

Stamford School Readiness Council

Description

The Stamford School Readiness Council is a partnership of community agencies, early childhood professionals, preschools administrators, Board of Education members, and Stamford Public Schools staff who are committed to ensuring that young children have access to quality preschool programming in Stamford. The early childhood education goal remains to prepare all children birth through five for a lifetime of learning by engaging families, fostering community, and advocating for resources and results.

Stamford has 32 privately funded center based preschools and over 60 family home care providers. The Stamford School Readiness Council will:

1. Keep Stamford preschools connected to the Stamford Public Schools
2. Offer professional development opportunities to directors and teachers of all of Stamford's preschools and home care providers.
3. Provide the community with information regarding different programs in Stamford and availability

We are seeking funding from the City of Stamford to support the cost of early childhood events such as the annual Stamford Early Childhood Fair, Kindergarten Information Night and Play and Learn Nights. These events were previously supported by the United Way.

Stamford Early Childhood Fair: In addition to highlighting our local preschool providers to Stamford's families, families are educated on the importance of quality preschool. The fair also offers the opportunity to provide kindergarten registration information and for us to collaborate and mingle with community providers. Being familiar with the preschool community assists in their participation in the important community professional development workshops offered. One such workshop will be on social and emotional support to avoid suspension and expulsion in preschool. The event provides age-appropriate entertainment, games, and hands-on learning activities for children while offering parents an opportunity to learn about community-based organizations and the health, education, and social-service resources available to them in the city. For the past several years, daycare and preschool programs report an increase in enrollment after the event. Your support will help offset the cost of supplies and staff. Last year's event was attended by over 400 people.

Kindergarten Information Night: In partnership with Stamford Public Schools, the School Readiness Council hosts an annual Kindergarten Information Night for Stamford parents to learn about the registration process, the magnet school program, and the Summer Start program.

Play and Learn Nights: Each spring, in partnership with Stamford Public Schools, we host activity nights for children transitioning to Kindergarten in the fall. This event offers children a chance to explore literacy and math readiness skills in a "play and learn" format and leave with educational activities to do at home over the summer.

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Budget Narrative

Total Request: \$3,000

We are seeking funding for infrastructure support for Stamford's School Readiness Council or fiscal year 2018-2019. This support includes:

- \$1,500** Funding supports staff assistance to translate, create flyers, help organize and be on hand to handle any overflow of attendees.

- \$1,500** Funding supports entertainment (including a face painter, a storyteller, a live musical performer and books for each child), supplies, table and chair rental, and promotional materials.