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Adjusted Allocation | 0.00
Remaining | -487,500.00
Applicants shall respond to the prompts or questions in the areas listed below in a narrative form.

A) APPLICANT INFORMATION - General Information, Experience and Capacity

1. Project Title: Arts in Motion

2. Executive summary: Provide an executive summary of your project proposal and which goal(s) in question 9 you seek to achieve. Please limit your responses to no more than three sentences.

3. Total Students Impacted: 110

4. Lead applicant primary contact: - Provide the following information:
   First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Melinda Hardgrow
   Organizational name of lead applicant: A+ Children's Academy Community School
   Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 013232
   Address of lead applicant: 110 Obetz Road, Columbus, Ohio 43207
   Phone Number of lead applicant: 614 491 8502
   Email Address of lead applicant: mhardgrow@apluschildrenacademy.org

5. Secondary applicant contact: - Provide the following information, if applicable:
   First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Paula Lasley
   Organizational name of secondary applicant: A+ Children's Academy Community School
   Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 013232
   Address of secondary applicant: 110 Obetz Road, Columbus, Ohio 43207
   Phone number of secondary applicant: 614 491 8502
   Email address of secondary applicant: plasley@apluschildrenacademy.org

6. List all other participating entities by name: Provide the following information for each additional participating entity, if applicable: Mention First Name, Last Name, Organizational Name, Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID), Address, Phone Number, Email Address of Contact for All Secondary Applicants in the box below.

7. Partnership and consortia agreements and letters of support: - (Click on the link below to upload necessary documents).

8. Please provide a brief description of the team or individuals responsible for the implementation of this project including relevant experience in other innovative projects. You should also include descriptions and experiences of partnering entities.

Melinda Dawn "Mindi" Hardgrow, was raised on the Far South Side of Columbus and graduated from Hamilton Township High School. Mindi has always had a strong connection to her community as a civic leader, neighborhood activist and an advocate for family values. She has worked as a school administrator for over twelve years and understands what is required to lead staff, students, and parents into a 21st century learning environment. As a civic leader, Mrs. Hardgrow was the chair of a task force which successfully created the Far South Columbus Area Commission and has served as the president of this commission for five years. She has also served on the development committee for the Scioto Southland Area Plan ensuring that the Far South Side of Columbus continues to create progressive objectives and opportunities to prosper all businesses and residents. As a respected leader and community advocate, Hardgrow has formed strong relationships and instituted long lasting partnerships with many benevolent stakeholders in the neighborhood that will enrich the lives of her students at A+ Children's Academy as well as every child and family in the Far South and surrounding areas. Mrs. Hardgrow has worked on several successful grant writing projects that have brought over 3.5 million dollars of community services and resources into the Far South Side of Columbus. Mrs. Hardgrow received an Associate of Arts degree in Equestrian Studies from the University of Findlay. Through a learning initiative and free summer equestrian program that lasted seven years, Hardgrow taught school aged children to ride safely and instilled the importance of including outdoor activities in their daily routines. Hardgrow earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Kaplan University which she has effectively applied to expand and accelerate the community outreach programs she has developed over the last decade. A+ Children's Academy Community School was established in 2012 with Mrs. Hardgrow being the secondary applicant. The contract was approved by The Ohio Department of Education Office of School Sponsorship. Mrs. Hardgrow was the lead writer in the contract and assisted in developing the content ultimately creating a blueprint for an innovative Arts integrated elementary school. In the first year of A+ Children's Academy's existence enrollment increased by 25% and test scores were on the rise. Mrs. Hardgrow has set attainable goals for the school in the five year forecast. The foremost goal is to achieve a Grade A in the state grading scale within three years of the school being established. Paula Lasley has served a long career as an educator in the Central Ohio area. She has been a teacher, principal, supervisor and superintendent in both public schools and community schools in urban and suburban settings at the K through 12 levels. Paula lead as the superintendent at the Arts and College Preparatory Academy raising state rankings to Excellent making it one of the highest performing community schools in the state. She also has Inservice in Special Education. Paula served as co founder for two charter schools in the area and continues to be a leader in the areas of innovation and design. She currently serves as teacher leader for A+ Children's Academy and works with staff to create a program infusing the arts in the classroom through collaboration and design. Paula has received over 6 million dollars in grants and donations to support school programming and business partnerships. She has served as a member of various boards to help pursue quality programming for a diverse set of learners. Her willingness to strive to improve education for central Ohio learners has earned her numerous honors and awards.

B) PROJECT DESCRIPTION - Overall description of project and alignment with Outcomes

9. Which of the stated Straight A Fund goals does the proposal aim to achieve? - (Check all that apply)
   • Student achievement
   • Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast
   • Utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom

10. Which of the following best describes the proposed project? - (Select one:)
    • New - never before implemented
    • Existing and researched-based - never implemented in your district or community school but proven successful in other educational environments
    • Mixed Concept - incorporates new and existing elements
    • Enhancing/Scale Up - elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership

11. Describe the innovative project

Families looking for a unique, alternative education program provided in a positive and supportive environment that provides students with an individualized learning plan designed to make each child successful will find it at A+CA. Course offerings in technology, art, music, movement, and environmental education taught by course specialists support, strengthen, and enrich A+CA's standards-based curriculum and state assessment requirements. A+CA will use music and movement classes to support the emotional development of the students and to strengthen the learning curriculum by integrating learning targets from the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics into their music and movement classes. The Jazz Arts Group is also a strong Partner. Judy Shafter, Education Director, has agreed to spend at least a full half day per week working with staff to create lessons and provide musicians for purposeful instruction. Additionally, Ms. Shafter and the superintendent will
D) IMPLEMENTATION

12. Describe how it will meet the goal(s) selected above.

We understand that if we receive Straight A Funds that we have to be able to sustain the program beginning in Fiscal Year 2019, and we estimate the cost to sustain this program will be approximately $30,000 annually. We believe that as a result of the increased technology and technology infrastructure that the Straight A Fund will provide that we will be able to: 1. Bring new students to achieve our growth goals each year. The newly enrolled students will enable A+ Children's Academy to use these community funds. 2. A+ Children's Academy will be able to consolidate multiple sites into one site due to the increased enrollment as a result of these funds. The project goal has been increased to 20 students per year. The school will realize spending of $8,400 per student for each FTE that the Straight A fund will bring to A+CA. In our forecast we have budgeted for Capital Outlay. We know that we annually spend a portion of this on capital outlay for technology purchases, both for equipment and infrastructure. We estimate that $15,000 of this budget will result as a result of the technology improvements provided by the Straight A Fund. School building improvements for soundproofing and flooring will be a one time need. 3. We estimate that the training provided by the Fund will offset some professional development costs we have incurred in the past. We believe all the above items will be more than sufficient to offset more than $30,000 in sustainability costs.

13. Financial Documentation - All applicants must enter or upload the following supporting information. Responses should refer to specific information in the financial documents when applicable:

a. Enter a project budget

b. Upload the Straight A Financial Impact Template forecasting the expected changes to the five-year forecast resulting from implementation of this project. If applying as a consortia or partnership, please include the five-year forecasts of each school district, community school or STEM school member for review.

c. If subsection (b) is not applicable, please explain why, in addition to how the project will demonstrate sustainability and impact.

We understand that if we receive Straight A Funds that we have to be able to sustain the program beginning in Fiscal Year 2019, and we estimate the cost to sustain this program will be approximately $30,000 annually. We believe that as a result of the increased technology and technology infrastructure that the Straight A Fund will provide that we will be able to: 1. Bring new students to achieve our growth goals each year. The newly enrolled students will enable A+ Children's Academy to use these community funds. 2. A+ Children's Academy will be able to consolidate multiple sites into one site due to the increased enrollment as a result of these funds. The project goal has been increased to 20 students per year. The school will realize spending of $8,400 per student for each FTE that the Straight A fund will bring to A+CA. In our forecast we have budgeted for Capital Outlay. We know that we annually spend a portion of this on capital outlay for technology purchases, both for equipment and infrastructure. We estimate that $15,000 of this budget will result as a result of the technology improvements provided by the Straight A Fund. School building improvements for soundproofing and flooring will be a one time need. 3. We estimate that the training provided by the Fund will offset some professional development costs we have incurred in the past. We believe all the above items will be more than sufficient to offset more than $30,000 in sustainability costs.

14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?

487,500.00 * Total project cost

* Provide a brief narrative explanation of the overall budget. The narrative should include the source and amount of other funds that may be used to support this concept (e.g., Title I funding, RTT money, local funding, foundation support, etc.), and provide details on the cost of items included in the budget (i.e., staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.).

A+ Children's Academy Community School would like to use Straight A grants to create a integrated learning environment that cultivates student achievement and connects various learning styles in music and dance to meet the needs of our students. In order to cultivate the integrated learning model we will need to invest in instruments, technology, professional development and family and community support. These investments will help ensure that the integrated learning model is just a stage that is embedded into our best practices. In order for integrated learning to be a part of our best practices we would like to have personnel from partner programs work with our staff and students. Additionally, they would supply artists to provide instruction and performance to students and families. Transportation and ticket costs would be necessary to ensure students and families the ability to attend. This would allow families the ability to attend during non school hours, as well as day time performances.

15. What new/recurring costs of your innovative project will continue once the grant has expired? If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

5,000.00 * Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the anticipated savings (i.e., staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

Transportation and ticket costs, although discounted, would continue to be needed for continued implementation. Community partners and artist costs would still be incurred. Family and Community support costs would still be incurred after the term of the grant. Capital Outlay, although significantly reduced, would still be a priority for incoming students. New costs will arise due to the use of technology and equipment. There will be a part time IT person to troubleshoot and repair equipment. The clinical impact will mostly be inventory and record keeping of the new items purchased. With the application of state funding and the higher enrollment figures, a part time person will easily be salaried in the general fund dollars.

16. Are there expected savings that may result from the implementation of the innovative project?

48,000.00 * Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: Provide details on the savings anticipated (i.e., staff counts and salary/benefits, equipment to be purchased and cost, etc.)

The expected savings anticipated from the implementation of the project will allow the school to utilize the funds to hire additional support teachers responsible for the learners. The project will provide comprehensive learning experiences in areas such as sound production and the music industry. This is a critical area of need. In addition to the implementation of the new project, A+ Children's Academy will be able to hire the third and fourth grades teacher, as well as the second grade teacher, to provide the additional support services of the learners.

17. Provide a brief explanation of how the project will be self-sustaining. If there are ongoing costs associated with the project after the term of the grant, this explanation should provide details on the cost reductions that will be made that are at least equal to the amount of new/recurring costs detailed above. If there are no new/recurring costs, explain in detail how the project will sustain itself beyond the life of the grant.

Sustainability is essential after the Straight A Funds have expired in Fiscal Year 2019. It is imperative that the programs, materials, and partnerships extend past the five year forecast for it to be a success. Sustainability is estimated at approximately $30,000 annually. Any new or recurring costs such as transportation and field trip costs will be absorbed into the general budget. As a community school we are able to bring in new students to achieve our growth goals. Families want to have innovative opportunities for their children. We will be able to provide this through the Straight A Fund. With the increased enrollment the project cost will be offset. Capital Outlay dollars have been budgeted in the current forecast and will continue to do so past fiscal year 2019. We believe that these items are sufficient to exceed the sustainability of the costs to offset the Straight A Fund.

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning

18. Fill in the appropriate dates and an explanation of the timeline for the successful implementation of the project. In each explanation, be sure to briefly describe the largest barriers that could delay your concept or project implementation and your plan to proactively mitigate such barriers. In addition, the narrative should list the stakeholders that will be engaged during that stage of the project and describe the communication that occurred as the application was developed.

Describe the ongoing communication plan with the stakeholders as the project is implemented. (Stakeholders can include parents, community leaders, foundation support and businesses, as well as educational
As members of the South Side Area Association, the Superintendent and her committee will develop a communication strategy to inform area families and community members of the award of the Straight A Grant within the first three months. Ms. Hargrove will request to be on the January agenda to announce A+ Children’s Academy’s award and the partnership developed for students and the community. Similarly, she will also speak at the South Side Homeowners Association meeting and attend the luncheon of the Parsons Avenue Business Association. A point-power presentation will be made with time for questions and discussion to follow. Additionally, there will be several print materials for dissemination. The South Side News and The Shopper Reporter are two publications eager to print stories about the school. Both have done several articles on past activities at the school. The committee will also produce newsletters, flyers and brochures to share with parents, partners and area businesses. The school will include announcements and videos of the event. An assembly will occur to announce the second. Secondly, planning for spring implementation will occur. Jazz, Arts, Ballet Met and the staff will begin weekly meetings to assign and report out on tasks necessary for implementation. Each of these groups were active in conversations and development of the initial grant application. Their eagerness to proceed to the planning stage is evident in current programming at the school. The dance and music teachers will work with the Education Directors to schedule art previews for students and parents. Two of these events will take place outside the typical school day. One will be infused into the Annual Spring Musical performed by A+ students. Students and teachers will also attend for invitations for area leaders, families and artists to attend. Additionally, the remainder of the classroom teachers will begin both staff development discussions and curriculum planning for the last nine week grading period.

19. Describe the expected changes to the instructional and/or organizational practices in your institution.

20. Describe the rationale, research or past success that supports the innovative project and its impact on student achievement, spending reduction in the five year fiscal forecast or utilization of a greater share of resources in the classroom.

21. Is this project able to be replicated in other districts in Ohio? [ ] Yes [ ] No

22. If so, how?

23. Describe the substantial value and lasting impact that the project hopes to achieve.

The planning team recognize that there is much work to be done during the upcoming year. We are confident that the tools we have developed to create positive school culture and are transferable to any school, anywhere. However, the development of a curriculum that has an embedded arts integration theme throughout the core curriculums and is specifically designed for K-6 school students will require significant planning and implementation work. The staff and partners have set an ambitious, but achievable agenda to create a curriculum that will serve to engage students in a manner that supports
24. What are the specific benchmarks related to the fund goals identified in question 9 that the project aims to achieve in five years? Include any other anticipated outcomes of the project that you hope to achieve that may not be easily benchmarked.

Benchmarking will bring accountability to A+CA to measure the areas of success within the frame of the Straight A Fund. Benchmarks allow for teachers and administration to evaluate how well students are absorbing the lessons. A+CA also recognizes that children must receive intentional instruction in the core academic areas as outlined in the Ohio Department of Education Academic Content Standards. Therefore, McGraw-Hill will be used as the curriculum for Reading, Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. The curriculum materials are research-based and aligned to the ODE Core Academic Content Standards and the scope and sequences in each of the academic content areas will be used to guide instruction in Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. This curriculum was selected because it provides clear directions for teachers on how to differentiate instruction based on the needs of the learner and provides for examples of how the arts can be integrated in the core academic areas. The publisher will provide the teachers with professional development on how best to use, integrate the arts and modify the curriculum based on the needs of the students. The formative assessments provided in the curriculum will be used from progress monitoring. This data, along with standardized assessment data will be used by the teaching staff to determine how students are performing and if changes are needed in the curriculum and instruction. A balance will be achieved by integrating a child-centered curriculum with scope and sequenced outlined in a commercial curriculum. Children's Academy will analyze the results of an array of assessments to evaluate students. Some of the assessments to be used for student evaluation are the following: standardized tests, performance assessments, rubrics, student portfolios, classroom assessments, and teacher observations. A+ Children's Academy will administer federal and state – required assessments, including the Ohio Academic Achievement Testing starting in grade three. Understanding the importance of assessment alignment, the developers of the school will investigate which criterion referenced tests are currently being used in the schools of the targeted student population to select one for use at the Academy. Results from state assessments, screening tools and diagnostic assessments will be used to develop a personalized learning plan for each student which will be used to track and evaluate students to monitor student progress on a regular basis. AIMSweb will be used as the progress monitoring tool because of the importance of analyzing multiple sources of data to make informed decisions regarding student performance. A+CA will implement a comprehensive assessment plan that will inform instruction. Through professional development, A+CA teachers will know WHY they are giving an assessment. WHAT it is that they are assessing, and WHAT are the criteria for success. A+ Children's Academy will use the first year of operation to collect baseline data on the Academy's students to inform the development of performance standards and learning targets. The performance index and other measures on the Local Report Card will be used as indicators of school and student success. A+CA will establish performance standards and learning targets for the following areas: reading; math; student attendance; student behavior; social and emotional development; and performing arts. Student performance will be measured by individual student growth and improvement in specific content areas.

25. Describe the plan to evaluate the impact of the concept, strategy or approaches used.

* Include the method by which progress toward short- and long-term objectives will be measured. (This section should include the types of data to be collected, the formative outputs and outcomes and the systems in place to track the program’s progress).

* Include the method, process and/or procedure by which the program will modify or change the program plan if measured progress is insufficient to meet program objectives.

The instructional philosophy is an unrelenting commitment to achievement combining three interrelated components. Needs-based, grade-specific instruction, arts integrated learning within an environment that is welcoming, nurturing, engaging and rewarding. Daily formative assessments will drive daily lesson planning that will be directly tied to Common Core and state of Ohio benchmarks. Mastery of specific benchmarks is the objective. Through our relationship with McGraw Hill and its digital curriculum, the means and modalities of new media expression and literacy will be seamlessly integrated throughout the curriculums to ensure students’ competency with these tools while also serving to more thoroughly engage students in the education process. Collaborative projects with an arts focus will help students acquire and master 21st Century skills. The leadership and staff will undertake the creation and nurturing of the school's culture as the initial and primary challenge. Much of this work will be completed during intensive, wide-ranging professional development on an ongoing basis. The staff’s experience is that the school’s climate must reflect mutuality of respect, accountability, responsibility, support, and encouragement between and among the adults and the students. Teachers will be encouraged to be creative in forming relationships of respect and trust with their students, parents and guardians. A singularity of purpose - academic achievement and school readiness - will always drive what we do. The creation and maintenance of a school climate that supports our singular purpose must remain constant within our thoughts and actions. The statistics cited about the neighborhood point to the need for a school with purpose. Parents and students who live and attend school in our target area have few choices for quality education. The only open enrollment school in the area is rated at a “C” by Ohio's Department of Education and no school is rated either as "A" or "B." There are no available schools offering school instruction in the targeted neighborhoods. If given a choice, parents in Columbus appear to be willing to trust under-performing charter schools where their children will at least be safe over under-performing city schools that carry a reputation of being places of sometimes indiscriminate violence and bullying. The founders of A+CA understand and appreciate the importance of carefully developing a comprehensive marketing strategy that will enable the school to meet student projection projects. If the grant is approved, the management team will invest in the creation of a comprehensive branding, marketing and advertising strategy to raise awareness of the pending opening and mission of the school throughout the community and to meet or exceed our projections for enrolled students. A key component to the building of a cadre of teachers that will enable the school to achieve excellence will be an extensive and intensive dedication to professional development. The most effective professional development is specifically tailored to address recognized staff weaknesses, to highlight proven and emerging methods to move students toward excellence, and to helping teachers become masters of their crafts. Finally, the faculty will need to be culturally aware enough in order to recognize and intervene early with obstacles that can impede the academic achievement of students. The school must provide easy access to summative assessment data cross-linked to individual student performance benchmarks; parent contact information; be data import and export friendly so that data can flow from and into other applications that the school uses and include a sub-application to allow parents to be able to securely log in and track their child's progress. The planning team is open to make changes, as needed, during any phase of the grant.

By virtue of applying for the Straight A Fund, all applicants agree to participate in the overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund for the duration of the evaluation timeframe. The Governing Board of the Straight A Fund reserves the right to conduct evaluation of the plan and request additional information in the form of data, surveys, interviews, focus groups, and any other related data to the legislature, governor, and other interested parties for an overall evaluation of the Straight A Fund.

PROGRAM ASSURANCES: I agree, on behalf of this applicant agency and/or all identified partners to abide by all assurances outlined in the Assurance section of the CCIP. In the box below, enter “I Accept” and indicate your name, title, agency/organization and today’s date.

Accept Melinda Hardgoy, Superintendent, A+ Children's Academy Community School. October 24, 2013