Funding Family-School Partnerships: Resources for Schools and Communities

By Barbara J. Boone, PhD and Sarah L. Smith, MA

For the Office for Exceptional Children, Ohio Department of Education

April 24, 2015

Table of Contents

Appendix

Contributors

In 2010, The Ohio Department of Education, originally produced this summary of funding sources in response to many requests from State Support Teams, parent liaisons, schools and parent groups. The need for this information continues as schools and communities seek resources for supporting the academic success and healthy development of Ohio's children from birth through adulthood. In response to ongoing requests from schools, parents and community organizations, The Ohio State University, CETE has edited and updated the information in this document to reflect current resources available for funding school-family engagement and partnerships.

Contributors to 2015 Update:

Barbara J. Boone, PhD
Program Director, CETE
The Ohio State University
College of Education and Human Ecology

Sarah L. Smith, MA
Education Resource Specialist, CETE
The Ohio State University
College of Education and Human Ecology

Original Contributors to 2010 Document:

Barbara J. Boone, PhD

Ann Bohman, MA
Consultant
Ohio Department of Education Center for School
Improvement Office of Federal Programs

Jennifer Vargo, MSW
Family and Community Engagement Coordinator
Center for Students, Families and Communities
Office of Family and Community Engagement

Introduction

Family engagement is a well-researched best practice in education. Schools and communities that are committed to quality education for children understand the contribution strong family-school partnerships can make to student academic achievement, school climate and well-being. Parent groups and schools work diligently to partner and engage families in meaningful and effective ways. In most cases, resources of time, space, personnel, and funding are needed to support engagement activities and programs.

The Ohio State University, Center for Training and Education (CETE) developed this 2015 edition of this document to help educators and community members access both public and private funding available to support family engagement. Within this document are funding sources for a wide variety of partnership strategies including resources directed toward strengthening and supporting families with issues such as housing, health care and adult education. There are funding sources for activities led by parent groups and other funding sources directed at helping schools connect and communicate with families. Still others are for teaching and equipping families to help their children learn at home.

In this most recent edition of this document, resources remain organized by origin: public federal funds for schools, state funds and private sources. Within these broad categories, sources are listed alphabetically. Some federal funds are "**entitlement funds**" that most Ohio schools receive each year through a state fiscal process. Through this process, funding flows from the federal government to states for distribution to districts each year. Federal entitlement grant funds, such as Title I, are awarded to eligible districts on the basis of the U. S. Census poverty count. Parent engagement activities are required in **all** federal entitlement grants. Grant monies are to be spent on recognized best practices that support school improvement and student achievement.

District leadership teams are encouraged to leverage multiple fiscal resources to support the implementation of effective family and community engagement strategies. These strategies may include using general revenue, federal, restricted state and private funds. District and school plans for the use of entitlement funds are explained in the district-level Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) at http://education.ohio.gov/, keyword search: *CCIP*. Other funding sources are designated "**competitive funds,**" meaning a school or parent group must apply and compete with other applicants to receive the funding. At the end of this document are two indexes to help determine the sources of funding that may be applied to various types of family engagement activities.

The Ohio Department of Education designed the original iteration of this document as a useful resource for parent groups, teachers, administrators and community members who understand that family-school partnership in the education of Ohio's students is critical. In this most recent edition, the goal remains the same; that the families of all Ohio's students will be effectively engaged through your efforts, and that every student will have the support they need to succeed. *Know that many listed grants are contingent upon state and federal budgetary allocations. All information contained herein is subject to change.*

Federal Funding Sources

21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC)

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts, schools, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, city or county government agencies, for profit corporations and other public for private entities.

To learn more:
http://education.ohio.gov/   Keyword search: *Twenty-first Century Grant Program*

Description:
21st Century Community Learning Center grants provides opportunities for students who come from economically disadvantage families and attend low performing schools to receive academic supports. Eligible grantees may apply for up to three paths: 1. Provide expanded learning time during the school day, week or year with focus on K-4 literacy skills as well as any out-of-school time such as before, after and summer school services instruction that are also focused on K-4 literacy.
2. Provide only out-of-school time instruction such as before, after and summer school services focused on K-4 literacy.
3. Provide only out-of-school time services such as before, after and summer school programming focused on literacy in addition to career and college readiness skills and/or drop-out prevention strategies for middle and high school students.
4. Initiatives and outcomes also work to form a consortia of agencies such as educational service centers and institutions of higher education to provide services around family literacy and adult and parent engagement in children's education and learning.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE/IDEA Part B)

Type:
Entitlement and Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
City schools, exempted village districts, local school districts, community schools, county boards of development disabilities (DD), and state-supported agencies may apply for both Special Education Part-B IDEA and ECSE flow-through funds. Educational Service Centers (ESCs) serving as fiscal agents for consolidated (multi-district) funding applications may also apply.

To learn more:
http://education.ohio.gov/   Keyword search: *ECSE, IDEA Part B*

Description:

Those eligible can apply for Special Education Part B IDEA and ECSE flow-through funds by using the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) web application. Monies awarded are to serve children with disabilities and their families. The amount of and extent of services that can be funded is determined by the number children receiving services. ESCE flow-through funds explicitly benefit pre-school age children (3-5 years) and their families. Each district must evaluate these children with disabilities and write a services plan known as an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for each child which includes parental permissions, input and engagement that also includes an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP) as well. Parent engagement activities are an allowable use of these funds.

Even Start

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Those programs identified as a local education agency (LEA), institution higher education, public or private nonprofit organization or a nonprofit community-based organization.

To learn more:
http://education.ohio.gov/   Keyword search: *Even Start*

Description:
Even Start is an education program for the nation's low-income families with children 7 and younger that is designed to improve the academic achievement of young children and their parents.

Even Start combines four core components for family literacy:
- Early childhood education;
- Adult literacy (adult basic and secondary-level education and/or instruction for English language learners);
- Parenting education; and
- Interactive literacy activities between parents and their children.

Even Start supports family literacy services for parents with low literacy skills or who have limited English proficiency, and their children, primarily birth through age seven. Even Start has three literacy-related goals:
- To help parents improve their literacy or basic educational skills;
- To help parents become full partners in educating their children; and
- To assist children in reaching their full potential as learners.

IDEA (Individuals With Disabilities Education Act) Part B Funding

Type:
Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?
City schools, exempted village districts, local school districts, community schools, county boards of development disabilities (DD), and state-supported agencies may apply for both Special Education Part-B IDEA and ECSE flow-through funds. Educational Service Centers (ESCs) serving as fiscal agents for consolidated (multi-district) funding applications may also apply.

To learn more: http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Procedures-and-Guidance/Federal-and-State-Funding

Description:
IDEA provides funding for promising practices including parent visits to exemplary programs and to schools with effective programs. Funds may be used to support activities that increase the meaningful engagement of families in the educational process by improving cooperation and communication between schools and the parents of children with disabilities. Funding is available for the cost of a parent-mentor position.

Mentoring Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts, community-based organizations

To learn more:
http://www.ed.gov/programs/dvpmentoring/index.html

Description:
Assistance is provided to promote mentoring programs for children with the greatest need. Grants are provided to programs that: (1) assist such children in receiving support and guidance from a mentor; (2) improve the academic performance of such children; (3) improve interpersonal relationships between such children and their peers, teachers, other adults and family members; and (4) reduce the dropout rate of such children; and (5) reduce juvenile delinquency and gang engagement by such children.

Reading First

Type:
Competitive

7

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
http://education.ohio.gov/   Keyword search: *Reading First*

Description:
Reading first grants created to prevent reading failure in students grades K-3. Reading first program provides the necessary assistance to States and districts to establish research-based reading programs for teachers. Reading First grant is a product out of the No Child Left Behind Act that continues to emphasize expanded educational and care opportunities for parents and their children that seek to close the achievement gap between disadvantage children and their peers.

Safe Schools – Healthy Students Initiative

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
http://www.ed.gov/programs/dvpsafeschools/index.html

Description:
Grants support school districts in the development of community-wide approaches to creating safe and drug-free schools and promoting healthy childhood development. Programs are intended to prevent violence and the illegal use of drugs and to promote safety and discipline. Districts are required to partner with local law enforcement, public mental health and juvenile justice agencies. Outreach to families and activities to involve families are appropriate uses for these funds.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Local education agencies (LEA).

To learn more:
http://education.ohio.gov/   Key Words: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education

Description: This grant provides homeless school-age children and youth to access to free, appropriate public education that would be provided to the children that are residents of Ohio and is consistent with Ohio school attendance laws. School district/LEA's are asked to provide technical assistance to include strategies that enhance parental engagement in activities that support academic achievement in and out of the school setting. Parents and guardians are also kept abreast of educational related opportunities and procedures available to their children on a continual basis to foster continued parental engagement.

Ohio Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Program

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Local Education Agencies, (LEA), institutions of higher education, elementary and secondary schools to participate in programs.

To learn more:
http://education.ohio.gov/   **Key Word:** MSP

Description: This grant is to (1) improve the status of mathematics and science teaching by encouraging institutions of higher education to assume greater responsibility. (2) Focus on the education of mathematics and science teachers as a career-long process that continuously stimulates teachers' intellectual growth. (3) Bring mathematics teachers in elementary and secondary schools together with scientists, mathematicians and engineers to increase content knowledge of math and science. (4) Develop robust mathematics and science curriculum aligned with state and local academic standards. (5) Improve training for mathematics and science teachers. Funds may also be used for teacher and principal training in effective parent engagement.

Title I (School Improvement)

Type:
Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us

Description:
Title I funding may be used for parental engagement activities such as sending materials and information home in a language that the parents can understand; literacy training for parents; providing information and training for parents to help them understand and

develop skills for helping their child read at home; training parents to use technology for monitoring their children's progress; and establishing two-way communication between home and school. For districts receiving more than $500,000, 1 percent of the grant must be used for parental engagement (95 percent of that 1 percent must be made available for use by district school buildings.)

Title II A (Improving Teacher Quality)

Type:
Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
 https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us /   Click on "Document Library"

Description:
Title II A funds support professional development opportunities to improve teacher quality. Funds may be used for teacher and principal training in effective parent engagement.

Title II D (Technology)

Type:
Entitlement and Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us   Click on "Document Library"

Description:
This funding supports training for adults in the use of technology to develop or expand efforts that promote meaningful parental engagement. The goals are (1) to increase communication about curricula, assignments and assessments between students, parents and teachers; and (2) to help parents understand the technology being used in their child's education, so they can reinforce technology instruction at home.

Title III (LEP)

Type:
Entitlement for selected districts

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us   Click on "Document Library"

Description:
Title III funds may be applied to community participation programs, family literacy services and parent outreach and training activities to families of children with limited English proficiency. This includes activities to help parents become active participants in the education of their children. Funding may be applied to activities coordinated with community-based organizations to offer comprehensive community services that help parents.

Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools)

Type:
Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us   Click on "Document Library"

Description:
Title IV funds are for comprehensive programs coordinated with other school and community-based programs that include activities to foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports academic achievement. These include activities to promote the engagement of parents in the activity or program. Authorized activities include involving families in setting clear expectations against violence and illegal use of drugs; professional development and training for parents in prevention, education and early identification and intervention; mentoring; or rehabilitation referral related to drug and violence prevention. Activities also may include counseling for families.

Title V (Innovative Programs)

Type:
Entitlement

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts

To learn more:
https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us   Click on "Document Library"

Description:
Title V funds must be used for innovative programs. Schools may use funds for a wide range of activities, materials, and meeting expenses for: adult education for families of children served by the district; family literacy; promoting or expanding public school choice; school-based mental health services for families; and other activities to support academic achievement through parent engagement.

Title VI (Rural Low Income School Program)

Type:
Entitlement for eligible districts

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Eligible rural, low income school districts

To learn more:
https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us   Click on "Document Library"

Description:
Funding is available for general (unspecified) parental engagement activities. Schools are free to design and implement activities to meet the needs of local families.

State Funding Sources

Public Preschool-Early Childhood Education

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
City, local, exempted village, joint vocational school districts or Educational Service Centers

To learn more:
http://education.ohio.gov/   **Key Words:** Public Preschool-Early Childhood Education

Description: Public Preschool-Early Childhood Education provides funding for programs to provide services for children three to four years old of income eligible families. Programs awarded these monies are required to maintain compliance to the Early Learning Program Guidelines. These guidelines have four specific areas of focus that each include strategies and characteristics that programs can assume that consider families as a vital role in children's learning while respecting cultural, linguistic and racial differences. Each district must evaluate these children with disabilities and write a services plan known as an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for each child which includes parental permissions, input and engagement that also includes an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP) as well.

Private Funding Sources

**Note: The private funding sources provided in this document are not exhaustive. Many other local and regional foundations for Ohio exist to provide large and small grants for various community programs, organizations and area schools. To learn more about other funding opportunities across Ohio please visit http://www.fundsnetservices.com.

Akron Community Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Various non-profit community programs and organizations, schools and school systems.

To learn more:
http://www.akroncf.org/Initiatives/Education.aspx

Description:
Akron Community Foundation grants are available to work collaboratively to identify best approaches and strategies for investing in children's future focusing on transitioning points in student's education, including kindergarten readiness, third grade reading, eighth grade math and college readiness. Additionally, focus is given to early learning programs that prepare children from birth to age 5 for success.

Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools, community organizations

To learn more:
http://www.buildabear.com/shopping/contents/contents.jsp?catId=400002&id=700010

Description:
Grants available to promote literacy and education in K-16 programs through effective strategies, including partnering with families and equipping families to help their children develop literacy skills.

The Cleveland Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations

To learn more:
http://www.clevelandfoundation.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/grantmaking-guidelines/

Description:
Cleveland Foundation grants work to serve the greater Cleveland area with the mission to enhance the lives of all residents of greater Cleveland area through community endowment address other community needs as well as provide leadership on community issues.

Columbus Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations

To learn more:
http://www.columbusfoundation.org

Description:
Columbus Foundation grants are available for early childhood, preschool, primary and secondary grades, higher education, vocational education, and continuing and adult education. Grants in this field also relate to parent training, academic enrichment, school-based support services for students, library services, community engagement in schools and adult literacy.

Comcast Foundation Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations in Comcast communities

To learn more:
http://corporate.comcast.com/news-information/news-feed/comcast-foundation-faq

Description:
The primary focus of Comcast Foundation Grants is the funding of diversity-oriented programs that address literacy, volunteerism and youth leadership development. Only organizations operating within Comcast communities will be considered.

CVS Caremark Charitable Trust

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Public schools

To learn more:
http://www.cvshealth.com/social-responsibility

Description:
Grants fund health programs for children with disabilities and public schools (grades prekindergarten through 12) that are expanding programs that promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in all aspects of school functions, including academic activities, extracurricular programs and physical activity/play.

Dollar General Family Literacy Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools and 501(c)(3) organizations

To learn more:
http://www2.dollargeneral.com/dgliteracy/Pages/index.aspx

Description:
To be considered, programs must include four components: adult education, children's education, parent and child "together" time, and classes that teach parents to be the primary educators of their children.

Ezra Jack Keats Mini-grant Program

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools and libraries

To learn more:
http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org   Click on "Programs"

Description:
The Ezra Jack Keats program offers mini-grants of $500.00 for public schools and public libraries. Programs must promote literacy for children and families.

Foundation for Appalachian Ohio

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Donor and various community members and organizations, school district

To learn more:

http://www.appalachianohio.org/about/

Description:
The Foundation for Appalachian Ohio is a regional community foundation serving Appalachian Ohio donors, community members and other organizations with the mission to create opportunities for Appalachian Ohio's citizens and communities through inspirational and supportive philanthropy.

General Mills Foundation Grants
Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies

To learn more:
https://generalmills.com/en/Responsibility/general-mills-foundation/grants

Description:
Funds may be used for a wide variety of activities that enrich small communities.

Kohl's Cares Associates in Action

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools, educators and community members

To learn more:
http://www.kohlscorporation.com   Click on "Kohl's Cares" menu

Description:
Kohl's supports the health and education initiatives in communities nationwide. Educators and community members can fill out a brief application about a school event or project and submit it to their local Kohl's. When at least five employees volunteer for three hours to help with the event or project, the school earns a $500 grant.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools and parent groups

To learn more:
http://www.toolboxforeducation.com

Description:
Projects that encourage parent engagement and build stronger community spirit will be favored for Lowe's grants. Funding requests that have a permanent impact such as school facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor) and landscaping/clean up will be given preference. The school building must be more than two years old.

Martha Holden Jennings Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
Schools

To learn more:
http://www.mhjf.org/open-grants

Description:
The foundation's Open Grants program will support innovative programs for preschool, elementary and secondary school students and their teachers. Prospective programs should ensure activity in a thematic grant category linked to the foundation's principles.

Mattel Children's Foundation Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations that benefit children

To learn more:
http://corporate.mattel.com/about-us/philanthropy/grantmaking.aspx

Description:
Awards may be made to organizations whose missions focus on direct service to children from birth to 12 years of age. Organizations or programs must show creative, innovative methods to address locally defined needs that directly affect children.

Nord Family Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies

To learn more:
http://www.nordff.org

Description:
The foundation gives grant priority to programs that address the needs of economically or socially disadvantaged families. Grants are awarded for education and to strengthen families.

SBC Foundation Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations

To learn more:
http://www.sbc.com/foundation

Description:
This foundation supports multi-state (including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin) and national programs in education, regional economic development and public policy. Areas of interest include health and human services, civic and community life, elementary and secondary education, higher education, and arts and culture. Priority is given to grant requests that advance the application of technology in ways that improve these program areas.

Staples Foundation for Learning Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations

To learn more:
http://www.staplesfoundation.org/how-we-give.php

Description:
The foundation funds programs that support or provide job skills and/or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth.

Target Arts Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies

To learn more:
https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/grants

Description:
These grants are awarded to programs that bring the arts to schools or make it affordable for families to participate in cultural experiences.

Target Education Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries, or public agencies

To learn more:
https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/grants

Description:
These grants support programs that promote a love of reading and encourage children through age 9 to read together with their families. Field trip grants are also available as well.

Target & Blue Public Safety Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations, schools, libraries or public agencies

To learn more:
https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/safety-preparedness/community-safety

Description:
These grants support programs that strengthen families by preventing or reducing the cycle of family violence and funding programs that support public safety.

Tiger Woods Foundation

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
501(c)(3) organizations in urban areas.

To learn more:
http://www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org/

Description:
Grants provide funding to promote: student achievement through early education of children and their parents; programs that focus on school-to-work transitions; or plans that look at school organization and management focused on student needs, parent engagement and accountability.

Toyota Family Literacy Program Grants

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
School districts in communities with high or fast-growing Hispanic and immigrant populations

To learn more:
http://www.toyota.com/usa/community/articles/foundation_manufacturing.html

Description:
As part of the Toyota Family Literacy Program, parents and children attend school together. Parents work to improve their English skills and also learn how to support their children's language and literacy development. Direct funding for school districts will allow for support, training, education materials and assistance from the National Center for Family Literacy to implement the program for students in kindergarten through third grade. Contributions also extend to support children's learning in STEM initiatives along with manufacturing focus.

Walmart Community Grant Program

Type:
Competitive

Who may apply for or access this funding?
An organization holding a current tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3), (4), (6) or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code, A recognized government entity: state, county, or city agency, including law enforcement or fire departments, that are requesting funds exclusively for public purposes; A K-12 public or private school, charter school, community/junior college, state/private college or university; or A church or other faith-based organization with a proposed project that benefits the community at large.

To learn more:
http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/local-giving

Description:
Walmart believes in funding programs that give back to the community through education and health initiatives. Likely grantees are welcomed to apply.

Alphabetical Index of Funding Sources