



Classroom Innovation Grant Application (formerly Venture Grants)

Deadline - October 27, 2010

Overview

The information that you will include in the attached application form will provide the LPEF Grants Committee with the data needed to determine whether or not to fund your project. Applications may be from staff, students, parents or community members who partner with School District of La Crosse staff. Applications for other opportunities with the Foundation are available for download on our website at www.lpefonline.org.

Guidelines

- Grants must serve the students in the School District of La Crosse.
- Projects must be innovative, creative and new funding initiatives within the School District of La Crosse.
- The grant may be denied if another funding source might be more appropriate.
- Project funds must be spent by May of 2012.
- Interim and final reports will be required.
- Payments for services of La Crosse School District employees are prohibited.

Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by the Grants Committee of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. Priority is given for Classroom Innovation Grants that:

- meet multiple educational objectives
- align with district/school/curricular goals
- impact a variety of students and/or schools
- are collaborative
- are sustainable

Please see the Classroom Innovation Grant evaluation rubric for the grant proposal evaluation criteria. Although most applications are worthy of awarding, the committee has limited funding and must set priorities that help the foundation fulfill its mission.

Instructions

- Complete the following grant application.
- Save as a Word document. Name the document the same name as your grant proposal.
- Print page 1 of the application. Sign and obtain other necessary signatures. Submit a paper copy of page 1 to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation at Hogan via inter-school mail or by mail to P.O. Box 1811, La Crosse, WI 54602-1811.
- Submit the entire application electronically to lpef@centurytel.net.
- Both the paper copy and electronic copy must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 22, 2010.

If you have questions, please contact Geva Thole at 608-397-0176.



**La Crosse Public Education Foundation
Classroom Innovation Grant Application**

Section 1: Personal Information:

Name: Dr. Troy D. Harcey

School: Logan Middle School

Position/Title: Principal, K-12 Supervisor of Health and Physical Education

School Phone: 608.789.7740

Section 2: Basic Project Information:

Project Title: Rooftop Garden

Total Request \$4,911.28

Signature of Applicant: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

Signature of IT Department Rep (if applicable): _____

The intention of the Foundation is to fund projects not covered by the regular school budget. Please document that regular avenues of funding have been exhausted. (i.e. requests to Principal and curriculum supervisors)

Section 3: Project Description:

- I. By Sept./Oct. 2011, we will reap the first harvest from our rooftop garden, resulting in service learning and seamless curricular ties (e.g. 7th grade Life Science, Family & Consumer Science, Health Education, and Construction & Design) supplement our extremely busy in-house food pantry, and bolster our collaborative relationship with community organizations (i.e. Hunger Task Force, La Crosse County Health Department, etc.).

Objectives of Project	List the corresponding district/school/curriculum goals (if applicable)	State how you will evaluate whether objectives are met.
The students will be involved in the creation of a rooftop garden at Logan Middle School.	Construction and Design (pragmatic application of skills for garden benches, trellis, walkway, storage shed, etc.)	The initial design and construction will be completed by September 2011.
The students will be able to make curricular ties in unique and engaging ways via our rooftop garden. The rooftop garden will provide a tangible application of several learning experiences connected to our current curriculum.	Students will be making the following curricular connections: (1) Family & Consumer Science Education (nutrition, food cleaning & prep, food production, etc.) (2) Health Education (nutrition, childhood obesity, etc.) (3) 7 th Grade Life Sciences (plant life cycles, plant classification, environmental considerations, photosynthesis, energy pyramids, etc.)	The connection is based on established curriculum. So, we will be utilizing the assessments natural to the unit themes. For example, 7 th grade Life Science has developed district wide assessments to provide achievement data on plant life cycles, etc.
The students will be able to put Farm to School (F2S) principles to work by creating and maintaining the rooftop garden.	Logan Middle School is one of three schools in La Crosse involved with the Farm-to-School grant. While F2S has several tiers, the rooftop garden transcends all levels of learning as it provides opportunity for students to move from a fundamental knowledge stage, to more advanced application, synthesis & analysis (Bloom's Taxonomy).	We have developed a very specific plan—in conjunction with La Crosse County Health Department and our School Nutrition Office—to meet Farm-to-School stipulations. The evaluation process associated with our Farm-to-School initiative will be dually utilized for feedback.
The students will involved in: (1) Service Learning (2) Supplementing After School	Logan Middle School has a vibrant and constantly utilized food pantry. We also provide after school snacks for students	We are in the process of creating a written evaluation (Likert scale model) for the after school programming

III.

Activities to Accomplish Objectives	Who Will Be Responsible for Implementation	Resources Needed (not financial)	Timeframe to Accomplish
Construction of the garden	At the district level, Buildings and Grounds staff; at the	We are striving for local business partnerships to	September, 2011

	building level, Samantha Parkhurst, teacher coordinator, students involved in the Global Village, Construction and Design, and those involved in our Community Learning Center (after-school programming)	provide "on-site training" for our students in the construction of trellises, benches, planting beds, boxes, etc. Utilizing their expertise, students will gain the knowledge and skills to create sections of the rooftop garden.	
With curricular alignment already accounted for, classroom and rooftop activities will be taught within the natural scope and sequence of the curriculum.	Classroom Teachers (both during the regularly scheduled school year & summer school). Additionally, after school program personnel.	Our current curriculum materials will more than suffice. The opportunity to apply learning via the rooftop garden is the cavernous gap the rooftop garden will allow us to leap.	On-going as curriculum applications and experiential opportunities are being afforded our learners each academic school year.
Various Farm-to-School initiatives; Smart Eats Program Kickoff; snacks and food preparation; & vision, design, establishment and sustaining the rooftop garden	Joni Ralph oversees the actual program for the school district. However, at the building level Logan Middle administration will provide oversight and classroom teachers will facilitate the frontline practitioner applications/opportunities.	As is often the case in frugal budget times, we are pooling our resources which include those include material and human resource needs via the existing F2S grant, our Community Learning Center, and La Crosse County personnel expertise (e.g. Linda Lee, Josh Minerts, Maggie Smith, etc.)	Several of the activities are in the nascent stages, while some have already taken place (e.g. Our Smart Eats kickoff took place in September at Clearwater Farms). Farm-to-School foods are currently being planned for infusion into our school's lunch program, etc.
We continue to plan and implement relevant enrichment opportunities for our students during after school programming at	Oversight is provided by Susan Peterson (Director), Troy Harcey and Lisa Schreiner (Logan Middle School administration), and frontline efforts will be organized by our on-site after school program	We are quite creative with our resource acquisition. For example, for our Fine Dining and Etiquette class, we met and conferred with School Nutrition Office manager, Joni Ralph, who fully	Our after school program/course offerings are strategically placed throughout the

Logan Middle School ("Guys in the Kitchen," "Foods Around the World," "Fine Dining and Etiquette" class, etc.	coordinator, Roxann Trapnell.	supported the course with actual chinaware and silverware. This is just one example.	school year. So, as with our BOE adopted curriculum, our after school offerings also take place throughout the academic school year.
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IV. What is the lifespan of this project?

We have spent copious amounts of time in pre-planning phases for this project. We recognize that beyond being extremely novel, one paramount consideration is the sustainability of the effort. To that end, we have ensured that we have administrative and teaching support to ensure a long-term commitment to the project. We do not anticipate a "sunset" for this project; rather, we envision the rooftop garden continuously evolving and gaining momentum over the course of years. We do view it as the establishment of a mainstay for Logan Middle School.

Further, we will be submitting summer school class proposal (teacher, Samantha Parkhurst) to ensure (1) on-staff adult personnel will spearhead the effort, and (2) our critical audience (i.e. middle level students) are involved from the genesis. We have collaborated with new Summer School Coordinator, Lynda Gruber-Suskey, and she is extremely supportive and excited about the rooftop garden summer school option.

V. Approximately how many students will be affected by this project? Explain your number.

Our entire student body will have access to the rooftop garden during the school year (approximately 450+). Multiply that number by summer school enrollment (and consider that the number will grow exponentially over the lifespan of the garden), and it is conservative to say that we will be positively impacting thousands and thousands of students over the years.

VI. Please state how you will collaborate with...

Other organizations in the community (if applicable)

1. Hunger Task Force...we will continue the collaborative efforts we have already established with this critical community partner.
2. Home Depot/Menards...will be contacted to determine their interest in providing a "construction" day.
3. Cane Street Garden...Work collaboratively with Todd Huffman on garden design/development, and identification of viable crops.
4. La Crosse County (Farm to School/Smart Eats)...initial programs described above
5. Local Restaurants/Chefs...to provide cooking classes or demonstrations
6. NOTE: We will be exploring the viability of summer partnerships with local organizations (i.e. possibly leasing to neighborhood groups). This possibility provides us with another option for summer maintenance and upkeep, while simultaneously benefiting a community group.

Other schools in the district (if applicable)

Summer School Enrollment Option for middle level students district wide

Other departments/classrooms (if applicable)

1. School District of La Crosse School Nutrition Office

2. Construction & Design Classes (Logan Middle & High Schools)
3. School District of La Crosse Buildings & Grounds
4. All Classrooms/students attending Logan Middle School
5. After-School Programming
6. Summer School Programming

VII. What will happen to the project at the conclusion of the grant? If it is to continue, how will it be sustained?

The critical piece of sustainability is staff and curricular relevance...and we have natural connections/ties in place on both accounts. The other element of course is funding. The vast majority of costs are the initial start-up expenses. Following the admittedly significant start-up costs, my building budget will support the continuation of the learning opportunity for our students.

VIII. How could the project be shared with other teachers and schools to benefit more students?

Beyond the obvious summer school option, we hope to create a model that is sustainable and replicable for other schools. It is not secret that green space is at a premium and the creative utilization of our buildings is critically important. With the comprehensive and natural curricular and service learning options, we believe that other schools could repeat the process/model given our "pioneer" efforts.

Section 4: Budget Information:

Item	Supplier	Budgeted Amount
Six Forever Raised Beds 3x3	Gardeners Supply Company	\$899.94
Eight Forever Raised Beds 3x6	Gardeners Supply Company	\$1,687.92
Tomato Cages, set of 4, 32" High	Gardeners Supply Company	\$44.95
Five Earth Box Kits	EarthBox.com	\$257.75
Three RT S Flat Black Rain Barrels	Garden Supply Company	\$584.97
25 Gardening Tool Kits	Local Vendor	\$699.75
Garden Gloves (30 pair)	Local Vendor	\$238.50
Various Seeds, Mulch (20 bags), Potting mix (30 bags)	Local Vendor	\$497.50

Total request: \$4,911.28

Other sources of funding for this project (if applicable):

- La Crosse County/School District of La Crosse Farm-to-School Grant = \$6,800. These dollars will be used to help fund the construction of a storage shed, benches, walkway, and materials for students to build additional (but necessary) beds, boxes, and trellises.
- School District of La Crosse (Buildings & Grounds) Roof restoration, fencing, handicap accessible roof access = ??? (This is clearly a substantial amount of money, and our B&G department has this effort on their summer 2011 capitol improvement plans. This is really a significant commitment on the District's behalf.)

Total budget to accomplish project: \$ 25,000

Section 5: Summary:

How will this project bring visibility to LPEF in the community?

While rooftop or "green" roofs are not entirely novel in larger society, our research reveals that this concept may very well be the "first of its kind" for a public school in Wisconsin. The relevance in regard to curricular ties, service learning, community initiatives, etc., is seamless.

Please provide a one paragraph summary of your project including an explanation of why we should fund your project.

We are requesting \$4,911.28 in La Crosse Public Education Foundation Grant funding; we recognize that the dollar amount is at the upper spectrum of the grant limitations, but the money will serve (annually) 450+ students, and laypeople from our community. The ultimate "return on investment" would be perpetual and truly exponential! The funding would literally (no hyperbole here) benefit thousands over the course of years. We have garnered support from several critical parties (i.e. Superintendent of Schools, Buildings & Grounds Department, School Nutrition Office, La Crosse County Health Department, on-site staff, etc.) in what is truly becoming a team/community effort. The project is not even off the ground as of yet, and I have had several requests from the media to conduct interviews and relay the story. Add for consideration that a sound educational foundation galvanizes our planning and vision, and this project becomes very easy to support. The rooftop garden will engage students building wide and help instill knowledge, skills, and appreciation for nutrition, health, service learning, life sciences, and the concept of understanding the remarkable sojourn from "seed to fork" as the various components aligned with the rooftop garden come to fruition. We thank you for your consideration of our proposal.