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**Adjusted Allocation** 0.00

**Remaining** -1,400,000.00
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:

4. Lead applicant primary contact: - Provide the following information:
   First Name, last Name of contact for lead applicant: Jeff Gruber
   Organizational name of lead applicant: Canton City School District
   Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): 043711
   Address of lead applicant: 1312 Fifth Street SW Canton OH 44707
   Phone Number of lead applicant: (330) 438-2509
   Email Address of lead applicant: gruber_jj@ccsdistrict.org

5. Secondary applicant contact: - Provide the following information, if applicable:
   First Name, last Name of contact for secondary applicant: N/A
   Organizational name of secondary applicant: N/A
   Unique Identifier (IRN/Fed Tax ID): N/A
   Address of secondary applicant: N/A
   Phone number of secondary applicant: N/A
   Email address of secondary applicant: N/A

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 (IRN/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.

Jeff Gruber - District Treasurer Tad Ellsworth - District Business Manager Connie Dickon - District Transportation Supervisor

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.

In the spring of 2013, the district was awarded a diesel emissions reduction grant (DERG) from the Ohio EPA for the purpose of purchasing four compressed natural gas buses. The intent of the DERG grant is to reduce diesel emissions in Stark County by replacing traditional diesel vehicles with another form of transportation that is friendlier to the environment. Part of the reason Canton City Schools was selected was because the district has access to a compressed natural gas fueling station. The station is located 1.9 miles from the district's bus garage and is maintained by the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA). Our intent is to continue to upgrade our aging fleet of buses while saving significant dollars on annual maintenance expenses and fuel costs and expanding our shared services arrangement with SARTA.

12. Describe how it will meet the goal(s) selected above. - If school/district receives school improvement funds/support, include a brief explanation of how this project will advance the improvement plan.

Goal of spending reductions will be met by reducing fuel costs by an estimated $1.50 per gallon (anticipated savings of $28,026 per year, $2,802 per year per CNG bus), cost of buses themselves ($1.4M), and annual maintenance costs of $50,044 ($4,844 per year per CNG bus for first 3 years, $4,044 per year per CNG bus in years 4-9). The annual savings estimates were confirmed during the district's Ohio EPA DERG grant process.

C) SUSTAINABILITY - Planning for ongoing funding of the project, cost breakdown

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.

The May 2013 board adopted 5 year forecast has been included as an attachment with this application. The forecast has been modified to show the receipt of the $1.4M Straight A Fund grant and Purchased Services line item 3.030 has been reduced in fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017 by annual anticipated savings of $16,466.
14. What is the total cost for implementing the innovative project?

$1,400,000.00 * 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.).

Cost of a compressed natural gas bus is approximately $140,008 per bus. The budget is based on acquiring 10 buses. The district's General Fund is used to support maintenance and fuel costs. Fiscal year 2012 T-2 reports indicate the district spends on average $5,944 per bus on annual maintenance and repairs and $6,673 per bus on fuel costs.

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.

0.00 * Specific amount of new/recurring cost (annual cost after project is implemented)

* Narrative explanation/rationale: 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.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

Recurring costs will consist of repair and maintenance and fuel costs. However, these annual costs will be reduced by replacing buses that have been a part of the fleet for the past 15 years with new buses.

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

76,466.00 * Specific amount of expected savings (annual)

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

Goal of spending reductions will be met by reducing fuel costs by an estimated $1.50 per gallon (anticipated savings of $28,026 per year, $2,802 per year per CNG bus), cost of buses themselves ($1.4M), and annual maintenance costs of $48,440 ($4,844 per year per CNG bus for first 3 years, $4,044 per year per CNG in years 4-6, $3,544 per year per CNG bus in years 7-9). The annual savings estimates were confirmed during the district's Ohio EPA DERG grant process.

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 this project will sustain itself beyond the life of the grant.

Ongoing costs associated with the project will continue in the form of annual repair and maintenance and fuel costs. However, it should be expected for annual maintenance costs to decrease to approximately $200 (from current average of $5,044, T-2 reports) per year for at least the first three years due to replacing existing buses in the fleet with a minimum of 15 years of service with new buses. As of October 18, 2013, the average diesel cost per gallon in Ohio is $3.62 per gallon, compared to $2.03 per gallon for compressed natural gas.

D) IMPLEMENTATION - Timeline, communication and contingency planning

18. Fill in the appropriate dates and an explanation of the timeline for the successful implementation of this project. In each explanation, be sure to briefly describe the largest barriers that could derail your concept or timeline for 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 personnel in the affected entities.)

* Proposal Timeline Dates

Plan (MM/DD/YYYY): 12/09/2013

* Narrative explanation

Seek approval from the Canton City School District Board of Education to seek bids for compressed natural gas buses. Award bid at the January 2014 meeting.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 04/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

Buses arrive in the district.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 08/19/2014

* Narrative explanation

First full school year the compressed natural gas buses would be utilized.

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

Proposal does not include instructional practices. The impact on organizational practices would include an increased sense of responsibility to protect the environment by reducing Canton City Schools carbon footprint in whatever form that takes.

E) SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT AND LASTING VALUE - Impact, evaluation and replication

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.

I should be expected for annual maintenance costs to decrease to approximately $200 (from current average of $5,044, T-2 reports) per year for at least the first three years due to replacing existing buses in the fleet with a minimum of 15 years of service with new buses. As of October 18, 2013, the average diesel cost per gallon in Ohio is $3.62 per gallon, compared to $2.03 per gallon for compressed natural gas. The benefit to the environment should also be given serious consideration.

21. Is this project able to be replicated in other districts in Ohio?

F YES  F NO

22. If so, how?

Yes school districts have access to CNG fueling stations like Canton City Schools does. The CNG fueling station is located 1.9 miles from our bus garage.

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

The substantial value and lasting impact to be demonstrated to the students we serve now and for many years to come is that protecting the environment is a top concern and that all measures that lead to this goal should be considered when the opportunity to address it arises.

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.

The goal is to reduce annual transportation expenses and reduce diesel emissions.

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.

Transportation departments are required to file annual T-2 reports. This report captures fleet costs associated with operating the district's transportation department. Examples include maintenance/repair, fuel, and tires.

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.
I Accept

Jeff Gruber
Treasurer
Canton City School District
10/18/2013