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Adjusted Allocation: 0.00

Remaining: -592,000.00
A) APPLICANT INFORMATION - General Information, Experience and Capacity

1. Project Title: Continental Local School’s Propane Bus and Fueling Station

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. Problem statement: Student transportation with bus fleet a significant and increasing cost for school districts because: 1. Capital / operational funds for buses and fuel purchases are tight/decreasing 2. Diesel School Buses are more costly because of new emissions control devices and EPA regulations-plus maintenance costs have increased (i.e. DPF cleaning, DEF purchases, etc).

4. Major Activities: Propane vehicle and fueling projects for school buses are easily implemented with limited steps to achieve the goals stated above through these major activities:

- Purchase and replace diesel buses with propane buses (and sell existing diesel buses where applicable/relevant).
- Build Existing and researched based - never implemented in your district or community school but proven successful in other educational environments

5. Student achievement

6. Spending reductions in the five-year fiscal forecast

7. Enhancement/Scale Up - elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership

8. Existing and researched-based - never implemented in your district or community school but proven successful in other educational environments

9. Mixed Concept - incorporates new and existing elements

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

- Enhanced/Scale Up - elevating or expanding an effective program that is already implemented in your district, school, or consortia partnership

11. Describe the innovative project.

The applicant is the superintendent of the school district. He has been previously charged with running grants from High Schools That Work and also the Race to the Top Grant while he served as the high school principal and also superintendent. The CFO is our district treasurer. She has been with the district for four years. She has extensive experience dealing with many different grants, including but not limited to High Schools That Work, Race to the Top, REAP, etc. Through audits, there has never been a finding for recovery against either the applicant or the CFO.

Continental Local School District is seeking funding to implement propane powered school buses and associated refueling infrastructure to significantly reduce operating costs over a five year fiscal time frame (currently propane is priced at more than 50% less than diesel per gallon). Implementing propane as the fuel choice for Continental Local School’s buses will offer immediate fuel cost savings from the first day of implementation and continue through the lifetime of each vehicle as well as allow the district the ability to continue to purchase more cost-effective propane powered vehicles over the long-term. Finally, in addition to offering significant operational cost savings, propane is a domestic fuel source as a by-product from natural gas production and its use as a transportation fuel results in significantly lower bus emissions providing for a healthier environment in the passenger cabin for students as well as for the wider communities in which the vehicles travel.

Lowers operating and maintenance costs. In addition, due to the cleaner burning nature of the propane molecule, school districts will see maintenance and oil change intervals extended to offer additional savings. Propane buses are not harmful to soil or water. 3. Propane currently retails for less than 50% of the cost of diesel and is projected to remain stable and low cost for the long term (domestic supply/distributed from natural gas processing, US currently net propane exporter, new supplies coming online).

Propane School Buses surpass all current EPA emissions standards without needing additional emission control devices, costly additive emission control fluids, or additional maintenance to meet these standards. In addition, due to the cleaner burning nature of the propane molecule, school districts will see maintenance and oil change intervals extended to offer additional savings. Propane buses are not harmful to soil or water. 3. Propane currently retails for less than 50% of the cost of diesel and is projected to remain stable and low cost for the long term (domestic supply/distributed from natural gas processing, US currently net propane exporter, new supplies coming online).

Finally, in addition to offering significant operational cost savings, propane is a domestic fuel source as a by-product from natural gas production and its use as a transportation fuel results in significantly lower bus emissions providing for a healthier environment in the passenger cabin for students as well as for the wider communities in which the vehicles travel.

Nationally there are many very large districts using propane fueled school buses and associated refueling infrastructure to significantly reduce operating costs over a five year fiscal time frame. 5. Secondary applicant contact:

- First Name, Last Name of contact for secondary applicant: Kathleen Schmitz
- Organizational name of secondary applicant: Continental Local School
- Unique Identifier (RN/Fed Tax ID): 049320
- Address of secondary applicant: 5211 St Rt 634, Continental, OH 45831
- Phone number of secondary applicant: 419-596-3671
- Email address of secondary applicant: ke_schmitz@on.naacs.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).

* Letters of support are for districts in academic or fiscal distress only. If school or district is in academic or fiscal distress and has a commission assigned, please include a resolution from the commission in support of the project.

* If a partnership or consortium will be established, please include the signed Straight A Description of Nature of Partnership or Description of Nature of Consortium Agreement.

UploadGrantApplicationAttachment.aspx

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.

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.
The Continental Local School Propane Bus and Fuel Station is designed to result in significant operational cost savings over the immediate five year fiscal time frame as well as offer substantial and sustainable operational and lifetime savings over the long term. The following list provides the goals of this project and associated descriptions of how each goal will be met: Project Goals: 1. Purchases propane school buses that offer demonstrable and predictable lifetime cost savings based on the lower price fuel and maintenance costs of propane. 2. Attached are price estimates from our current bus distributor for cost of new buses. This does not include options such as video cameras, etc. (Appendix B) 3. Attached are estimated Savings Calculations. (Appendix D) 4. Analysis is conservative based today’s diesel prices compared to equivalent cost for propane. More savings will be realized as diesel prices rise. Propane long-term prices are estimated to remain pretty stable due to the amount of supplies available for the foreseeable future. 2. Build Propane Refueling Infrastructure? Estimates are attached from our current distributor for creation of the fueling station. (Appendix A) 3. Enter into propane fuel contract 4. Estimates are attached from our current distributor for price comparison for diesel vs. propane fuel costs. (Appendix G) 4. Significant Operational Cost Savings from fleet running on propane? Savings as demonstrated on Appendix D indicates a savings of $17,274 per year for fuel/mileage based on actual miles driven from T1/T2 reports. 5. Fuel and scheduled maintenance costs alone would approximate to about $5,000 per year per bus in savings. 5. Significant Environmental Benefits from fleet running on propane? Emits fewer greenhouse gas emissions (Appendix I) 5. Improves air quality (Appendix I) 6. Energy security? We sit in the highest area of the state for diesel soot - this would help to decrease this (Clean Air Task Force). 6. Community benefits? Improved air quality in local community (children are most susceptible to harmful emissions). 7. Student achievement? The cost savings will allow us to put more resources directly into the classroom. Goal Achievement: 1. Savings will be evidenced in the 5-year forecast. Savings will fluctuate as costs do. 5. Running six buses on propane will reduce number of harmful particulates release to the environment. 6. Running 6 buses on propane will improve air quality in our area. 7. Schools value-added scores will improve.

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.

F Total Bus Purchase Costs = $540,000 (based on estimate from attached) * Total Station construction Costs = $50,000 (based on estimate from attached) * Additional Costs including: * Training (drivers/mechanic) = $2,000 (estimate) * Grant Admin Assistance (Contracting, Bidding, Reporting, Invoicing, etc.) - district will bear burden of associated costs. * Projected Annual Savings = $17,275 on fuel/maintenance costs alone? Projected Annual Savings = $95,000 in capital for purchases of bus of a bus in 6 out of 10 years.

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

$92,000.00 * 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 (i.e., Title I funding, RTF 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).

Included in this proposal is the purchase of six (6) propane fueled buses along with the fueling station that will need to be installed. The only other additional costs included are $2000 for training to be used by the bus drivers and the mechanic. There will be other options available for the buses that will be charged to the district (video cameras, LED flashing lights on “stop” arm, red light running cameras, etc.). Budget Rationale/Defense: 1. Budget o School Bus Purchase Cost = Bluebird propane vision bus quote - Appendix B o Station Cost = S&S Sanitation quote - Appendix E Training Costs = this is only an estimate o Admin Costs = the district will take these costs on (minimal) o Additional Costs = N/A 1. Explanation: o Initial costs for the school bus purchases, fuel station and training costs will be covered by the grant. Some options that are available on the bus will be at the districts expense - these should be somewhat minimal. Future expenses, including new buses, training, and maintenance of equipment, will be the responsibility of the district. Upon receipt of the grant, future buses that are purchased will be propane as well. 6 propane buses at $90,000 each = $540,000 1 propane fueling station = $50,000 1 training of drivers/mechanic = $2,000 ----------- Project Total = $92,000.00

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.

Propane School Bus implementation will not require any significant new/recurring costs o School will still need to maintain buses, buy new buses, purchase fuel, perform O&M on station as done on diesel* Main New/Recurring Costs = o Training for Drivers/Mechanics o Admin on Grant o Facilities Modifications o N/A o New bus purchases in the future will be incrementally more on front end but offer lifetime savings on propane to more than make up difference o New bus purchases will not need to be made for several years after this grant, and will be done incrementally.

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

$107,274.00 * 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.). If there are no new/recurring costs, please explain why.

As demonstrated in the Financial Impact Chart, annual savings on fuel and maintenance alone is projected to be nearly $17,274 per year. (Appendix G) 1. Purchasing of propane fueled buses will save the district $90,000 per year in capital outlays in six of the next 10 years. 2. Operational costs of fuel are projected and current pricing is attached (Appendix G) 3. Purchasing of propane fueled buses through this grant will save the district a minimum of $540,000 (future inflation unknown) over the next 6-8 years. (Financial Impact Table) 4. Future Bus Purchases: o Moneys from our permanent improvement levy will be allowed to accrue and set aside for replacement of bus fleet starting in 10-15 years.

17. Provide a brief explanation of how the project is 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.

As stated previously, this project is self-sustaining because once the up-front costs are accounted for, the savings will be realized through a new, less expensive propane fueled bus fleet. In addition, our district will be able to invest savings into classroom instruction and materials, and accumulate funds for propane buses in the future-saving more money for their long term operations.

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 involved 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): 10/21/2013

* Narrative explanation

The plan has been put together for the purchase of six buses and a fuel station if approved by grant.

Implement (MM/DD/YYYY): 02/01/2014

* Narrative explanation

Join the bidding process for the buses and fuel station.

Summative evaluation (MM/DD/YYYY): 06/30/2015

* Narrative explanation

Will take one year of running buses to determine actual savings to district.

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

No Significant Organizational Change Beyond Cost Savings. The Continental District will still need to perform the same operational fleet functions, the only difference will be the fuel type (i.e. propane
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.

Project researched based and successful in past in other districts? Yes

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

22. If so, how?

Because this is relatively new to Ohio, there is a definite need and ability for other districts to emulate this project. This could be especially important in this area of the state where districts are largely rural and cover many miles. Just as other districts have done for us with other projects, we would certainly allow other districts to visit and/or provide information to them on the value of this endeavor. Depending upon a district’s finances and its size, they could jump all in and complete a similar project all at one time or they could take and incorporate it over time. It is whatever works best for each district.

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

Immediate environmental benefits from propane vs. diesel fuel

Additional Resources in Classroom = improved performance index and value

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.

Benchmarks & Evaluation: 1. Bus purchases and fuel station set up easy to demonstrate as accomplished through pictures, invoices, etc. 2. Cost Savings = diesel fuel operational costs baseline - new propane operational costs from real world implementation (evidenced in 5-year forecast) 3. Environmental Benefits = diesel baseline - new propane operational actuals 4. Student Achievement & Additional Resources in Classroom - by being able to provide more resources to classroom we will see a rise in our performance index and value-added test scores. 5. Our purpose is to educate our students. It is our responsibility to not just teach students to save the environment, but we should also lead by example.

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

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

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.

Joel Mergenthaler Superintendent Continental Local School 10/25/13