

Use of New Dawn Charter High School Education Stabilization Funds

Please review the programs below for which we received funds to improve education due to the pandemic. If you have any questions, please contact Sara M. Asmussen, 347-505-9102, or at sasmussen@ndchsbrooklyn.org. If you are a parent, guardian, or student you may contact us through Jupiter ED as well. We welcome comments and suggestions from students and families as well as from the larger community. You may stop by the school to see the grant money at work or to pick up a hard copy of the plan. Further, in the event you need the plan in another language, please email Dr. Asmussen at the above email and we will have it translated into the language you request.

ARP Homeless II Funds \$8,489

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) for Homeless II was awarded to New Dawn Brooklyn for \$8,489. These monies were available for use from March 13, 2020, through September 30, 2024. However as of September 2022, all money has been expended. Due to the pandemic, our numbers of homeless students have increased. Research has shown (see proposal) that not having clean clothes impacts school attendance. Therefore, money was used to purchase laundry detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, washer, dryer, laundry carts and bags for students who are homeless or have housing instability. Hygiene products for women's menstrual cycles were also purchased, these products are offered for free to students. We have, through experience learned that many times waivers for college are a problem for students who are homeless and thus grant monies paid for 20 students to apply to college. Finally, there was a small set aside for graduating students who were homeless to pay senior fees and purchase cap/gown and pictures.

CARES Act ESSER 2 Funds \$116,334

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 2 (ESSER 2) funds were awarded to New Dawn Brooklyn in the amount of \$116,334 for the time period of March 13, 2020, through September 30, 2022. As of September 2022, all money had been used.

This money was used during the time the school was engaged in remote learning. It paid for a .16 FTE Technologist to support teachers as they move from in-school instruction to remote instruction. This support included setting up the platforms on which New Dawn teachers would provide work and live instruction.

One area hit very hard by the pandemic was New Dawn's Internship program. COVID-16 closed this program down. Prior to this, students went to work in the community as part of our academic program. Due to the huge number of businesses shuttered, we had to use Educational Technology (Edgenuity Online Curriculum and Learning Solutions) in place of our internships.

CRRSA ESSER 2 Funds \$398,438

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 2 (ESSER 2) fund was awarded to New Dawn Brooklyn in the amount of \$398,438, for the period of March 13, 2020 through 9/30/2023; of which \$159,820 was expended as of September 2022.

Based on our needs assessments, we know that many of our students are behind in math, ELA, and College Readiness. Further, from the results of our SEL survey and surveying our students, we know that our students are further hampered by lack of mental health supports. We have several strategies to combat this learning loss going forward.

We are using funds for an Aspiring Teacher at .75 FTE for 21-22 and .55 FTE for 22-23 to push into ELA and math classes to provide tutoring support for students and additional support for teachers. We have students coming in at a range of level of proficiency and having an extra teacher in the class allows for the lead teacher to focus on moving lessons along according to the NYSED learning standards while providing support for students who are behind.

We are requesting a .75 FTE Guidance Counselor and .75 College & Career Readiness Coordinator in the 2021-2022 school year and .65 FTE Guidance Counselor and .65 FTE Career Readiness Coordinator in the 2022-2023 school year to assist students in regaining their college preparedness. Research has shown that working with counselors will improve a student's academic proficiency¹ and improve performance in college.² College & Career Readiness services at New Dawn will involve the use of social emotional learning practices which have been shown to be key in success in schools.³

Finally, we understand the learning loss does not occur in a vacuum. Learning loss involves as much social emotional trauma as it does actually missing class and falling behind. Therefore, to ensure that we are working with the whole student, addressing those things that impact learning that appear to have nothing to do with learning (depression, anxiety, isolation, etc.), we are paying for .5 FTE Director of Student Services to work with staff and students addressing the needs of the whole student as they move towards graduation and college/career.

ARP ESSER 2 Funds \$895,481

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 2 (ESSER 2) funds was awarded to New Dawn Brooklyn in the amount of \$895,481 to be used

¹ https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Greg-Brigman/publication/232574718_Helping_Students_Improve_Academic_Achievement_and_School_Success_Behavior/links/00b7d533dc9eda3827000000/Helping-Students-Improve-Academic-Achievement-and-School-Success-Behavior.pdf

² <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/20/02/measuring-value-strong-school-counselor>

³ https://www.casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Improving-College-and-Career-Readiness-by-Incorporating-Social-and-Emotional-Learning_0.pdf

from March 13, 2020, through September 30, 2024. As of September 2022, \$177,416 of the funds have been expended.

We know from the data gathered during the pandemic that students were struggling with learning loss. After conducting a needs assessment which included the major stakeholders such as parents, families, students, workers from other organizations, and posted for comment for anyone in the community, we determined that we needed another special education teacher. This teacher could push into classrooms and assist students who were struggling to catch up with their work. We earmarked money for hiring an additional special education teacher to support the content area teachers with their instruction by pushing into classes and assisting students who were significantly behind.

Another issue which we identified through a needs assessment was the number of students who did not return to school when we ceased remote learning and returned to school. We identified 163 students in this category. Using this money, we hired an Outreach Team to go into the community and find these students. Once a student was identified, the Team is to develop strategies to return the student to school or locate another institution which would meet their needs. As part of this funding, we paid for a 40% time supervisor to ensure that the Team had access to all services of the school, creating a seamless process of reintegration into school or referrals to appropriate placements. We used grant money to pay all these salaries plus benefits.

Staff also had a hard time returning to work after being isolated and on Zoom for so long. Part of this grant was used for Professional Development in the areas of motivation and use of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to help support students who had fallen behind.

Even though New Dawn renovated their current building under a bond, we still do not have a gym. Physical exercise is very important, particularly with this return to the world as we once knew it. There are extensive research studies which show that physical movement impacts the development of both reading and math skills and thus was more important now than ever. We had planned on converting our computer room into a PE room. However, once students came back to school and it was clear how behind they actually were, we needed to keep the computer room in order to use our two intervention programs (READ 180 and Math 180). Therefore, we needed to reconfigure space on the roof to use it for physical education purposes. Further, by reconfiguring the roof, not only would we have space for PE, but would have room for a rooftop garden for our Horticulture and Culinary classes.