

Jennifer Larson, Budget Director
City of Dubuque
50 West 13th Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-4864



February 15, 2016

Re: FY16 Grant Funding Request- Every Child/Every Promise

Dear Jennifer:

The purpose of this letter is to request the \$25,000 budgeted City funding support from the ongoing grant funding identified to assist in the implementation of the Every Child/Every Promise initiative.

The work ECEP does supports making Dubuque a Sustainable City. Additionally, ECEP coordinates providers to encourage planned and managed growth, partnering for a better Dubuque, and improved connectivity, all 5 year goals of the City of Dubuque.

ECEP leads the Dubuque Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, working with dozens of community partners including schools, nonprofits, business, philanthropy and others. The Campaign has developed a 3 year plan to improve grade-level reading achievement with a focus on School Readiness, School Attendance and Summer Learning.

This summer, the initiative will support an innovative new Summer Academy in that will bring together students who are most in need with best-practices, research-based curriculum, certified teachers and enriched learning opportunities for seven weeks this summer. The purpose is to stop or even reverse summer learning loss for these students.

With this in mind, Every Child/Every Promise respectfully requests \$25,000 in funding from the Every Child/Every Promise Grant Fund to support the 2016 Summer Academy.

The requested funds will leverage an additional \$194,450 in investments from our partners including the Dubuque Community School District, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and others. The total cost to serve the anticipated 200 students is \$219,450.

To support this request, ECEP is providing background information regarding the Summer Academy (Attachment A) and budget (Attachment B).

Sincerely,

Eric Dregne
Vice President Strategic Initiatives
Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque
Every Child|Every Promise

Attachment A

Dubuque Campaign for Grade-Level Reading: Summer Learning, Summer Academy

A major factor that leads to academic achievement, including graduating from high school, is achieving reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade. In fact, research tells us that when students read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade they are 74% more to graduate from high school.

Third grade represents the pivotal point where children move from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn'. In Dubuque, local organizations and stakeholders are partnering to close the gaps separating low-income students from their peers; raise the bar for reading proficiency; and ensure all children an equal chance at success. Dubuque's Campaign for Grade-Level Reading has developed an action plan to improve grade level reading for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade students and metrics to measure progress by 2015 in all three focus areas: School Readiness, Attendance & Summer Learning.

Summer is a critical time for students; evidence shows that students experience summer learning loss during the long summer months when they are not engaged in learning activities on a regular basis. The problem is even worse for students of low-income families who often do not have access or resources to attend learning based summer programs or have less access to books and reading opportunities. An innovative initiative in Dubuque strives to change that.

Summer Academy

Summer Academy expands learning time to prevent summer learning loss. A partnership between schools and community partners delivers programs that blend academics with hands-on enrichment, activities, field trips, and service projects. Activities are designed to be engaging, teach new skills, support development of talent, and foster creativity and innovation. The program aligns with the Common Core curriculum and meets the requirements of Chapter 62 of the Iowa code to help students master reading skills.

The program is designed to achieve the following goals:

- Students will increase their reading skills.
- Students will strengthen their self-confidence.
- Students will improve their social skills.
- Parents will become more engaged in their children's education.

Summer Academy was launched by a group of dedicated organizations in 2013. The goal of the Summer Academy program was the prevention of summer learning loss. The program has gotten impressive results and is growing;

- 2013 - eighty-four percent (84%) of 47 students maintained or improved their reading proficiency
- 2014 -eighty-two percent (82%) of 180 students maintained or improved their reading proficiency
- 2015 - Summer Academy expanded to two locations and included instruction from the school during the morning period and enrichment activities from community providers in the afternoon. More than 200 students participated and achieved an overall increase in reading proficiency of 2.3%.

In 2016, Summer Academy will run for six weeks, from June to August. The program is lead by the Dubuque Community Schools and Every Child/Every Promise. The Dubuque Community School District will host the program at Kennedy and Prescott schools.

Attachment B

Summer Academy 2016 Program Budget Expenses

210 children (14 classrooms of 15) entering grades 1st, 2nd & 3rd enrolled in 6 week program receiving DCSD instruction/lunch 8-12 Monday - Thursday and all day Summer Academy program Monday - Friday

Expenses

Personnel	\$53,600
Transportation	\$20,000
Supplies/Training	\$ 2,500
Meals	\$36,250
Communications	\$ 2,500
Program Evaluation	\$15,000
Intensive Reading Program	<u>\$90,000</u>
Total Expense	\$219,450