

04-6002993 requests support for the expansion of STEAM Team, a three-week full day summer program that engages students from Pittsfield Public Schools in a collaboratively created STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) curriculum. This program provides students with dynamic, in-depth exploration of the diverse cultural landscape of the Berkshires and is free of charge to participants.

STEAM Team is an important continuation of 04-6002993's commitment to engage year-round residents of Berkshire County, especially in the lower-income and racially diverse communities of Pittsfield. STEAM Team gives students meaningful arts experiences that connect them to academic content through a creative lens, engaging them with relevant learning experiences during the summer, when many students experience learning loss.

STEAM team was established in 2017 in collaboration with four Berkshire community partners. This program connects students with a visual artist, dancer, scientist, and outdoor recreation leader to explore STEAM curriculum within Berkshire County. At the culmination of each week, there is a showcase of student learning and artwork.

STEAM Team Goals:

- Help students investigate and solve problems, articulate ideas, work cooperatively, and improve self-esteem.
- Remove financial barriers that keep Berkshire youth from quality arts education.
- Highlight the arts as a tool for improving overall learning and well-being.

The expansion of STEAM Team is especially critical as the impact of the pandemic and disruptions to learning continue to negatively impact students, particularly in low-income neighborhoods. This will be the first year STEAM Team is offered in person since 2019, and it is the first time the program will be open to middle schoolers, while continuing to serve elementary students. With the expansion, we anticipate participation to double to 150-200 students. A grant in the amount of \$35,000 will cover artists fees, food and transportation for the participants, promotional materials, and administration.

We assert that 04-6002993, the applicant, meets GKV Foundation's Minimum Requirements stated in the GKV website.