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**EARLY CHILDHOOD STRATEGIC INITIATIVE**

**MISSION**

The mission of The Early Childhood Strategic Initiative is to explore and invest in programs that focus on Kindergarten readiness for children ages 3 to 5-years-old who are not in pre-school settings and may, for multiple reasons, have barriers to accessing those services.

**GRANTMAKING**

* **Phase One** of the Early Childhood Strategic Initiative consisted of grantmaking to fund pilot research to determine programmatic priorities.
* **Phase Two** of the Early Childhood Strategic Initiative is a four year grant that serves to connect families to early childhood services and resources by **ensuring that quality early childhood services and resources exist and are accessible** to children and their families, educators, and the greater community.
* **Within Phase Three**, GHCF will make an additional investment of $34,000 every year during 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 to support programs and projects that support early childhood education within each of its regional foundations. Each regional foundation—Camp Hill Area Community Foundation, Franklin County Community Foundation, Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation, Mechanicsburg Area Community Foundation, and Perry County Community Foundation—will receive a yearly sum of $6,800. \*Note, the Camp Hill Area Community Foundation, is now a part of the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation.
* **Implementation of Phases One, Two, and Three Early Childhood Strategic Initiative will result in a $500,000 total investment in early childhood education from 2017-2022.**

**IMPACT**

* Through these initiatives, TFEC seeks to leverage this effort to ultimately improve access to quality early learning opportunities for all children in South Central Pennsylvania. Phase One, Two, and Three of the Early Childhood Strategic Initiative are made possible by TFEC’s regional foundation, the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation.
* TFEC is additionally pleased to deepen its long standing organizational commitment to early education in our region by working to convene community stakeholders who are sharing intersectional early education work for the benefit of all.

**Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation Early Childhood Strategic Initiative: Phase One**

Launched in 2015 and continued in 2016, the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation worked to conduct an in-depth needs assessment to document the existing opportunities and challenges faced by families with young children who are seeking to access early childhood education programs and resources. To conduct this assessment, TFEC engaged four community partners who worked to gather community educators, local and regional stakeholders, and familial caregivers whose pre-school aged children were not currently accessing services or who had recently experienced challenges while attempting to access services. The four Phase One community partners and grantees included the Lebanon Valley Family YMCA, Perry County Literacy Council, The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region, and the YWCA Carlisle. In conjunction with the four grantees, TFEC collaborated with School Readiness Consulting to conduct an in-depth needs assessment that documented the existing opportunities along with the challenges faced by families with young children accessing early childhood education, including cultural, economic, and geographic barriers.

As a result of this study, TFEC was pleased to present the findings of its Early Childhood Needs Assessment, and introduce a new correlating grant opportunity, The Early Childhood Strategic Initiative: Phase Two, during a free community presentation held at the Linglestown Giant Community Room in March 2017.

**Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation Early Childhood Strategic Initiative: Phase Two** **– Work taking place in 2018-2021:**

The mission of The Early Childhood Strategic Initiative is to explore and invest in programs that focus on Kindergarten readiness for children ages 3 to 5-years-old who are not in pre-school settings and may, for multiple reasons, have barriers to accessing those services. To carry out this mission, the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation , a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, created two grant opportunities: The Early Childhood Strategic Initiative: Phase One and The Early Childhood Strategic Initiative: Phase Two. Through these initiatives, TFEC seeks to leverage this effort to ultimately improve access to quality early learning opportunities for all children in South Central Pennsylvania. Phase One of the Early Childhood Strategic Initiative consisted of grantmaking to fund pilot research to determine programmatic priorities. Phase Two of the Early Childhood Strategic Initiative is a four year grant that will serve to connect families to early childhood services and resources by ensuring that quality early childhood services and resources exist and are accessible to children and their families, educators, and the greater community. Within Phase Two of the Early Childhood Strategic Initiative, six grantees have been awarded a total of $55,000 to be distributed over the four year period of 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020; their correlating actions will take place during 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. This represents a $330,000 investment in early childhood education.

* Covenant Community Corporation was awarded $55,000 for Trinity Preschool - Part of the Camp Curtin Community Learning Community’s program, Early Investment - Increased Opportunity for Good Outcomes: Early Childhood Development in Harrisburg.
* Palmyra Public Library was awarded $55,000 for the Little Explorers Outreach Program.
* Perry County Literacy Council was awarded $55,000 for Ready, Set, Kindergarten!
* South Middleton School District was awarded $55,000 for the South Middleton Early Learning Community Project.
* The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region was awarded $55,000 for Kindergarten Readiness Academy & Parent Engagement.
* WITF, Inc was awarded $55,000 for The Path to Kindergarten Starts Here.

**Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation Early Childhood Strategic Initiative: Phase Three – Work Taking Place 2018-2022:**

GHCF will make an additional investment of $34,000 every year during 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 to support programs and projects that support early childhood education within each of its regional foundations. Each regional foundation—CHACF, FCCF, GHCF, MAF, and PCCF—will receive a yearly sum of $6,800. Funds will be granted during each regional foundation’s usual grantmaking period and will be highlighted within the regional foundation’s existing grant application and grant guidelines; a separate application will not be needed. Working in tandem with GHCF’s Early Childhood Strategic Initiative: Phase 2, this extension of the Early Childhood Strategic Initiative will result in a $500,000 total investment in early childhood education from 2017-2022. The availability of the Early Childhood Strategic Initiative: Phase 3 will be highlighted within each regional foundation’s advertised grant focus.