

# The Office of Grant Development Newsletter

## October 2024 Issue

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The Office of Grant Development (OGD) supports principals, teachers, and school-based staff with pursuing extra funds and resources. Our monthly newsletters contain small grant opportunities, Donorschoose match offers, and other resources to equip your students with the supplies they need.

Formal central office "approval" to apply for any of the grants listed is not needed, but it is very important that you communicate with your principal about any resources you are hoping to bring into your school. We strongly encourage you to contact us in the Office of Grant Development if you are considering applying for a grant. Our team of experienced grant-writers can help you by discussing strategy or reviewing drafts. You can email us at [grants@philasd.org](mailto:grants@philasd.org), or find more resources on our webpage: <https://www.philasd.org/grants/>

Good luck in your pursuit of additional funding for your school community.

Sincerely,  
Michael Sonkowsky,  
Deputy Chief, Office of Grant Development

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# Grant Opportunities

*NOTE: Funders may change their mission, strategy, and target recipients at any time. The OGD has reviewed all of the opportunities to ensure that all are still accepting applications as of October 1st and are appropriate for our audience, however, it is possible that changes were made after our review. Please be sure to carefully review the funder's policies and practices before beginning any application and reach out to OGD with any changes you find.*

## Upcoming Deadlines

### Opportunity: Samull Classroom Herb Garden Grants

**Due Date:** October 15, 2024

**Eligible Applicants:** Elementary classrooms grades K-6 with ten students or more

**Purpose:** The Herb Society of America will select 15 elementary schools to receive \$300 to establish an indoor or outdoor herb garden. In addition to plants, the funds may be used for supplies such as soil, plant trays, containers, child or youth sized tools, etc.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$300

**Website:** <https://www.herbsociety.org/get-involved/grants-scholarships/>

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### Opportunity: The Philly Service Award

**Due Date:** November 1, 2024

**Eligible Applicants:** Philadelphia High Schools

**Purpose:** At the Philly Service Award, our mission is to engage and inspire Philadelphia's youth by funding high schools with grants for student-led community service projects. By taking a hands-on approach to their communities' challenges, students are changing the city from the inside out while carving their own path to civic leadership. We celebrate their achievements at our awards ceremony, provide additional funding to enhance schools, and support educators with classroom essentials.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$1,000 grant for community service; supplies for school; additional future prizes available if selected to participate

**Website:** <https://www.phillyserviceaward.com/>

# Grant Opportunities

## **Opportunity: Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education (SFE)**

**Due Date:** November 15, 2024

**Eligible Applicants:** Schools, after-school care programs, or youth groups

**Purpose:** For more than 25 years, this vital Wild Ones donor-funded program has provided small grants for native plant gardens and landscaping projects throughout the United States. The funds are designated for acquiring native plants and seeds for outdoor learning areas that engage children, preschool to high school. Youth must participate directly in planning, planting and caring of the native plant gardens. Applicants encouraged to reach out to local Wild Ones chapter for additional support and resources.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$100-\$500

**Website:** <https://wildones.org/seeds-for-education/sfe-application/>

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# Grant Opportunities

## **Opportunity: Environmental Education Mini Grants** **(REQUIRES OGD ASSISTANCE)**

**Due Date:** November 15, 2024

**Eligible Applicants:** K-12 schools

**Purpose:** The PA Department of Environmental Protection is offering schools mini grants of up to \$5,000 to fund innovative environmental education projects. The goal of environmental education is an environmentally literate citizenry, prepared to make informed decisions and take positive actions to help ensure the state's natural resources are available for the use and enjoyment of future generations. Priority is given to environmental education projects that engage people living, working and/or attending school within Environmental Justice areas in topics related to Climate Change and/or Water.

Eligible costs include travel, resources such as educational materials, supplies, and equipment/technology, and staffing if they do not exceed 50% of grant funds. Involvement of partners is highly encouraged.

**Matching Grant: Yes** - A match of any amount is required (20% is encouraged). It can be cash and/or in-kind.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$5,000

**Website:** <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/EnvironmentalEducation/Grants/Pages/2025-EE-Grants-Program-Manual.aspx>

**Assistance from OGD is required in order to apply. Please email [grants@philasd.org](mailto:grants@philasd.org)**

# Grant Opportunities

## Opportunity: FMFCU Foundation Teacher Mini-Grants

**Due Date:** November 30, 2024

**Eligible Applicants:** West Philadelphia or University City School Teachers

**Purpose:** Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union Foundation is awarding one-time mini grants to selected K-12 teachers. These mini grants are intended to help teachers fund innovative educational experiences for their students that may not otherwise be funded. Requests for classroom supplies, technology, books, funding for classroom projects or programs will be considered.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$200-\$500

**Website:** <https://fmfcufoundation.org/awards/>

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## Opportunity: FMFCU Foundation Excellence in Teaching Awards

**Due Date:** December 20, 2024

**Eligibility:** Nominees must be PA certified K-12 teachers

**Purpose:** The Delaware Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards, presented by FMFCU Foundation, recognizes 20 outstanding and dedicated teachers the Philadelphia region. Local teachers can be nominated to receive \$1,000 grants towards educational expenses and \$1,000 for their school.

Nominations can be submitted by students, parents, co-workers or supervisors.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** awards up to \$2,000

**Website:** <https://fmfcufoundation.org/awards/>

## Ongoing / Rolling Basis

### Principals ONLY - Grants from Elected Officials

We highly encourage principals to reach out to your state representatives to request funding. If you receive a link to apply to a state grant, please reach out to OGD for assistance. The state application may be difficult to complete and our grant-writers can guide you through the process.

#### ***Find your PA Legislator:***

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/index.cfm>

### Opportunity: Karma for Cara Community Service Youth MicroGrant Program

**Due Date:** October 1st, January 1st, April 1st, & July 1st

**Eligible Applicants:** Students 18 years of age and under. Must have a teacher/adult advisor for their project.

**Purpose:** Students may apply to complete service projects in their communities throughout the United States.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** between \$250-\$1,000

*Note: They do not fund stipends, facility rentals, or transportation costs.*

**Website:** <https://karmaforcara.org/microgrant-application>

# Grant Opportunities

## Opportunity: Leveling the Playing Field

**Due Date:** Rolling Basis

**Eligible Applicants:** K-12 schools and nonprofits serving economically disadvantaged youth

**Purpose:** Leveling the Playing Field furnishes schools and community organizations with free new and gently-used sports equipment enabling those groups to provide affordable and accessible youth sports activities for their children who otherwise would not have such opportunities.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** Access to their warehouse space to take new and gently-used equipment on a continuous basis

**Website:** <https://www.levelingtheplyingfield.org/apply-for-equipment/>

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## Opportunity: Lovett Fund for Elementary Drama

**Due Date:** Rolling basis, beginning in August of each school year

**Eligible Applicants:** Elementary Educators, 501c3s

**Purpose:** Funding is available for the production of plays and musicals performed by elementary school students (grades 1–5) in a school program.

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$300

**Website:** <http://lovettfoundation.org/elementaryDramaFund.html>

# Grant Opportunities

## Opportunity: The Awesome Foundation

**Due Date:** Ongoing - every other month on the second Tuesday

**Eligible Applicants:** Anyone

**Purpose:** To support anyone working on a project to improve their community in Philadelphia

**Estimated Range of Awards:** \$1000

**Website:** <https://www.awesomefoundation.org/en/chapters/philadelphia>

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## Opportunity: Toshiba America Foundation

**Due Date:** Ongoing

**Eligible Applicants:** Teachers of grades K-12

**Purpose:** Toshiba America Foundation (TAF) grants fund the projects ideas and materials teachers need to innovate in their science, technology, engineering and math classrooms. TAF is interested in funding innovative projects designed by teachers or small teams of teachers for use in their own schools and classroom. Applications must be for project based learning.

*They do not consider requests for computer hardware (including computers, laptops, and tablets). Summer programs, after-school projects, and independent study projects are not eligible for funding.*

**Estimated Range of Awards:**

**GRADES K-5**

Applications for less than \$5,000 are due 10/1.

**GRADES 6-12**

Applications for less than \$5,000 are due 9/1, 12/1, 3/1, & 6/1

Applications for grants of more than \$5,000 are due 11/1 and 5/1.

**Website:** <http://www.toshiba.com/taf/612.jsp>



# Literacy Resources for Teachers

**\*\*Please note that some resources require memberships\*\***

## 1) The Philly Book Bank

<https://phillybookbank.org/>



The Philly Book Bank is located inside Martin Luther King High School and helps educators get books and resources for their students. Educators can get up to 400 books per school year, as well as supplemental classroom supplies, with a combined value of over \$4,000. **Membership is FREE. Sign up HERE to be a member.** Book Bank is open on Wednesdays from 3-6pm or by appointment (email [anne@phillybookbank.org](mailto:anne@phillybookbank.org)).

## 2) Book Smiles

<https://www.booksmiles.org/>



BookSmiles, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, promotes literacy and the joy of reading by giving books to children throughout New Jersey and Greater Philadelphia. Teachers register for a \$25 yearly subscription to pick up books for their classrooms and students at 7300 N. Crescent Blvd, #10 in Pennsauken. **Register HERE.**

## 3) Tree House Book Visits

<https://www.treehousebooks.org/visits-to-the-tree-house-1>



Tree House is a Community Literacy Center headquartered in North Philadelphia on 1430 W. Susquehanna Ave. Tree House is excited to welcome local schools to enjoy a dynamic, customizable field trip experience at their Giving Library. Students participate in fun games, reading exercises, arts and crafts, and more! Plus, every child gets FREE Books to add to their home library. **Sign up HERE to set up a visit.**

# School-Based Staff ONLY: DonorsChoose Match Offers

Make sure to check out this month's DonorsChoose Match Offers for Pennsylvania!

Click here to view offers: <https://www.donorschoose.org/match-offers>

*\*\*Please note that match offers change frequently\*\**

## Highlights for October:

### SPECIAL 1 Day Book Project Match Opportunity:

For one day only on **October 3**, the **SONIC Foundation's** generous support will allow all donations to every book project on DonorsChoose to receive a 2X Match, which means a \$20 donation will become a \$40 donation.

#### How to qualify:

- Create a project requesting books for your students. (If you already have one on the site, you're all set!)
- If your project's total cost of materials is mostly books (51%+ of total), then your project will contain the "Books" tag, which means your project will qualify for the match

1) Unilever is supporting personal care and mental health projects

2) Charles Schwab Foundation is supporting financial literacy projects

3) The Peterson Family is supporting projects requesting period products

4) Riot Games Social Impact Fund 2X match offer for esports, game design, and game development projects

# Additional Resources

## Policy 702

[https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2019/07/702\\_Gifts-Grants-Donations-and-Student-Fundraising\\_Policy\\_May.pdf](https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2019/07/702_Gifts-Grants-Donations-and-Student-Fundraising_Policy_May.pdf)

## Policy 702.2

<https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/wp-content/uploads/sites/892/2018/07/Policy-702.2.pdf>

## Philly Fundamentals (Principals ONLY)

<https://www.givecampus.com/schools/TheFundfortheSchoolDistrictofPhiladelphia>

## DonorsChoose (Teachers & School-facing Staff)

<https://www.donorschoose.org/>

**Contact us for more information.**

**440 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130**

**Phone: 215-400-4150  
Hours: M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

**Email: [grants@philasd.org](mailto:grants@philasd.org)**

**Website: <https://www.philasd.org/grants/>**