

# **Technology Innovation Challenge Grants**

## **Application Package**

**Applications Due: May 20, 2011**

**Application Deadline Extended to June 30, 2011**

## Introduction

The Technology Innovation Challenge Grant program is made possible by the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). As an approved Educational Improvement Organization (EIO), the Greater Chambersburg Chamber Foundation partners with area businesses to provide grant dollars to teachers, public and private, in the Chambersburg Area School District. Major contributions made by Orrstown Bank, Waste Management and M&T Bank to the Chamber Foundation have made \$18,000 available to Franklin County educators for the current funding cycle.

## Funding Priorities & Criteria

The Technology Innovation Challenge Grants provide \$3,000 - \$5,000 of funding to integrate innovative technology into the classroom. These grants are a stimulus for creative applications of technology in support of creating effective learning environments and high standards for all students. Proposals must meet three criteria before approval:

1. Innovation.
2. Value added to the curriculum. We restrict programs to K-12 (based on the definition of a school) and to only those programs directly linked to core curriculum areas such as Math, English, Science, History, Art, Music, etc. We do not approve programs that solely focus on life skills, study habits, SAT or PSSA prep, drug & alcohol counseling, motivational courses, etc.
3. **Advanced academic in nature.** The program must be advanced academic for the subject area that it adds value to. The most common mistake in describing a program or project is to leave the necessary information to show advanced academics. In order to meet the advanced academics criteria, the program or project cannot be general or remedial. Proposal often emphasize the innovation of a program or project, with the intent to prove advanced innovation; there is a difference. Also, keep in mind that this does not limit programs to gifted/college prep/honors students. Just because students with advanced academic capabilities are involved in the program, it does not make it advanced academic.

Do not break the program descriptions into sections based on the criteria described. These characteristics will be able to be determined with a well-written narrative. Just keep in mind that those are the criteria that will be considered when evaluating each proposal.

When writing your narrative, keep in mind that the review committee has no clue what the program is about. In one to two paragraphs, tell us. Also, remember that we are evaluating the proposals based on the three criteria above. If you need a starting point, use the 4Ws & H... who, what, where, when, how. Who participates in the program? What is the program about? What do the students do? What do the students learn? Where does the program take place? When does it take place? How does the program advance the academic experience that they get in the classroom? How is it tied back into the classroom? How do you get the teachers involved? Again, do not go through and break your narrative down into the above questions, but simply use some of those questions as a starting point to form a clear, concise description of your program.

It is also important not to over simplify the program description or focus primarily on how the program benefits students, their self-esteem, program recognitions and awards, etc. Every program is valuable, although not every program will fit under EITC guidelines.

Please keep in mind that technology in itself is not a program, nor does it make a program advanced academic, though it does add to the innovation. If a program is approved, technological purchases directly tied to the program are eligible expenditures.

## Selection Criteria

The selection committee will take into consideration the following criteria:

- Complete, easy-to-read, and organized applications submitted by June 30, 2011.
- Clear explanation for need demonstrated, use of innovation technology described and potential impact quantified.
- Existing capacity (technology infrastructure, staff, resources, etc) in place to support proposed project and/or clear explanation of how the proposed project will enhance existing capacity to insure successful implementation.
- Meets Funding Priorities & Criteria outlined above.

## Reporting Requirements

DCED requires that the Chamber Foundation track all receipts and expenditures associated with the technology innovation challenge grants. As such, the Chamber Foundation will require that all grantees submit payment requests (and back-up receipts) with a final report in order to be reimbursed for expenses associated with the project. All reimbursements requests must be routed to through your respective technology department by December 1, 2011. DCED requires that grants be paid out by December 31, 2011.

## Application Guidance

K-12 educators in any of the six public school districts in Franklin County are eligible to apply. If you have any questions, please contact Noel Purdy (contact below). If you would like to see what projects have been funded in the past, please contact Noel Purdy.

## Examples

### Youth in the Mix

Youth in the Mix exposes 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade students to professional video and sound recording/production through the use of a state-of-the-art recording studio and applicable technologies. There are five aspects to this program: performance, audio recording, video recording, editing and marketing. Participating students may be active in one or all aspects. Beyond mastering musical technique, students record their performances and subsequently use Pro Tools, an integration of hardware and software that allows artists to isolate sound and digitally edit their recordings, for a clearer, more professional sound. They also have the option of partnering with the visual department to visually capture the performances, animate and/or edit them and market a professional DVD. Students learn effective marketing techniques, while designing CD/DVD labels and covers.

### KidScience/ZooU

Designed to enhance the academic studies of public school students that may be interested in scientific fields (zoology, microbiology, botany, medical doctor, etc.), KidScience and ZooU allow students to actively pursue scientific study and conservation in order to give them a head start into the field of their interest. Activities expand research skills and increase students' understanding of scientific methods and principles. They include classroom lessons, data collection and analysis, behind-the-scenes tours, research projects, and field trips. All data is recorded and stored on program laptops. Students become part of the Zoo's research team, and get hands-on experience doing real animal behavior research, with full access to the Zoo & PPG Aquarium, including all personnel, research materials, animals, aquatic life, flora and fauna. Several students enter their research projects into school and regional science competitions.

Please email or mail applications to:

**Noel Purdy, Executive Director**

Greater Chambersburg Chamber Foundation

100 Lincoln Way East, Ste. A

Chambersburg, PA 17201

Phone: 264-7101, ext. 207

E-mail: [npurdy@chambersburg.org](mailto:npurdy@chambersburg.org)

## Grant Review & Award Timeline

- Application deadline: June 30, 2011
- Selection committee meets July 2011.
- Review by Department of Community and Economic Development: July-August 2011.
- Grantees notified no later than the first week of September.
- Awards luncheon on October 13, 2011.

# Greater Chambersburg Chamber Foundation

---

Technology Innovation Challenge Grant

**Application deadline: June 30, 2011**

\_\_\_\_\_  
APPLICANT(S)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL

\_\_\_\_\_  
PROJECT TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
GRADE LEVEL/DEPT.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
BUDGET REQUEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
EVENING TELEPHONE NUMBER\*

**\*PLEASE PROVIDE NUMBER THAT YOU CAN BE CONTACTED AT DURING THE SUMMER!!!**

Write a one-paragraph summary (**200 words or less**) of the project you would like to try at your school:

**Please answer the following questions. If you need additional space, you may attach pages to this application.**

1. What challenge(s) face you which this grant will address? Tell why you think there is a special need for this project.

2. Describe your project with specific detail. Discuss methods, needed materials, resource personnel, a tentative schedule and your completion date.

3. Describe how your project addresses the funding priorities and criteria:

- Innovation
- Value added to curriculum
- Advanced academic in nature

4. Approximately how many people will be affected by this project? Explain how you arrived at this number.

5. EVALUATION – How will you determine whether your objectives have been achieved? You will be required to write a one-page evaluation at the conclusion of your project (to also include a final budget report).



6. Detail your budget request. Include specific information such as kinds of materials and equipment needed, supply sources, etc. Be sure to include all costs.

**Example:**

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>SUPPLIER</u></b>	<b><u>COST</u></b>
6 "Learning to Read" books	ABC Book Company	\$33.00

7. Are you applying for any other grants or receiving any other funds for this proposal?

---

**Applicant's Signature**

---

**Dept. Head or K-12 Supervisor (Secondary)**

---

**Head Teacher (Elementary)**

---

**Building Principal**

---

**Director of Technology**  
**(Required for all Technology requests)**