

The White Family Foundation
Grant Request: #756
Hillsborough Education Foundation Inc
March 31, 2022

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| Date of grant proposal submission | Thursday, March 31, 2022 |
| Are you an IRS compliant 501(c)3 public charity/nonprofit? | Yes |
| Legal name of organization | Hillsborough Education Foundation Inc. |
| Address |  2306 N. Howard Ave Tampa, FL 33607 United States |
| Website | https://educationfoundation.com/ |
| Telephone | (813) 574-0260 |
| Organization Director/Title | Kimberly Jowell, CEO |
| Contact Person/Title | Anna Corman, Chief Program Officer |
| Contact Person's Telephone | (813) 574-0260 |
| Contact Person's Email | acorman@educationfoundation.com |
| Grant Request Amount | \$20,000.00 |

Please provide us with a brief description of your organization (no more than 500 words).

The Hillsborough Education Foundation's mission is to strengthen public education in Hillsborough County through advocacy, investment of resources, and programs that empower every student to achieve both academic and personal success.

Since 1988, Hillsborough Education Foundation (HEF) has been providing programs and funding that support increased graduation rates, through various initiatives such as early childhood literacy support, mentoring, providing school

supplies, scholarships, classroom enrichment, college and career readiness, and increasing digital equity. In addition, HEF knows that effective teachers are foundational for student success and provides resources specifically for teachers and their professional development.

HEF took swift action to support our schools, teachers, students and families as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded and students' learning environment changed radically. HEF provided direct support to students as they began to return to the classroom yet still required digital access and support to ensure on-time progression. Through this unique time, HEF learned quickly that many parents/caregivers required support, coaching and guidance to better help their children be successful with at-home learning, which is increasingly through on-line assignments and projects. This support to the student and family is specific to their unique home environment and requires a specific coaching and resources that teachers frequently did not have the capacity to provide. Our Digital Equity program provides the internet access and computers required to support students at home, but trained parents/caregivers on how to best help their students and where to find online tools to support improved learning outcomes. HEF staff members are available to connect 1:1 with families in person and remotely, and regular check-ins confirmed that students and families were effectively leveraging the program.

The digital equity divide has become a core focus on HEF's strategy, recognizing that divide has contributed to the achievement gap for over two decades as students who lacked adequate internet access and appropriate hardware struggled to complete homework assignments. Now, the changes in educational approach and related community supports during COVID-19 brought these needs into undeniable focus. State officials estimate that 50,000 students remain unaccounted for in the 2020-21 school year despite valiant efforts by school social workers. Students who have had learning disrupted with the pandemic need opportunities to accelerate their learning. We believe families need one-on-one support in both developing digital skills and building trusting relationships with schools or we risk a widening opportunity gap in our state that will result in an increase in generational poverty. The "homework gap" existed before the pandemic and we know students will have an ongoing challenge to overcome learning loss and effectively navigate online learning. Further, schools expect caregivers to support their students and engage with teachers through online platforms. HEF's Digital Equity program directly addresses these challenges and the need for access to digital learning assets and support outside of school.

Grant Purpose (one paragraph)

Increasing digital equity is required for so many Hillsborough families to thrive. HEF respectfully requests a grant of \$20,000 to continue our Digital Equity initiative. HEF's Digital Equity initiative solidifies the learnings from the past two years to provide continued digital access and digital literacy through direct family support. Our trained eLearning Coach work directly with each family in their home. The Coach completes an assessment of the student's learning environment and digital tools, use of Canvas (Hillsborough County School application) and other eLearning tools and turns that into an individualized support plan. The Coach reviews instructions for hotspot and/or computer, helps to navigate canvas and any other digital learning applications needed, provides headphones, school supplies and makes appropriate referrals for other concrete supports for home learning. The Coach then communicates with the school staff member who made the referral, so they are informed of the technology and instruction provided. This in-home assessment and customized support ensures the specific needs of a family are met and the barriers to digital access and fluency are removed. The approach centers the student while incorporating supports for parent engagement and the home environment, a necessary component of sustained success. Ongoing checks by the coaches ensure initial progress is sustained. A grant of \$20,000 will directly support our goal of serving 350 families in the 2022-2023 school year.

Annual Project/Program Budget (if request) \$612,002.00

is for a specific project)

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| Annual Organization Budget | \$7,174,504.00 |
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