



Allegheny County Department of Children Initiatives

RFP Response Form

RFP for Out-of-School Time Capacity Building

PROPOSER INFORMATION

Proposer Name: Latino Community Center

Authorized Representative Name & Title: Rosamaria Cristello, Founder & Executive Director

Address: 212 9th St. 5th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Telephone: 412-400-7377

Email: rcristello@latinocommunitycenter.org

Website: www.latinocommunitycenter.org

Legal Status: For-Profit Corp. Nonprofit Corp. Sole Proprietor Partnership
 Local Education Agency (LEA)

Date Incorporated: 02/16/2017

Partners included in this Proposal: Moon Area School District - Richard J. Hyde Elementary School, McKeesport Area School District - Francis McClure Elementary School, Pittsburgh Center for Arts & Media, STEM Coding Lab, Citizen Science Lab, Los Sabrosos Dance, Co., Venture Outdoors, Sarah Heinz House

How did you hear about this RFP? *Please be specific.* LCC holds a current contract with the Department of Human Services for our SOY Pittsburgh Elementary School OST program. We were alerted by numerous organizations about this RFP - the DHS Out-of-School Time staff, the Department of Children’s Initiatives, Pittsburgh Public Schools, and the Pittsburgh Learning Collaborative.

Does your organization have a telecommunications device to accommodate individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing? Yes No

REQUIRED CONTACTS

	Name	Phone	Email
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RFP for Out-of-School Time Capacity Building

Chief Executive Officer	Rosamaria Cristello	412-400-7377	rcristello@latinocommunitcenter.org
Contract Processing Contact	Sofia Bermeo	412.810.7559	sbermeo@latinocommunitycenter.org
Chief Information Officer	Rosamaria Cristello	412-400-7377	rcristello@latinocommunitcenter.org
Chief Financial Officer	Pam Blizzard	412.463.0479	pblizzard@yourcfo.us
MPER Contact*	Sofia Bermeo	412.810.7559	sbermeo@latinocommunitycenter.org

* [MPER](#) is DHS's provider and contract management system. Please list an administrative contact to update and manage this system for your agency.

BOARD INFORMATION

Provide a list of your board members as an attachment or in the space below.

Please see attachment

Board Chairperson Name & Title: Dr. Belkys Torres, Executive Director of Global Engagement at the University of Pittsburgh

Board Chairperson Address: University of Pittsburgh, 230 S Bouquet St. 4413 Wesley W. Posvar Hall Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Board Chairperson Telephone: [REDACTED]

Board Chairperson Email: [REDACTED]

REFERENCES

Provide the name, affiliation and contact information [include email address and telephone number] for three references who are able to address relevant experience with your organization. Please do not use employees of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services as references.

Alison Zapata, Pittsburgh
Center for Arts & Media

[REDACTED]

Amie White

A+ Schools

amatson@aplusschools.org

412-697-1298x113

Jason Hivner

STEM Coding Lab

jason@stemcodinglab.org

[REDACTED]

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Date Submitted 3/1/2022

Amount Requested: \$360,521.40

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CERTIFICATION

Please check the following before submitting your Proposal, as applicable:

I have read the standard County terms and conditions for County contracts and the requirements for DHS Cyber Security, EEOC/Non-Discrimination, HIPAA and Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law.

By submitting this Proposal, I certify and represent to the County that all submitted materials are true and accurate, and that I have not offered, conferred or agreed to confer any pecuniary benefit or other thing of value for the receipt of special treatment, advantaged information, recipient's decision, opinion, recommendation, vote or any other exercise of discretion concerning this RFP.

Choose one:

My Proposal contains information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information and I have included a written statement signed by an authorized representative identifying those portions or parts of my Proposal and providing contact information.

OR

My Proposal does not contain information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information.

ATTACHMENTS

Please submit the following attachments with your Response Form. These can be found at <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations>.

- Partner commitment letters, if applicable
- MWDBE and VOSB documents
- Allegheny County Vendor Creation Form
- Audited financial reports or other financial documentation for the last three years
- W-9
- Completed budget template

REQUIREMENTS

Please respond to the following. The maximum score a Proposal can receive is 110 points. Your response to the following section should not exceed 12 pages. (Pages 1-3 are not included in the page count).

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Organizational Experience (15 points possible)

1. Describe your organizational experience providing OST programs or programming that works with children and families.

The Latino Community Center launched our first OST program, SOY (Supporting Our Youth) Pittsburgh Elementary in January of 2018. The word “SOY” also translates to “I am” from Spanish to English so it reads “I am Pittsburgh.” SOY Pittsburgh is a bilingual after school program that focuses on four main goals: academic advancement, cultural empowerment, social-emotional development, and family engagement. SOY Pittsburgh has demonstrated success and effectiveness through student academics, family satisfaction, and the overall growth of the program, as measured through a data analysis completed by the Department of Human Services, student report card data, evidence-based online reading and math benchmarks, and surveys. Data demonstrates that students in SOY have better attendance and higher GPAs than other grade level peers - both Latino and non-Latino - across Pittsburgh Public Schools. While SOY began at Beechwood Elementary with 17 students, this original program now has 30 students with a waitlist of 12 (and no official recruitment), and SOY has expanded to serve middle school students at both South Hills Middle School and Arsenal Middle School. Additionally, LCC often receives requests from schools and community members to expand SOY to other locations. It should also be noted that while LCC’s formal OST programming began 4 years ago and has steadily grown, the staff on LCC’s Education Team are experienced educators and youth workers with many years in the field that contribute to the success of LCC’s programs.

While SOY was our first official OST program, LCC operates programs that serve youth and families spanning cradle to career. LCC provides the Spanish version of Hello Baby, providing support to new mothers, and the ParentChild+ early childhood home visiting program for families with children aged 2-4. ParentChild+ aims to break the cycle of poverty through education, equipping parents to be their children’s first teachers through early literacy, school readiness, and parent-child interaction. LCC’s college and career readiness programming, ALAS, prepares the next generation of Latinx leaders for success by providing college and career readiness programming to high school and college youth. SOMOS Pittsburgh connects K-12 Latinx students with virtual tutors, and matches middle and high school youth with mentors from the Latinx community. LCC’s Education Family Liaison works tirelessly to ensure that Latino families in the region can successfully navigate the educational system and engage with their children’s schooling, while our Triple P Parenting classes teach positive parenting skills. Finally, it must be noted that, as of July 2020, the Latino Community Center became the lead fiscal agent for the Latino Family Center. The purpose of the Family Center is to help parents and caregivers raise happy and healthy children.

2. Describe your organizational experience working in high-need communities, especially the community(ies) you are proposing to serve.

The LCC is known for being an organization founded by our Latinx community for our Latinx community. We were created specifically because of the need to have an organization that understands how to empower and support our growing community, from the board level to the direct staff level. Of note is the fact that once the Latino Family Center became part of the LCC, it went from serving 100 families per year to over 500 a year.

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The LCC makes decisions on programming based on the guidance and feedback of our community. It is critical that LCC is and will always be an organization that is led by our community. This is why our Board Bylaws require a majority Latinx board at any given time, meaning the majority of the board needs to identify as Latinx. Furthermore, we have members who receive our services on our board, and we have a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) that is a sub-committee of our board. The PAC provides guidance and advice to our board, and helps plan and implement events that our families ask for. Additionally, the majority of our staff identify as Latinx and they have lived experiences similar to what our families are going through. Our experience in working with Latinx children and families is extensive. We provide the Spanish version of Hello Baby, we implement the ParentChild+ home visiting program, we run after school programs in elementary and middle schools, most of which have waiting lists, and we run high school to college/career programming. We also have Triple P Parenting Classes in Spanish, and we provide case management and community health worker support to ensure all families have the support to raise healthy and happy children.

Program Design (70 points possible)

3. Provide an overall description of your proposed Program and how it meets DCI's goals, including:

Describe how you are opening new quality OST slots (certified child care or community based) in a community that lacks them. Please include the proposed number of new slots.

The SOY Pittsburgh program is grounded in evidence-based best practices This includes, but is not limited to, bilingual education, positive psychology, and following the APOST Quality Self-Assessment Tool when planning and evaluating the program. LCC plans to expand SOY to Francis McClure Elementary School (20 slots) in McKeesport Area School District, and to Richard J. Hyde Elementary School (30 slots) in Moon Area School District. This will open a total of 50 new school-based, SOY Pittsburgh spots in previously unserved communities. Further, LCC plans to pilot a community-based SOY Pittsburgh program which will open 30 spots to any elementary or middle school aged student in Allegheny County. We will operate a hybrid of online programming that is available throughout the week, and in-person evening and weekend activities and field trips with community partners. In total, we will open 80 new SOY spots to Latinx children who have previously not had access to our programming.

Describe how you will provide a consistent Program schedule that meets the needs of families in your selected community, including the hours and days of operation.

SOY Pittsburgh's school-based programming will operate from dismissal until 6:00pm, Monday through Friday. This allows parents to complete a full day of work, and given that their children can walk directly from their classrooms to the SOY program, they do not have to worry about their children's safety. Further, SOY will provide snacks and dinner, which lifts another burden from the shoulders of families. SOY will be in session every day that school is in session, including early dismissal days.

Community based SOY meets the needs of our families who have expressed a desire for their children to learn more about their culture of origin, and to be able to experience activities that help them take pride in their identities as bilingual, bicultural youth. This program will provide time twice per week in the evenings for students to come together in person, and on Saturdays.

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The exact hours and week days will be determined in collaboration with families who enroll, as LCC prioritizes family involvement in decision-making. On days the students do not meet in person, SOY staff will meet with them online to check in, help with homework, and do other activities.

All SOY students will have the opportunity to attend SOY Summer, which is currently hosted at Sarah Heinz House for 8 weeks, all day from mid-June through mid-August.

Describe how you will provide children with a safe space to spend time and the physical location you intend to use.

Our new school based SOY Pittsburgh sites will be held in local partner schools to ensure a safe physical space and a smooth and safe transition from school to SOY, as students come directly from their classrooms to the program. Each SOY program is hosted in a location within the school that is agreed upon by the school principal and SOY staff, and that meets the needs of the size of the program. Spaces, such as the school cafeteria, allow room for activities and social distancing, and when needed SOY also has access to additional classroom space, outdoor space, and the school gym. Further, SOY staff not only follows the strict health and safety plans developed by each school, but we also have our own extensive plan we adhere to.

Community based SOY Pittsburgh will be held in LCC's new building twice per week, and students will take a field trip on Saturdays. If there are Saturdays in which we do not have a field trip, the program will take place at LCC's building.

Describe how you will create opportunities for children to engage in enriching activities and what participants will gain from engaging in your program.

Students who enroll in SOY Pittsburgh benefit greatly from our four program goals: academic advancement, cultural empowerment, social-emotional development, and family engagement. Academic advancement includes personalized tutoring and homework help, which is critical for our Latino students who often experience academic gaps and who may not receive homework support from Spanish speaking parents due to language barriers. Further, academic enrichment is provided through community partners such as STEM Coding Lab, Citizen Science Lab, and Venture Outdoors. Our current SOY students have a blast taking part in activities like developing their own apps, doing hands-on science experiments, and learning outdoor survival skills. We continue to invite all of these partners back at the students' request, and we will collect feedback from students at new sites moving forward.

SOY Pittsburgh is a bilingual program, as there is a great deal of research demonstrating the benefits of bilingualism and because parents have expressed their desire for their children to continue developing their Spanish. This is part of our cultural empowerment goal, along with empowering students to develop pride in their identities as bilingual, bicultural youth. We do this in collaboration with partners like Pittsburgh Center for Arts & Media who facilitates our Latinx Artist in Residency program, and Los Sabrosos Dance, Co. Our students have produced some incredible artwork that represents various Spanish-speaking cultures, and we have experienced lots of laughs and joy as they learned the steps to the salsa, bachata, merengue and more.

A key foundation to ensuring our activities are successful is the priority we place on students' social-emotional development. Our students know that SOY is a safe place where they are loved, cared for, and seen as individuals because SOY staff prioritize positive relationships. We make every effort to get to know each student, and we spend time building community at the beginning of each year. Students also know the expectations, and they are aware that not only are staff

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expected to respect and care for the children, but we set the expectation that the children will care for and respect one another, as well; thus creating a community atmosphere that our students look forward to being a part of. Our partnership with the Positivity Project, a national curriculum that teaches students to build positive relationships by identifying character strengths in themselves and in others, is a contributor to our SOY community.

Our final, but equally vital, goal is family engagement. Many of the families with whom we work experience barriers to engaging with their children's education. SOY staff act as a bridge and a liaison to help families become more fully involved in the schooling process. They collaborate with both school staff and families to make sure that parents understand school communication, and are well-informed about school happenings. They also support parents at conferences, translate notes and phone calls, and work closely with ESL teachers, counselors, and nurses to help parents navigate education and make sure SOY students are fully supported.

Describe how your Program serves historically underrepresented populations.

SOY Pittsburgh serves the Latino population, which is historically underrepresented in the region. While the most recent census data shows that the Latino population has experienced significant growth, services and supports are still evolving. The Latino population has a unique set of needs, and SOY Pittsburgh is designed specifically around those needs with best practices for supporting English learners and immigrant students built into the program design. Further, SOY Pittsburgh staff is hired from the community as much as possible, ensuring that students have positive role models who look like them in the programs.

4. How will your program ensure children of all abilities are served, including English language learners and children with IEPs?

Program quality is a priority of SOY Pittsburgh, which means that we seek to employ certified educators and staff with training and experience in working with youth of all backgrounds. Since our programs serve the Latino community, part of our interview process involves ensuring that candidates are well-equipped to support multilingual learners. Further, our program coordinators must have some background in understanding special education, since we find the identification of language learning vs. learning disability to be a common misunderstanding. In order to build up our education team's capacity, we also offer training opportunities. For example, this year the LCC's Education Team was provided the opportunity to attend the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) International Convention, and some of the team received special education training through the PEAL Center. We are also in the process of expanding our partnership with the PEAL Center in order to better equip our team to support students of all abilities. Finally, all of our staff must be at minimum bilingual in Spanish and English.

5. How will you prevent suspensions and expulsions of children from your Program and ensure enrolled children maintain Program access?

SOY Pittsburgh employs positive behavior strategies, which extend to our use of suspension and expulsion. Expulsion is not part of our policies, and suspension is only considered in extreme cases. When a student is having a behavior issue, SOY staff works collaboratively with teachers, guidance counselor(s), and parents to discern the root of the issue. Instead of suspensions, we host solution seeking meetings with families, and relevant school staff if need be, to develop a plan of action moving forward. Our students' well-being and growth is our priority. The

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collaborative team of school staff, SOY staff, and family who are all invested in the child can make for a powerful motivator.

It is our hope that in applying for these funds, if a child is suspended from school (although this has not yet occurred) he/she will have access to SOY through the community-based program.

6. Describe the community(ies) in which you intend to locate your OST Program. Why did you select those community(ies)? How will you tailor your Program to respond to the unique needs of the community(ies) you are serving?

We plan to host a SOY Elementary program in Francis McClure Elementary School in the McKeesport Area School District, in Richard J. Hyde Elementary School in the Moon Area School District, and we will run a community-based SOY Pittsburgh program.

McKeesport was chosen as a site because they have experienced a recent, rapid growth in the Latino population and they are struggling to provide the needed support for their students and families. Francis McClure Elementary School in McKeesport is the English as a Second Language elementary school for the district. Of their 27 ESL students, 23 are Latino; many newly enrolled as of the 2021-2022 school year. School staff have reached out to LCC for support with the challenges the Latino families enrolled at Francis McClure are experiencing, such as housing instability, support with basic needs, connection to services like internet and food stamps, and transportation. While collaborating to provide support to these families, the school principal and social worker requested we bring SOY Pittsburgh to their students.

Moon was selected for a similar reason, although the growth of their community was not as rapid. The Latino community in Moon has been growing steadily, and they came to LCC for support. Richard J. Hyde Elementary has a total of 43 Latino students; 34 of whom speak Spanish, and 9 speak Portuguese. The school has expressed the need for support due to academic gaps that have resulted from interrupted schooling during the pandemic, and they have observed a common need among most of their Latino students for help with math and literacy foundations, language development in the native language, and the growth of skills such as teamwork and collaboration. These are all areas that SOY Pittsburgh will develop, and as such Richard J. Hyde has asked for a SOY Pittsburgh program, as well.

Finally, LCC receives numerous requests from our community in general for SOY. Families in our community meetings, on our social media, and who call into the LCC want to enroll their children. However, given that we partner with schools, this is not a possibility unless their children attend one of the few schools where SOY is located. In several occasions, families share with us that they often contemplate moving to Beechview and transferring their kids to Beechwood Elementary just so they can be part of the SOY PGH program. Our community-based SOY program will allow children from any school to participate in SOY activities, and respond to this request from families.

As with all LCC and SOY programming, we will host a parent meeting prior to the launch of the program and then continually throughout the year to assess family needs, and to monitor how the program is going. We will make adjustments to fit the needs of each community as needed.

7. Describe why you think families will want to enroll their children in your Program.

SOY Pittsburgh was launched at the request of Latino families who wanted a safe space for their children to be after school, in addition to a place where the children could improve their academics and speak Spanish. Families also express a specific need for support in helping their children with homework, as most of our families speak Spanish and homework is all in English.

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We have not only seen these needs continue, but expand as the Latino community has grown in Allegheny County since LCC's founding. Many children who enter US schools in kindergarten begin to lose their Spanish in the English-only model utilized in school. SOY provides a place where Latino students can not only reinforce their Spanish language skills, but they can also learn about their heritage and take pride in their roots. Parents want this for their children. Further, at SOY PGH students have access to individualized academic support, homework help, and enrichment activities like coding. Many Latino parents struggle to help their children with homework when everything is in English, and SOY provides an opportunity for children to learn and grow with the help of trusted adults.

8. Describe how you will market the Program and how you will create or strength formal paths to equitable enrollment.

We value our school partnerships, and have already formed close partnerships with Francis McClure Elementary and Richard J. Hyde Elementary. SOY Pittsburgh is also a partner program in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. For both school based programs, we will work with school staff to first send flyers and information home to all Latinx students, and to communicate with these families about the program through any other avenues they have found to be effective (i.e. a table at Back to School night). Next, we will collaborate with teachers, social workers, school counselors, and principals to identify specific students who will benefit and we will begin reaching out via phone. If we are not yet fully enrolled, we will invite families to come visit SOY for a day to experience the program. We will follow a similar process for our community based program, but we will begin with social media and LCC's text system. LCC has a large social media following and base of text subscribers, which is how we spread information regarding our community meetings and events. Those who have reached out to us via various channels to inquire about enrolling in SOY will be reached this way. We may then collaborate with schools to send flyers home, and to identify students who would be interested in participating.

LCC's Education Department is in constant contact with schools, allowing both parties to support students and families at a higher level. We receive calls and referrals from many area schools, and we make sure we provide the highest level of support we possibly can.

9. Describe how you will staff your Program and the strategies you will use to recruit, hire and retain racially diverse staff, staff with relevant lived experience, and staff that reflect the population served.

When we post for a position, we recruit from within our community in multiple sites and avenues our community is accustomed to, in addition to general outlets like indeed. Part of our hiring process includes being interviewed by members of our community. We aim to have members who will receive the service/support the individual is applying for. We believe it is critical to have the green light from our community to hire someone, as trust is the number one factor that will make or break a program. We also require applicants to speak fluent Spanish, therefore before even making it into an interview, they must go through a phone interview where we test their Spanish fluency skills. For our SOY positions, we look specifically to hire candidates who have a background in education and/or working with youth.

10. How will any identified challenges be addressed, including low program enrollment or attendance, transportation challenges, or other issues impacting program access?

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SOY Pittsburgh has faced similar challenges in the past and we have learned a great deal. We have learned the value of school partnerships in recruiting and enrolling the students who will most benefit from the program, and the value of engaging parents from the first day of the program to ensure everyone is aware of attendance policies and program procedures. Once we open those lines of communication with families, we are then able to talk with them more freely about school attendance issues, navigating the US educational system, and other ways we can support them. This is where SOY Pittsburgh has an advantage - the Latino Family Center provides an additional layer of support, which our families appreciate.

Quality and KPIs (10 points possible)

11. If you are a certified child care OST program, provide your STAR level designation and describe your progress towards raising or maintaining this level. If you are an uncertified program, please provide a description of how your program efforts will align as an APOST Quality Campaign member or other nationally recognized quality improvement tool.

The Latino Community Center's educational programming is evidence-based, and we make every effort to ensure it is of high quality. SOY Elementary at Beechwood was our only OST program pre-pandemic, and as we wanted to engage in the process of becoming a Quality Campaign member with fidelity, we advocated for all of the materials to be translated into Spanish, allowing for our families to fully participate. This was a lengthy process, so we were in the midst of our team meetings to prepare our consensus packet when the shutdown occurred. Despite the fact that we have not yet become Quality Campaign members, we have been utilizing the Quality Self-Assessment tool since the beginning of the SOY program to plan and evaluate programming as a staff, as becoming a member has always been our goal. Further, the Director of Education and SOY staff monitor and use other research published by sources such as the National Institute for Out of School Time, and the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality to keep up with trends in the field and evaluate program quality.

12. Outline the KPIs you would like to use to measure the success of your Program.

1. 30 new spots will open in the Moon Area, 15108 zip code.
2. 20 new spots will open in McKeesport, 15131 and 15132 zip codes.
3. 30 new spots will open across Allegheny County for community-based SOY.
4. Students in school-based SOY will attend 75% or more days each month, improving school attendance.
5. School based SOY Pittsburgh will operate for 40-60 hours per month, depending upon school dismissal times and school days in session. All of these hours will be new hours of programming. Ideally, school based SOY Pittsburgh will operate for 3 hours per day, 5 days per week every day school is in session. This would mean an average of 60 hours per month if school is in session every day. If school gets out later in the afternoon, we may have to adjust the timing slightly.
6. Community based SOY will offer a minimum of 15 hours of programming per month.
7. A minimum of 2 community partners will be engaged at each site, each semester.

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Financial Management, Budget and Timeline (15 points possible)

13. Using the budget template available on our website, provide a detailed one-year, line-item budget that reflects a realistic estimate of the costs associated with implementing and sustaining the Program. The budget template file attachment will not count toward page limits.

Please see budget attachment.

Please provide the number of children you plan to serve both during the summer and during the school year.

We plan to serve 80 students during the summer and during the school year.

Please include any other funding sources that would contribute to the Program, including fees to families.

There will be no fees for families. At the moment, this would be the only funding source as we kick-start these new sites. Our goal will be to bring in new funding partners to help sustain moving forward.

14. In the space below, provide a budget narrative that clearly explains and justifies all line items in your proposed line-item budget. Please also describe plans to sustain new Program slots beyond year one.

The budget personnel is broken down by staff member we would need. The amount per staff includes salary, taxes and benefits. We also include a portion of the OST Manager and Administrative Assistant for OST programming. The assistant is key as, among other responsibilities, they will ensure coverage in our programming in case a staff member is out in one of the OST programs.

The overhead included is for overall administrative support to run the programs (IT, Accounting etc). The program contractors are for our partners that help bring critical enrichment opportunities for our students (STEM Coding Lab, Venture Outdoors, etc).

Sustaining programming is a critical component, as we do not want to start programmings, build relationships with students, and then have to end it. Our goal as an organization is to submit for EITC, increase giving from Corporate Partnerships that can pay for slots for families, and include families via family fundraisers to help pay for the programming. We also hope that by entering into these different areas, we can attract different sources of funding. We understand we are asking for a large amount, however it is critical to know that the Latinx community in our region is growing, and if we do not support our kids now, we will be looking at worse problems down the line that can be prevented now with high quality OST programming.

16. Provide your timeline of how funding will be implemented and when new Program slots will begin.

We will need time to ramp up, hire, and implement logistics and training before we officially start the programs. Therefore, our goal would be to start programming in early September.

DCI OST Capacity Building RFP Budget Proposal Template

Organization Name	Latino Community Center
Contact Name (Full)	Sofia Bermeo
Business Address	212 9th St 5th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Business Phone	412-335-7446
Business Email	sbermeo@latinocommunitycenter.org

Item Category		
I Personnel	Cost	Notes
SOY PGH Coordinator (CB)	\$51,429 00	Site Coordinator who manages the program
PT education assistant (CB)	\$18,137 60	Supports FT coordinator, assists with SOY implementation; fills in when a regular SOY Assistant is
SOY PGH Coordinator (Francis McClure)	\$51,429 00	Site Coordinator who manages the program
PT education assistant (Francis McClure)	\$18,137 60	Supports FT staff; assists with running SOY
SOY PGH Coordinator (Richard Hyde)	\$51,429 00	Site Coordinator who manages the program
PT education assistant (Richard Hyde)	\$18,137 60	Supports FT staff; assists with running SOY
PT education assistant (Richard Hyde)	\$18,137 60	Supports FT staff; assists with running SOY
OST Manager	\$22,339 00	35% OST Manager
Administrative Assistant	\$8,372	Supports FT staff; assists with running SOY
Total Personnel Costs	\$257,548.40	
II Materials and Supplies	Cost	Notes
Program Supplies	\$6,000	
Program Activities	\$4,000	
Program Transportation	\$6,000	
Program Food and Meals	\$4,000	
Other Program Expenses	\$5,000	
Total Material Costs	\$25,000.00	
III Facilities and Operations	Cost	Notes
Rent	\$12,000	
Facility maintenance	\$996	
Equipment & Equipment Leases	\$3,300	
Overhead	\$49,677 00	Back end and start-up support
Total Facilities Costs	\$65,973.00	
IV Contracts and Services	Cost	Notes
Program Contractors	\$12,000	Los Sabrosos, STEM Coding, Venture Outdoors, etc
Total Services Costs	\$12,000.00	
Total Proposed Budget	\$360,521.40	

To Whom It May Concern,

Los Sabrosos Dance Company teaches dance, movement, and fitness classes all over the country, with our headquarters based in Pittsburgh, PA. Our programs are designed by seasoned educators and dancers that have years of experience teaching children and adults of all levels. Our classes offer a mix of cultural and physical movement lessons that help children and adults best connect with their bodies. Our classes focus on helping individuals find freedom, self-expression, and self-confidence through dance & fitness.

Los Sabrosos Dance Company has worked with SOY Pittsburgh to lead dance and fitness classes for their students at several of their school programs. This has included running Yoga and Zumba classes via Zoom during the pandemic when schools were closed, to teaching in-person Latin dance classes at an elementary school and a middle school.

The programs that SOY Pittsburgh offers to its students clearly demonstrates a strong ethos in supporting Latino children in many developmental facets of their lives, from scholarly education to education in the arts, culture, and physical movement.

Los Sabrosos Dance Co. greatly values working with SOY Pittsburgh and would be delighted in helping them expand their programming to other schools and community centers.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicolette Pawlowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "P".

Nicolette Pawlowski, PhD

President

Los Sabrosos Dance & Fitness Co.

Helping individuals find freedom, passion, self-expression, and self-confidence through dancing.

(412) 465-0290

4909 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15224

www.LSpgh.com



To whom it may concern,

February 28, 2022

My name is David Listorti and I am the head principal at Francis McClure Elementary School within the McKeesport Area School District. I am writing this letter in support of creating a partner site with SOY (Supporting Our Youth) at Francis McClure Elementary School. There is a great need in our district to have a program like SOY to assist our Spanish-speaking students and their families. Francis McClure Elementary is where all elementary ELL students attend and would be the school to host the SOY program. Currently, there are 23 Spanish-speaking ELL students out of the 27-total number of ELL students here at Francis McClure.

Over the past two school years, a remarkable number of Latino families from have moved to McKeesport and have faced many extreme challenges from food insecurity, permanent housing issues, and one of the biggest barriers that our families face is transportation. As a way to support our ELL students and families, the staff at McClure started a Caring Closet for all families to access items such as clothes, food, housewares. Families and staff work together to plan a time for families to come to the building to pick up items. As stated before, transportation is a major issue with getting our families physically to our school. One parent was charged \$30.00 one way to get from their house in McKeesport to Francis McClure Elementary. This same parent told us that she paid \$80.00 for a ride to Children's Hospital for a medical appointment for her daughter. This is an injustice for our families which ultimately impacts our students when their parents cannot come to McClure Elementary for meetings, presentations, and school programs like our afterschool programs where bussing is not provided.

The Latino Community Center has been extremely helpful to our families with an understanding how the US school system works, services available to families, and just as a comfort to speak to someone who speaks Spanish when they have questions about their children.

McKeesport Area School District, especially Francis McClure Elementary School is committed to assist our Latino families however we can. Being a partner site for the SOY program would help our families and strengthen the district and SOY goals for academic advancement, cultural empowerment, social-emotional Development, and family engagement.

Please let me know if I can provide any other support or information that would assist in the development of a SOY Francis McClure Elementary site.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Listorti".

David Listorti



1047 Shady Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412-361-0455

February 23, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased and honored to write a letter in support of the Latino Community Center's Supporting Our Youth Pittsburgh (SOY Pgh) Elementary and Middle School programs. *Artists in Schools & Communities* at Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media is currently in our fifth year of partnership with the LCC/SOY Pgh afterschool program at both the elementary and middle school levels.

Through our partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), PCA&M offers Artist Residency Projects and other vital arts programming to schools, community organizations, and nonprofit service agencies working with both children and adults in Allegheny, Beaver, Greene, and Washington counties.

This year, with additional support from the PCA, we are implementing a 60-day Long Term Residency (LTR) Project with SOY Pgh Elementary at Pittsburgh Beechwood. Through this LTR we are seeking to a) reinforce pride in Latino heritage through the exploration of art practices from the various Latin American countries that make up the student population of the SOY afterschool program, b) to weave the culture and identity of the student population into the existing Pittsburgh community through arts programming and art installations, c) to create opportunities for students to celebrate their contributions to the community of Pittsburgh through engaged art programming and installations, and d) to develop ongoing programming and hands-on engagements for SOY students with Latino citizen artists living, working, and successfully contributing to the culture of Pittsburgh

We truly value partnering with and learning from the Latino Community Center/SOY Pgh and look forward to future opportunities!

Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Brenholts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Brenholts
Director, Artists in Schools & Communities
412-606-4723
mbrenholts@pfpca.org



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

8353 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD • MOON TOWNSHIP PA 15108 • 412-264-9440 • WWW.MOONAREA.NET • FAX: 412-264-3268

MOON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 24, 2022

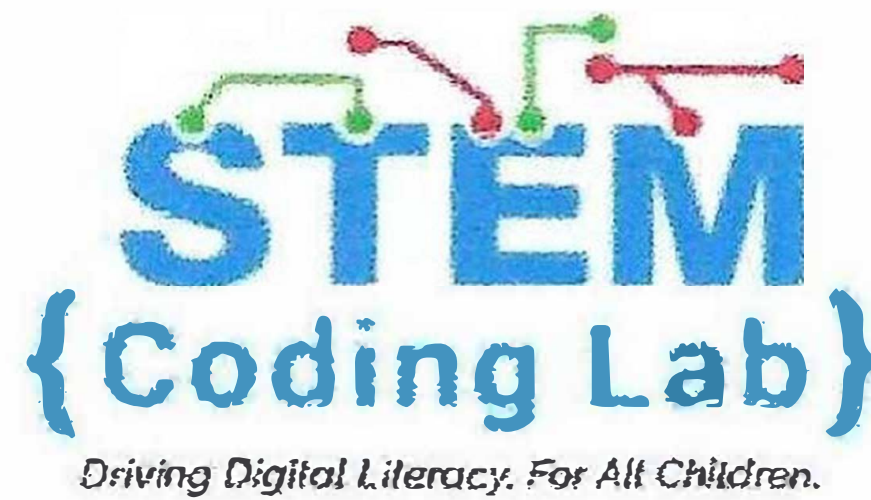
To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Pupil Services Director for the Moon Area School District. I am writing in support of the Latino Community Center's grant application to make R. J. Hyde Elementary School a partner/host site for the SOY Pittsburgh after school program. Funding for transportation must be provided for this to be a viable option in the district. My understanding is that the after-school program will provide academic support, homework help, cultural partnerships/enrichment activities, field trips and even after-school snacks and meals for our Latino youth. The Hyde Elementary staff and parents are excited for the broad range of enrichment opportunities and activities that this program will provide!

Please contact me if you need additional information to support this grant application.

Sincerely,

Michael Haslett
Michael Haslett
Pupil Services Director



February 26, 2022

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of STEM Coding Lab, I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the work of the Latino Community Center (LCC) and their Supporting Our Youth (SOY) program. For the past two years, STEM Coding Lab has been proud to partner with LCC by offering elementary and middle school students enrolled in their SOY program with computer science (CS) education courses, designed to pique youth interest in the topic.

At every stage of our partnership, the LCC has been an engaged, caring, and effective partner. The relationships STEM Coding Lab has been able to establish and sustain with students at Beachwood Elementary School and Arsenal Middle School (Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8) are entirely thanks to the work of the LCC and the community they have galvanized through their efforts.

In Pennsylvania today, there are more than 16,000 open computer science jobs, and yet, less than half of our commonwealth's K-8 schools offer a foundational computer science course. At STEM Coding Lab, our job is to fill those vacancies to ensure that all children gain the long-term benefit of CS learning. Our partnership with the LCC has allowed us to do just that.

I am of the sentiment that "we all do better when we all do better," and few groups represent that ideology better than the LCC. These past few months and years have been challenging for all of us, but they have been made infinitely less challenging because of the LCC's commitment to under-resourced kids and families throughout Pittsburgh.

STEM Coding Lab is honored to call the LCC a partner, and we are wholly committed to doing all that is necessary in order for our collaboration to grow in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Casey Mindlin", is written over a white background.

Casey Mindlin
Executive Director
STEM Coding Lab
800 Vinial St., Suite A200
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
casey@stemcodinglab.org





1047 Shady Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
412-361-0455

February 23, 2022

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Michael Haslett
Michael Haslett
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