



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST Community Foundation

Youth Engagement Scholarship (YES) Fund

Purpose: To provide an avenue for any Oak Park or River Forest children and youth in need of financial resources to participate in low cost/no-cost fee-based enrichment programming and activities offered in Oak Park and River Forest.

Types of Programming: Arts, culture, academic, or athletic enrichment opportunities available through governmental, non-profit, or for-profit entities that have a preexisting, demonstrated commitment to engaging children and youth from families experiencing financial hardship.

Rationale for the YES Fund:

- Lack of finances to pay for participation and equipment fees is a common barrier preventing the participation of some children and youth.
- Social science research confirms a positive correlation between youth engagement in out of school enrichment programs and school performance. Essentially, engaged children and youth are more likely to achieve better school attendance, higher levels of academic performance and post-secondary enrollment in college or vocational training.
- All participating funders believe that filling the activity gap will help to reduce the achievement gap that plagues our public school system.

Children and youth who are engaged not only have more fun but their experiences help to cultivate a long list of skills and competencies that will serve them across their life span in classrooms, jobs, community and family life.

Pilot Program: The following 12 OPRF based organizations have been identified as pilot partners by making a scholarship/discount commitment to support the engagement of children and youth from families facing financial hardship:

- Alliance OPRF
- Intuit Dance
- Magical Minds Studio
- Oak Park Art League
- Oak Park Tennis Center
- OPRF Alliance
- Park District of Oak Park
- River Forest Park District
- River Forest Community Center
- Pro Musica
- School of Rock
- Steckman Studio of Music
- West Cook YMCA

Additional organizations that are interested in becoming a partner should contact Elizabeth Chadri at echadri@oprfcf.org.

The Oak Park Library, River Forest Library, Suburban Unity Alliance (SUA), and school social workers will provide support in identifying children and youth who can benefit from the YES Fund, and assist them, if

necessary, in applying for a scholarship. The Economy Shop will collect and allocate gently used sport equipment and other items that may be required for participation in an activity. The pilot partners, along with the aforementioned organizations, will promote the Fund to potential recipients and donors of monetary and in-kind contributions.

Eligibility for Funding:

1. Children and youth under 18 or currently enrolled in high school who are resident in Oak Park or River Forest.
2. Participation and/or equipment fees associated with enrichment programs offered in 2018 by the twelve partner organizations listed above.
3. Household income at 200% or less of the federal poverty guidelines (see below); or households that qualify for free or reduced lunch. Extenuating circumstances that affect household income will be taken into consideration.
4. The YES Fund will provide funds up to 75% of any one scholarship for a maximum amount of \$1,300 per child per year and \$5,000 per partner organization per year. Children participating in skill-based programs (e.g. sports, musical instruments, etc) will be eligible for multi-year grants.

How to apply for funding:

1. Household income will be determined by reviewing the most recent tax returns or documentation showing approval for free or reduced lunch:
 - a. Partner organizations should upload the most recent tax return or approval letter for free or reduced lunch for each applicant on the online application site.
 - b. Sensitive information on the tax forms such as Social Security Numbers MUST be blacked out.
 - c. Include a description of any circumstances that should be taken into consideration.
2. Applications (including free or reduced lunch/tax returns) should be submitted online by partner organizations and will be accepted on a rolling basis.
3. Application link will be sent once the partner organization is approved.
4. Applications will be reviewed on a weekly basis and turn-around will depend on how many applications in total and per organization are received on a weekly basis.
 - a. Allow at least seven business days for a grant decision and an additional seven business days for payment.
 - b. Any questions? Contact Elizabeth Chadri, Program Director at OPRF CF at echadri@oprfcf.org.

Grant reports: Partner organizations should submit grant reports to echadri@oprfcf.org by November 30, 2018. Include the following:

- 1) Total number of children participating in enrichment programs.
- 2) Increase in number of children served due to YES Fund assistance.
- 3) Total number of students for whom, without the YES Fund assistance would not have participated in an organized summer program in 2018.
- 4) Budget (income/expense) for the summer programming, with a line item for YES Fund contribution.

The YES Fund, administered by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, is made possible through initial funding from the Women Leaders in Philanthropy, a giving group of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation, and others who encourage increased opportunities for children who are unengaged.



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FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR FFY 2017

Size of family unit	100 Percent of Poverty	110 Percent of Poverty	125 Percent of Poverty	150 Percent of Poverty	175 Percent of Poverty	185 Percent of Poverty	200 Percent of Poverty
1	\$11,880	\$13,068	\$14,850	\$17,820	\$20,790	\$21,978	\$23,760
2	\$16,020	\$17,622	\$20,025	\$24,030	\$28,035	\$29,637	\$32,040
3	\$20,160	\$22,176	\$25,200	\$30,240	\$35,280	\$37,297	\$40,320
4	\$24,300	\$26,730	\$30,375	\$36,450	\$42,525	\$44,955	\$48,600
5	\$28,440	\$31,284	\$35,550	\$42,660	\$49,770	\$52,614	\$56,880
6	\$32,580	\$35,838	\$40,725	\$48,870	\$57,015	\$60,273	\$65,160
7	\$36,730	\$40,403	\$45,913	\$55,095	\$64,278	\$67,951	\$73,460
8	\$40,890	\$44,979	\$51,113	\$61,335	\$71,558	\$75,647	\$81,780