

# 2023 Expanded Learning County Grant Program Guidelines



San Diego Foundation (SDF) is committed to inspiring enduring philanthropy and enabling community solutions to improve the quality of life in our region. SDF Education Initiatives were established through the newly launched strategic plan and our vision for just, equitable and resilient communities, to advance educational equity for all San Diego students.

San Diego Foundation seeks proposals from community-based organizations delivering high-quality summer learning programs over the course of summer 2023 and summer 2024, with a focus on students who are furthest from opportunity in North, East and South County. San Diego Foundation also seeks proposals from community-based organizations that lead advocacy and policy efforts to advocate for greater equitable investment in culturally affirming educational and expanded learning opportunities.

This is a two-year grant opportunity to support high-quality summer programs delivered in summer 2023 and summer 2024. A total of \$2 million will be granted. San Diego Foundation anticipates awarding 12 to 15 grants of approximately \$100,000 to \$175,000 for the two-year period.

## Funding Rationale

High-quality expanded learning programs have strong connections to core day instruction and provide enriching opportunities for students furthest from opportunity. These same programs are most likely to improve learning outcomes and social-emotional well-being for students most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic's disruption to school and learning.

Summer learning programs are more critical than ever to help students accelerate learning, and address the isolation and trauma experienced during the height of the pandemic. The most recent data published by the [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)'s 2022 Long -Term Trend Assessment Results](#) examines student achievement during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to pre-pandemic performance in reading and mathematics. The results reveal greater learning loss than originally estimated. The results show average scores for 9-year-olds in 2022 declined 5 points in reading and 7 points in mathematics compared to 2020. This is the largest average score decline in reading since 1990.

Although academic scores show declines among nearly all student groups. However, decreases were greatest amongst students historically furthest from opportunity. In mathematics, Black students' 13-point score decrease, along with White students' 5-point decrease, resulted in a widening of the score gap from 25 points in 2020 to 33 points in 2022. In 2022, Hispanic students in the 25th percentile (lower performance levels) experienced a 9-point reading decrease and a 12-point decrease in math.

Students hit hardest by COVID-19 were already the student groups facing the greatest barriers and the worst outcomes. California's average [NAEP scores for 8th grade students](#) showed:

- Students eligible for free and reduced-price meal plans were 26 points below ineligible students.
- Students with disabilities scored 37 points below students without disabilities.
- English learners scored 47 points below non-English learners.

According to the California Smarter Balance test results from the 2020-2021 academic year, San Diego County's students are faring better in meeting the English language arts (ELA) and math standards when compared to the state. 29.72% of the region's students have met the ELA standard and 19.33% met the math standard, 2.13% and 1.35%, respectively, higher than the state.

The disaggregated data for the region tells a far different story for San Diego students:

- For English learners, only 9.46% have met the ELA standard and 7.12 % met the standard for math.
- Economically disadvantaged students met ELA and math standards at 27.23% and 15.25%, respectively.
- Nearly 14% of students with reported disabilities met the ELA standard and 7.62% met the math standard.

Along ethnicity lines, the California Smarter Balance test results show 26.42% of Black students met the standard for ELA and 15.49% met the standards for math. 27.06% of Hispanic/Latinx students met ELA standards and 15.60% met math standards.

Presently, with extraordinary, available public funding, districts, schools and community-based partners have a unique opportunity to reimagine collaboration on unique and impactful summer learning programming. Through a partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego Foundation hosted the Thriving Students Community of Practice to explore ways to strengthen the partnerships between districts and charter schools with community-based expanded learning organizations. The Community of Practice shed light on the separation and potential between districts and expanded learning providers.

School districts and expanded learning partners can move collectively toward coherence by creating a shared vision and set of priorities that will:

- Benefit the students they serve,
- Advance each partner organization's mission, and
- Recognize the value of the knowledge, resources and perspectives each member brings to the partnership.

This funding opportunity is designed to encourage and support collaboration and coherence between the classroom and community-based educators that produce exceptional expanded learning opportunities for students furthest from opportunity.

## The Funding Opportunity

This is a two-year grant opportunity to support high-quality summer programs delivered in summer 2023

**Applications are due no later than 11:59 p.m. PST on Thursday, January 12, 2023.**

and summer 2024, with a focus on students furthest from opportunity in North, East and South San Diego County. This funding opportunity will also entertain proposals from organizations that may not be delivering summer or expanded learning programming, but advocate for these investments. A total of \$2 million will be granted. San Diego Foundation anticipates awarding 12 to 15 grants of approximately \$100,000 to \$175,000 for the two-year period.

## Eligibility

To be considered, applicants must be a recognized 501(c)(3) located in and with an existing track record of serving San Diego County. This grant opportunity will not fund endowments, existing obligations/debt, or projects that promote religious or political doctrines, or post-secondary school scholarships.

### Criteria for Review and Awarding – For Summer Program Delivery Applicants

Successful applications seeking funding for direct programming that serve North, East and South County students will demonstrate all or many of the following features in their organizational track record or program offering:

#### **A. Organization’s Equity Orientation and Commitment to DEI**

- Organization is based in or embedded in the community they serve with a strong track record of serving students furthest from opportunity.
- Organization reflects the lived experience of the communities they serve in the staff, from frontline to leadership, and in their board composition, or are demonstrably working to achieve this representation.

#### **B. Target Student Population**

- Programming that prioritizes and is designed around student groups furthest from opportunity and who will be the most impacted through improved learning outcomes and social emotional well-being, with an emphasis on students from low-income households (students who qualify for free and reduced-price meal plans); from Black, Indigenous, or Persons Of Color (BIPOC) backgrounds, English learner status; students with disabilities and/or neurodivergent styles of learning.

#### **C. Program Design**

- Program is a high-touch, unique and dynamic design consisting of four to six weeks of full-day programming for each participant.
- Programs with a strong focus on math or reading.
- Programs that employ near-peer mentoring models.
- Programs that offer students an opportunity to explore and identify interests and connect these to career pathways and expose students to adult mentors.
- Culturally affirming programs that celebrate students’ cultural, racial, ethnic heritage, build community and nurture feelings of belonging.
- Programs that center and lift student voices.

#### **D. Strong School/District Partnership**

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- Collaboration with a local school or district to increase the coherence between the proposed program and K-12 curriculum demonstrated by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), letter of support or other evidence of partnership. San Diego Foundation recognizes not all organizations have the opportunity or ability to establish partnerships with schools, especially grassroots organizations. The absence of an existing partnership will not exclude an organization from this funding opportunity. Applicants that do not have this relationship in place but wish to establish a relationship with a local school as part of their proposal can still apply. SDF can assist in efforts to connect your program to schools if desired.
- Cost-sharing with school/district demonstrating a school's/district's financial contribution to the total program cost.

## Criteria for Review and Awarding – For Advocacy and Policy Applicants

San Diego Foundation will entertain and award a small number of grants to organizations that are working to engage student and parent/guardian voice in advocacy efforts for increased, equitable and permanent investments in education, enrichment and expanded learning. Successful applicants will reflect organizations that meet the criteria outlined in section (A) and outline community education, engagement and advocacy strategies that center the communities and student groups outlined above. Successful applicants will also define specifically the number of students directly engaged in learning about civic engagement and advocacy on education through their program.

## Resources for Potential Applicants

The following resources may help your organization plan the most compelling summer learning program and proposal submission:

- Office Hours with San Diego Foundation Education Initiatives team members, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9, 2022. [Sign up for a 15-minute session here.](#)
- Guidance on research and evidence-based design for compelling and effective summer learning programs.
  - [Partnership for Children and Youth's Summer Gameplan](#)
  - [Wallace Foundation's Getting to Work on Summer Learning 2nd ed. - Executive Summary](#)
  - [National Summer Learning Association's Voice of Summer Webinar Series](#)

## Application Process

Review the questions below, submit your application via [MySDF](#) by Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023. Here are [video instructions](#) and [written instructions](#) on how to set up your MySDF account. If you have any questions, please contact expanded learning at [expandedlearning@sdfoundation.org](mailto:expandedlearning@sdfoundation.org). We encourage all interested applicants to review and use the applicant resources listed above including the grantseekers forum, office hours and summer learning design workshop.

## Review Process

Responses to this request for proposal will be initially reviewed and qualified by San Diego Foundation staff. Proposals that meet the prequalifying criteria are then reviewed by an independent committee of

community members with experience in curriculum design, expanded learning and youth programing. Based on staff and reviewers' scores, final recommendations are submitted for approval by the San Diego Foundation Board of Governors. Funding decisions and awards will be communicated by February 28, 2023.

## Reporting

A midterm narrative report discussing progress at the conclusion of your summer 2023 program will be due no later than Oct. 13, 2023. A final narrative describing the impact of your strategy and expenditure report will be due Oct. 4, 2024. All awarded funds must be expended by Aug. 31, 2024.

## Draft Application Question Preview

Use this draft application preview to prepare your responses to the application questions in a Word document and submit via [MySDF](#) by **11:59 p.m. PST on Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023**. Feel free to write in the style that is most comfortable for you. Note: questions with an \* are required.

## Organization Information

- \*Name of Organization:
- \*EIN Number:
- \*Organization Website:
- \*Organization Address: Please input the official address or PO Box associated with the organization (residential addresses are not allowed). If awarded, the grant check will be mailed to the organization's address listed below unless your organization has a fiscal sponsor.
  - Street Address:
  - Suite Number:
  - City:
  - State:
  - Zip Code:
  - Phone Number:
- \*Primary Contact: This is the contact person in your organization who is submitting this proposal, can answer questions about the program and serves as a key contact.
  - First Name:
  - Last Name:
  - Email:
  - Phone Number:
- \*Signatory Contact: This is the person in your organization who has the legal authority to execute the grant agreement on behalf of your organization, usually the CEO, Executive Director, or Board Chair.
  - First Name:
  - Last Name:

- Title:
- Email:
- Phone Number:
- Fiscal Sponsor Information (if applicable)
  - Fiscal Sponsor Organization Name:
  - Fiscal Sponsor Organization EIN:
  - Street Address:
  - City:
  - State:
  - Zip Code:
- \*Organization Website:
- \*Organization Description: Describe what your organization's focus and priorities are. Note this is not your mission statement but rather the way you would describe what your organization does to someone you just met that knows little about your field. (Up to 650 characters)
- \*Organization's History and Track Record: Describe your organization's history and demonstrated record of serving communities furthest from opportunity. (Up to 2000 characters)
- \*Lived Experience: Describe how your organization reflects the lived experience of the communities you serve through the staff/board, or how the organization is working to achieve this representation. (Up to 1300 characters)

## Program Information

- \*Program Name:
- \*Detailed Proposed Program Overview: Describe in detail your planned program strategies to meet the current community needs. How did you come to determine and define these strategies? (Up to 3000 characters)
- \*Brief Description: Provide a brief description of your proposal's approach, program's format for delivery, target student population, and what makes it unique. This should be an elevator pitch for your program. (Up to 650 characters)
- \*Anticipated program timeframe:
- \*Anticipated Number of Students Served:
- \*Staff Qualifications and Structure: Provide the names and titles of key individuals in the organization that will be involved in executing the program. Describe their experience and specific expertise and credentials in serving youth. Describe how your staff reflect, represent, and connect to the lived experience of the students you serve presently or intend to serve as part of this grant. Specify the roles and responsibilities each person will have in this project.
- \*Student-to-staff ratio: Enter the maximum number of students for every 1 staff member (e.g., if your student-to-staff ratio 'is 12:1', enter '12

- \*Special Student Population: Select the unique student populations this program is designed to serve. Be specific in your response and avoid a blanket selection of all populations if possible. Use the 'Other' section if none of these population descriptions apply.
  - Asian Pacific Islander
  - Black
  - Disconnected Youth
  - English Language Learners
  - Foster Youth
  - Homeless/Housing Insecure
  - Immigrants and Refugees
  - Indigenous
  - Justice-Involved Youth
  - Hispanic/Latinx
  - LGBTQ+
  - Low-Income (student on free and reduced priced meal plans)
  - Military
  - Students who are neurodivergent in their style of learning
  - Students with disabilities
  - Students with individualized education plans and 504 plans
  - Underrepresented racial and ethnic communities
  - Other
- \*Target student population narrative: Use this section to further describe how your program is designed to serve the above intended student population(s). (Up to 1300 characters)
- \*Service Area (Check all that apply): Indicate which of the following region(s) is the region you will deliver all or majority of your program. [Refer to this map](#) to determine zip codes and service area.
  - All of San Diego County
  - Central San Diego County
  - East San Diego County
  - North Central San Diego County
  - North Coastal San Diego County
  - North Inland San Diego County
  - South San Diego County
- \*Zip Codes: List the zip codes that your program will serve.

- \*Expected Outcomes: Summarize your expected outcomes in bulleted form of no more than 3-6 points that this funding can either fully or partially help you achieve.
- \*Implementation Timeline: Describe your implementation timeline in bulleted form.
- \*School District Partnerships: Describe the nature of any existing partnerships with schools, districts, government, or other community-based organizations you leverage for the delivery of your programs. (Up to 1300 characters)
- MOU upload: Upload any existing MOUs or letters of support that are related to your proposed program.

## Program Delivery

- \*Program location: Where will your program take place? If your program has multiple locations list all that apply.
- \*Type of program: Select one:
  - Half-day
  - Full day
  - Combination
  - Other
- \*Minimum grade level: Select the youngest grade level this program will serve. (K-12)
- \*Maximum grade level: Select the oldest grade level this program will serve. (K-12)
- \*Start Date:
- \*End Date:
- \*Days per week: Select the days per week your program will run (Monday-Sunday)
- \*Hours per day: How many hours will students participate in daily?
- \*Total Contact Hours per Student: How many total contact hours will this program offer each unique, unduplicated student?
- Transportation: How will students arrive and depart from your program?
- Food: Will meals and snacks be provided for students? Please explain.

## Budget and Financials

- \*Total Amount (\$) Requested for the Program:
- \*Program Budget Overview: Attach a program budget that details your anticipated expenses for your proposed program and any additional sources of funding secured or possible toward your program budget. [Click here](#) for the link to the Budget Template. Download and mirror this format when submitting your budget
- \*Upload Program Budget
- \*Budget Narrative: Describe and provide as many specific details as possible to help us understand how funding will be used

- \*Anticipated leveraged funds amount:
- \*Describe the funding that will be secured and leveraged as a result of this funding, such as contributions from a school/district partner or other funding for which your organization is better positioned to secure as a result of this grant possibility
- \*Enter organization's current year total operating expense budget.
- \*Upload Annual Operating Budget: