Hall has significantly increased programming. It now offers not only affordable subject tutoring and executive function skill coaching, but also SAT preparation courses, two summer math boot camps, and, in partnership with a local high school, free reading assistance for children in need. Additionally, over the last two years, an increasing number of local high schools have invited Study Hall to participate in their annual career/college seminars for parents and students. Study Hall is looking to further expand its educational programming to better cater to the needs of the community. Therefore, we need to encourage and maintain relationships with local teachers and guidance counselors to help identify outstanding students who can serve as tutors for the Study Hall students.

We understand that some students may have challenges with executive functioning, and to help them, Study Hall also offers professional executive functioning coaching. Our coaching services aim to teach organizational and study skills, improve the ability to retain knowledge and enable students to manage time effectively.

The number of students attending Study Hall has more than tripled since its inception, including both new and returning students. The growing number of tutors, students, and programs at Study Hall has led to an increase in administrative tasks such as scheduling and bookkeeping, leaving the Executive Director with little time for outreach to schools and networking with potential sponsors. To address this issue, Study Hall needs additional assistance to help manage these tasks and free up the Executive Director's time, allowing them to focus on expanding the organization.

After making more determined efforts to understand how new clients learn about Study Hall, we have found that most referrals come from word of mouth, social media/signage, and local schools (teachers and administration). There are many more students within Middlesex County who could benefit from Study Hall's services, but effective, targeted outreach to notify more families about its affordable educational resources has been challenging. Therefore, in addition to enhanced marketing efforts and community outreach to schools, families, and the general public, our goal is to establish relationships within more schools and improve communication with guidance officials and administration to effectively disseminate information to students.

Though increased numbers of clients, positive teacher comments, and improved grades are good indicators of Study Hall's effectiveness, parent and student feedback is especially important.

The following are recent comments from Study Hall parents:

- *"I am very happy I heard about Study Hall from a friend. My kids are both more comfortable and confident with math and biology after time with their Study Hall tutors. It has made a real difference this year as they transitioned to high school!"*
- *"We wanted to let you know that Colbie made progress in her math skills this year and has moved up from Level 3 to Level 2 according to her math intervention specialist. I know everyone is trying to work together to give Colbie the tools she needs to survive math and fill in the missing skills from the COVID years! I do appreciate everyone's efforts as does Colbie."*
- *"Thank you for being so amazing!"*
- *"As a homeschool family, Study Hall has been a valuable addition to our weekly routine...the weekly tutoring sessions help everyone stay on track"*
- *"I definitely recommend Study Hall to other students in the area who want to improve their SAT scores"*

Study Hall currently receives funding from a variety of resources including private donors, local companies, community organizations, foundations, and fundraising events including Study Hall's annual online holiday auction. Study Hall also receives non-financial support from local PTAs, schools, family service organizations, and other non-profit organizations. Study Hall's successful fundraising efforts raised over \$16,000 in 2023 (up from just under \$6,000 in 2022) procuring grants from not only CFMC but also from the Madison Foundation and Guilford Savings Bank. We aim to broaden and increase our financial support through greater corporate and foundation outreach via networking, marketing, and advertising.

III. Grant Program / Project Information

Organization Area of Impact (choose ONE)

Education (Community Wide/Schools)

Grant Type (choose ONE)

Capacity Building

Target Demographics (Select all that apply):

- Young Adults (ages 18-25)
- Youth (ages 13-17)

- Children (ages 6-12)
- Parents / Guardians
- Students
- At Risk Boys and Young Men
- LGBTQIA+

Geographic Area(s) Served By This Application:

- Clinton
- Deep River
- Durham
- Killingworth
- Old Saybrook
- Westbrook

Total Number of People in Middlesex County Personally Impacted

400

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:

7

Average number attending in person:

6

Total Number of Board meetings held last year:

10

Year of Return:

2023

Date most recent IRS Form 990 was filed:

03/2024

Organization's Total Operating Budget

55440

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:

- 2022-2023 process (fall 2022 or spring 2023)

Brief Background Statement of the Organization:

Private tutoring and college preparation courses can be significant expenses for families.

Study Hall was established in 2019 to provide affordable and professional educational support to all students, regardless of their financial status. By receiving grants and donations, Study Hall, which received its non profit (501 c3) status in 2022, can offer its

services to families at minimal or no cost.

Study Hall is committed to providing personalized attention to each student, catering to their individual needs. We work closely with the student's teachers to ensure that we are providing the most effective support possible. Our goal is to give every student an equal opportunity for academic success.

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)

- [SH2024budget.pdf](#)

B. Board of Directors and Officers List (Required)

- [SHBoardofDir.Info2024.pdf](#)

C. IRS Tax Exempt Determination Letter

- [SHtaxexempt.pdf](#)

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

- [grantapp.pdf](#)

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

F. America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

No

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)?

No

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?

List of Collaborators

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

VI. Organization Contact Information

Are you a new nonprofit applicant to the Community Foundation?

No

Title

Executive Director

Executive Officer's Name

Nicki Dakis

Executive Officer Email

studyhallclinton@gmail.com

Phone

(203) 215-2558

Title

Contact Person

Application Contact Email

Phone

Mailing Address

Study Hall Inc
153 Glenwood Road, Unit 2
Clinton, Connecticut 06413
United States

Street Address

Connecticut
United States

Website

www.studyhalltutor.com

Social Media Channels

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/everyonelearns/>

VII. Non-Funding Needs

I have found CFMC to be welcoming and supportive when questions arise either regarding a specific grant or nonprofits in general. The most complicated issues for Study Hall have been bookkeeping and tax issues. Having lists of local pro bono accountants (or any other professionals willing to work for low cost or free for nonprofits in their area) would be hugely helpful.

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

Executive Director

Printed Name

Nicki Dakis

Date

03/06/2024