



**City of Annapolis**  
**Office of Finance**  
160 Duke of Gloucester Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2517

[Finance@annapolis.gov](mailto:Finance@annapolis.gov) • 410-263-7952 • Fax 410-263-7529 • TDD use MD Relay or 711 • [www.annapolis.gov](http://www.annapolis.gov)

**Community Grant Application**  
**Deadline: January 22, 2016**

Organization name Chesapeake Children's Museum  
Contact Deborah Wood, Ph.D. Title Executive Director  
Address 25 Silopanna Road Annapolis, MD 21403  
Phone 410-990-1993 Fax 410-990-1007 Email debbie@theccm.org  
Federal ID # 52-1808-319  
Incorporation Date January 21, 1993 501(c)(3) Registration date May 26, 1993  
Project title All Our Children  
Project location Chesapeake Children's Museum, events/locations serving low-income residents in the City of Annapolis.

Amount requested	\$	<u>10,000.00</u>
Other funds	\$	<u>35,100.00</u>
Total project amount	\$	<u>45,100.00</u>

**Certification**

*"I certify that I have reviewed this application and that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information provided in this application is true."*

Deborah R. Wood

January 22, 2016

Signature of Chief Executive Officer

Date

Print name Deborah Wood Title Executive Director  
Address 25 Silopanna Road Annapolis MD 21403  
Phone 410-990-1993 Fax 410-990-1007 Email debbie@theccm.org

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Provide a brief summary of your project. Please be sure to include the following items: purpose of the project, number of people to be served, and how the city grant funds will be used.

Chesapeake Children's Museum (CCM) provides a "quality of life" service to assure that ALL residents of Annapolis have access to a cultural, educational, and recreational resource they can enjoy with family members of all ages and friends, old and new. The medium of play promotes informal intergenerational learning across the arts, sciences and humanities.

"All our Children" provides access to the local children's museum for low-income residents in the City of Annapolis. A grant of \$10,000 covers costs for 400 admissions (at \$5 each), 375 workshop slots (at \$8 each), and 50 man hours at community events and festivals in the City - which can reach at least 1,000 low-income residents. A total of 1,775 residents are thus served. Funds are used for supplies for hands-on activities, staffing, upkeep for the facility, and other associated costs. With funds beyond this City of Annapolis grant - private donations, foundations, other grants - CCM can serve additional community events (such as we can do with The Big Read this year), and develop new activities (a federal grant for the non-profit Spa Creek Conservancy will support nature programs at CCM).

"Education promotes equality and lifts people out of poverty. It is a fundamental human right."

Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

## PERFORMANCE HISTORY

If you received Community Grant funds last year, please evaluate progress you have made in implementing those projects. Please discuss any factors that may have hindered your progress.

Our current year's grant has been spent. CCM has continued to provide services, relying on volunteers and donations, to the low-income residents who come to visit the museum and or attend special events. We have not been able to provide workshops for groups serving low-income families since the funds have run out, however.

From July 1 to December 31, a total of 579 individuals were served at no cost. During this period 477 low-income City residents were granted free admission, 2 children participated in Chess Camp in July, 50 children enjoyed hands on activities at a Back to School event at Admiral Oaks apartments in August, and another 50 low-income residents (including members of the Annapolis Drum and Bugle Corps) enjoyed traditional West African cultural activities at the children's tent of the Kunta Kinte Festival at City Dock in September.

### RATIONALE (20 Points)

Describe the issue or problem to be addressed including the size and/or severity of the problem. Provide the demographic data and geographic information used to determine the extent of the problem.

"All Our Children" addresses the issue of poverty, and how that affects the quality of life for children in Annapolis, and their future potential for success.

Based on 2009-2013, Quickfacts data, the City of Annapolis has 11.2% of its residents living at or below the poverty level. The U.S. Census (Factfinder.census.us) reports that in 2013, 17.8% of the city's children were living in poverty. From a low of 14.36% at West Annapolis Elementary to a high of 88.63% at Tyler Heights Elementary, the Maryland State Department of Education statistics for 2014-15 show a majority of the city's public school students qualify for food subsidies. This represents a staggering 7,771 children in our midst whose families struggle to provide the basic necessities of living. A new category for counting high school aged residents in Anne Arundel County is "Unaccompanied Youth." Annapolis High School has 79 such students, who have left dysfunctional families on their own, or aged out of foster care, and are perhaps staying with various friends and relatives or in homeless shelters. Furthermore, other teens are no longer enrolled at school, entering adulthood without even a high school diploma to aid in making a living for themselves and their future families. The cycle of poverty continues.

Life at or below the poverty level is in stark contrast to the lifestyle of families with incomes at the other end of the economic spectrum - private schools, global travels, water privileged estates, etc. We are a city of economic extremes.

Evident as early as kindergarten, through statewide annual assessments, the academic achievement gap is foremost a reflection of the "haves" and the "have nots" in our community. The state showed 47% of public school kindergarteners as "ready" to benefit from what school provides, while only 27% of children of impoverished families had the skills expected at this age. As children move through the educational system, it is very difficult to alter this divergence - the 8th grade Maryland School Assessment shows a correlation for children receiving food subsidies with lower reading, math, and science scores. Compare the average of 71 points to 37 points for the science portion of the test between the "haves" against those who "have not." (Poverty Amidst Plenty 2015, Community Needs Assessment for Anne Arundel County).

Through civic responsibility, children from low-income families can overcome some of the economic challenges facing them and enjoy enriching life experiences. It behooves us all to place some of the "taken-for-granted" benefits of the middle and upper class within reach of children living in poverty.

A children's museum, unlike a school, health center, or social services agency is a place children and families find a warm welcome and a safe place to just play together. It can also create distinctive learning opportunities and ameliorative experiences to enhance the quality of life (and future success) of its visitors. CCM can provide a child living in poverty in Annapolis with a hands-on nutrition lesson using fresh produce and whole grains, a living history experience with Harriet Tubman, a musical performance by a traveling troupe of children from Uganda, and strategic tips from an international chess master (and an African-American male role model to boot).

The rationale for including low-income families in museum activities is to lessen the disadvantages of being young and poor in Annapolis. Results could impact the gamut of ills concomitant with poverty: academic struggles, mental health and health issues, drug abuse, too-early pregnancy, and juvenile crime. All these burdens of childhood correlate with adult poverty and, if left uncorrected, the cycle continues to future generations.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION (30 Points)

Please give a detailed description of the program or project you are proposing. Please include the group of persons you plan to serve and the number of expected participants, the activities or services you will provide and location.

Children and their low-income families residing in the City of Annapolis will be served. Free admission will be available for 400 individuals - including our immediate neighbors in Admiral Farragut Apartments, groups from Head Start, Gems and Jewels, Boys and Girls Clubs, HACA recreation centers, Centro de Ayuda, schools and other organizations serving families who otherwise could not afford to visit. Hands-on workshops will be available for 375 individuals from the above groups - which can either be brought to their regular meeting place or offered as part of a museum visit. Community outreach will be provided for 50 man hours at events serving about 1,000 low-income city residents among the attendees. With full funding from the City of Annapolis and additional funding from other sources, we can serve even greater numbers.

A museum visit consists of exploring the hands-on exhibits. Visitors might touch a turtle, toad, or snake, pretend to weather a storm on our 10-ft boat, take on the role of dentist, hygienist, receptionist or patient in the Body Works exhibit, or take to the stage to belt out a song at the Center Stage exhibit. The entire museum is an intergenerational interactive learning space. Group workshops and museum programs engage attendees in age-appropriate, interactive learning in the arts, science, and/or humanities. Creative problem solving is stressed, challenging children to use recyclables for art, for example. A walk on the nature trail affords new appreciation of wildlife. Creative means are used to lead children to new information - our award-winning Harriet Tubman program has received honors from the Four Rivers Heritage Area and the 1864 Maryland Emancipation Day commission for its innovative approach to teaching about an important chapter of state and national history. A cooking and nutrition class, currently supported by a grant from the Parole Rotary Club, imparts skills and knowledge to positively impact lifelong (and potentially intergenerational) food habits. In all our programming, we strive to employ the best practices in learning theory.

CCM brings a variety of hands-on activities to community events - interactive storytelling, music-making, dance, science experimenting, live animals, games, and crafts galore. For the past fourteen years, CCM has sponsored a totally free fair for all the city's children - Kids 'n' Kaboodle - with collaborative partnerships including AACPS, AACPL, and the City of Annapolis. For children of poverty, inclusion in such events is possible only when forces outside their family resources pull together on their behalf.

Describe the methodology (or approach) for the proposed program/project, e.g., the procedures, tasks, techniques, or tools you will use to develop the program

CCM is open for drop-in visitors daily with fees waived as often as we can. Groups serving low-income City residents are advised of our ability to reduce or waive fees based on funding amounts each year. As a member of the international Association of Children's Museums, CCM strives for excellence in informal, intergenerational learning. As well, procedures, techniques, and tools from the international office of Kids at Hope in Phoenix, Arizona support our efforts to give children hope through opportunities to succeed and with experiences which help them to articulate their successful futures. The museum is also an active partner with the Early Childhood Coalition of Anne Arundel County which strategizes with best practices to ensure that all children enter school ready to succeed. In addition, CCM partners with members of the Four Rivers Heritage Area for best approaches to learning about history. And we partner with other arts organizations through the county's Arts Council to stimulate creative thinking and cultural appreciation. Community interest or need and the availability of resources drive future planning for exhibits, programs, and community events. We are pleased to be offering a nutrition and cooking class, funded by the Parole Rotary Club, to combat childhood obesity and other well-researched effects of poor nutrition.

Explain how this proposal relates to the organization's mission, goals and/or strategic plan, and other activities planned for this year.

CCM's mission is: to create an environment of discovery about oneself, the peoples, the ecologies and the technologies of the Chesapeake Bay area for all our children, and for the child in us all.

An important part of our mission is to serve ALL the children. For some children, economic hurdles must be overcome in order for them to benefit from the rest of the mission - the content and skill mastery of the learning experiences. The mission also includes "the child in us all" because of the benefits to adults of playful discovery, especially when they engage in it with their children.

As part of the Early Childhood Coalition, we are committed to using our available resources to assure that every child enters school ready to succeed. The academic achievement gap is a factor for children whose families struggle with poverty. The forty members of the ECC - by appointment of the County Executive, work together on goals and strategies, including access to quality early life experiences, to pave the way for success with school. One such example is the Little Free Library, installed last June outside the museum, which has received several boxes of new board books and picture books which were donated to the ECC from Barnes and Noble Booksellers. The free books are "discovered" by families walking past the museum. We are especially appreciative of books in Spanish to help the many immigrant families in our immediate neighborhood. Community Grant funding from the City of Annapolis could contribute to such activities to directly help children from 0-5 develop skills they will need for success with school, particularly language skills.

In keeping with the focus of Healthy Anne Arundel, CCM has received a grant from the Parole Rotary Club to begin a research based parent-child cooking and nutrition class for middle school students. We are also approaching the state of Maryland for support to expand our classroom space and equip one area as a teaching kitchen. CCM has been approved for the state's Community Investment Tax Credit program through December 31, 2016, for up to \$100,000 in donations, and we hope to rally support for expanding the facility's capacity with space as well as equipment. Such free programs for low-income City residents are invaluable.

The Spa Creek Conservancy, a non-profit volunteer-based environmental group, is using federal funds to remediate erosion issues on the property and phragmites invasion in the adjacent waterway of Spa Creek. When complete, the enhanced shoreline and other features will serve as the ideal setting for hands-on learning about conservation, native wildlife, and other lessons in the natural world. City funding will help to make these programs accessible to all.

Other collaborative community events we expect to participate in for FY2017 include: the Kunta Kinte Festival of African Heritage and the New Year's Eve celebration (both events to be held at the City Dock), Maryland Day (in partnership with other Four Rivers Heritage Area sites), and Kids 'n' Kaboodle at the Weems-Whalen Memorial Athletic Fields with many Kids at Hope partners.

Funds from this Community Grant could offset expenses for Kids at Hope trainings for adults as well as children's activities designed to help every child see himself as capable of success, both in childhood and in their adult lives. A new initiative, Little Kids at Hope, is a training workshop for parents and professional child care providers of children from 0 to 6 years-old. A grant to the Anne Arundel Women Giving Together would, if funded, support piloting this workshop in the county. CCM is a strong partner in the effort to bring the Kids at Hope philosophy to all the adults who share responsibility for all of our children.

All the benefits that CCM can provide should be available to all City residents, regardless of ability to pay.

### TIMELINE (10 Points)

Provide a timeline for implementation and all program/project activities for the project.

Date	Activity
7-1-16 to 6-30-17	CCM is open for visitors to explore the hands-on exhibits: 10 am - 4 pm; summer hours: 10 am - 5 pm
7-1-16 to 6-30-17	CCM schedules programs, classes and group visits for low-income City children to attend
9-24-16; 12-31-16	9-24-16 Kunta Kinte Festival; 12-31-16 New Year's Eve at City Dock
6-3-17 and more	Kids 'n' Kaboodle and additional community events as funds allow

Please indicate how you have determined that the timeline is achievable.

A waiver of some fees - if not all - has been offered to youth-serving entities since FY2001 when CCM first participated in the Community Grant process. Based on our prior experience, scheduling will commence upon the announcement of the grants until funds are depleted.

Low-income residents have been enjoying free admission at our present location for 13 years. The children, and sometimes whole families, will continue to come.

For over 23 years, CCM has been planning and executing hands-on activities for children and families. We will carry on with the Creek Critters Nature Walk on Thursdays and Art & Story Time on Fridays, and annual events, such as Aviation Day, Harvest Hootenanny, a Kwanzaa Celebration, and The Skin You Live In for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday.

Community events such as the Kunta Kinte Festival of African Heritage in September and the City's New Year's Eve celebration in December are expected to happen on these set dates. The 15th annual Kids 'n' Kaboodle will be carried out with the help of our Kids at Hope partners in June.

Describe the organization's ability to implement the request.

The City of Annapolis and other community partners have relied on CCM's expertise to engage and entertain children and families these past 23 years. CCM is a staple of such annual community events as the Kunta Kinte Festival and the Earth Day celebration at Quiet Waters Park. Kids 'n' Kaboodle, coordinated by CCM, is a collaborative effort of many non-profits, businesses, and public agencies and is successful because of stakeholder relationships with each other and the earned trust of the participants. We work well as collaborators on behalf of our common children.

Hands-on learning is what we do best. We have twenty-three years of experience in providing activities and developing exhibits from which children and their accompanying grown-ups can learn about the world as well as about each other and themselves. One shining example is our "Lead On, Harriet!" program which received honors from the Four Rivers Heritage Area and the City's 1864 Maryland Emancipation Day commission. We are in the midst of organizing book discussions and hands-on activities for the The Big Read with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and a multitude of partners. With the NEA funding we will be able to offer most events at no cost to participants of all ages.

CCM has benefited from our community's support for donations of craft materials, books, and exhibit items including live animals. The AACo Food & Resource Bank provides lunch for Kids 'n' Kaboodle. We have held events at nearby venues including the Annapolis Senior Center, the West Street branch of AACPL, Annapolis Maritime Museum, and Maryland Hall. Our volunteers come from the Volunteer Center of Anne Arundel County, AACC, USNA, St. John's College, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, the Providence Center, and the county's Dept. of Social Services. Grant support has come from the Annapolis Rotary, Parole Rotary, AA Women Giving Together, Chesapeake Bay Trust, and others.

### EVALUATION (20 Points)

Clearly state the specific, goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes of the project/program.

Goals	Objectives	Measurable Outcomes
Impoverished children and families will benefit from activities and experiences that can ameliorate some of the stifling effects of poverty.	To increase the number of low-income residents who will access services of Chesapeake Children's Museum.	Free admission for 400 individuals. Waived program/group fees for 375. 50 man hours at community events reaching 1,000 low-income residents.

Describe the impact (long-term effects) you expect will be produced by program/project outcomes.

School can only do so much, and as we have seen, they simply cannot do enough for children from economically challenged families. Ongoing research at Boston's Children's Museum endorses what we do as promoting the best in 21st century skills (<http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/power-of-play>). A leader in the field of children's museum's BCM lists these invaluable skills as critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and collaboration. CCM supports a lifelong benefit of having a safe and stimulating place to play.

Ongoing research by the Kids at Hope organization, based in Phoenix, Arizona, suggests that for a successful adulthood, despite financial and other challenges, childhood must be a time of reliable nurturing and a positive look toward the future. This may be easier for families who are financially secure, but not impossible for families in which money is in short supply. The village has to fill in. Key relationships with adults other than parents provide children with high standards to aim for, the belief that they will be successful, and opportunities during childhood for the children to succeed. Our facilitators provide this.

The "neighborhood kids," as we call them, usually come to the museum on their own, without their parents. Those who have come before, and enjoyed a warm welcome and safe respite from hanging out in their families' crowded apartments or modest homes, bring their friends, siblings, cousins, and occasionally parents and grandparents, to check out the wonders the children's museum has to offer.

We expect that everyone can be enriched by such experiences as: visiting with live animals, taking on roles in a folk tale, experimenting with the design of a paper airplane, creating a work of art with everyday recyclables, baking a batch of whole grain crackers from scratch, enjoying a musical presentation from another culture, and meeting a character out of history. And we are gratified to know, based on research and our own experience, that children who could not participate unless fees were waived, benefit the most.

The kinds of hands-on learning experiences that CCM can provide can build knowledge and skills to improve success in school and in life. Low-income families, and the agencies that serve them, will be supported with enriching experiences for impoverished children. Following the theory behind Kids at Hope, children will experience successes that will help them to believe in a bright future for themselves. In addition, their adults will be empowered with a belief in their ability to provide better for their children - because there was no financial barrier to coming to an activity provided by the museum.

The intergenerational transmission of poverty need not continue indefinitely. Intervention - through enriching activities for children and their low-income families - can make all the difference.

## BUDGET DOCUMENTS (20 Points)

Include a detailed program budget that includes expenses, city funds requested and pending sources of support. Please use the attached Program/Project Budget Format.

Outline the organizations plans for securing funding from sources other than those provided by the City of Annapolis and indicate how City of Annapolis' funds will be used to leverage a request for, or use of, other grant funds.

As a budget item on other grant applications, a \$10,000 grant shows an endorsement by the City of Annapolis of CCM's value to the community - to keep all the children of Annapolis well-served. This will be acknowledged on CCM's webpage, newsletter, and other materials.

A Community Grant from the City of Annapolis leverages our annual application to the Anne Arundel County Arts Council in support of CCM's arts activities, providing additional assurance that no city resident is denied the arts and cultural resources of CCM due to a family's economic limitations.

CCM is asking the state of Maryland for help to furnish a classroom for cooking and nutrition education. With additional help from the Maryland Historical Trust, we may be able to make much-needed improvements to the parking lot to be able to accommodate school buses. These applications will be bolstered with assurance that low income students right here in Annapolis can access the museum using City grant funds. (These requests are in their earliest stages, and therefor are not included below.)

Not a grant, but a donation incentive, CCM has been approved by the state of Maryland for its Community Investment Tax Credit program, through which donors of \$500 or more through December 31, 2016 can receive a 50% credit off of taxes owed to the state. Contributions of money or materials will go toward facility improvements to add group activity spaces and improve the parking lot. We have started receiving donations from past CITC donors and are looking for participation by more individuals and businesses. A Community Grant from the City of Annapolis will be put to good use for activities conducted after the renovations.

CCM has applied to St. Margaret's Church for help in supplementing City funds and other supports for serving low income children and families.

A \$10,000 grant request will be submitted to Arundel Women Giving Together to pilot the Little Kids at Hope training workshop for parents and other caregivers of 0 to 6-year-olds throughout Anne Arundel County. It is anticipated that half the funds will be used to serve those in the City of Annapolis, including the 2 Head Start Centers here, and the other half of the funds will be for trainings throughout the county.

City of Annapolis Community Grant	\$10,000
Anne Arundel Women Giving Together	\$5,000
St. Margaret's Church	\$5,100
Portion of donations through CITC for facility improvements	\$20,000
In-kind support from ECC and KaH partners and others	\$5,000

Total costs for serving low-income City of Annapolis residents: \$45,100



## PROJECT BUDGET

Please complete the following budget chart for this project, including all budget items, the total budget for each item, and the funds that are being requested for each line item.

Budget item	City funds requested	Other funds	Source of Other funds (Federal, State, Private)	Is "Other funding" committed or requested?	Total project cost
Salaries/Benefits (list each position)					
facilitators 160 hrs @ \$25	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	AAWGT	requested	\$ 9,000.00
admin staff 100 hrs @ \$20	2,000.00	3,100.00	St. Margaret's Church	requested	5,100.00
festival/event 50 hrs@ \$100	1,000.00	2,000.00	St. Margaret's Church	requested	3,000.00
cleaning	500.00				500.00
in-kind staff		3,000.00	ECC & KaH partners	committed	3,000.00
Contract Services					
Rent/Leasing Costs					
facilities improvements	1,100.00	20,000.00	CITC private donors	requested	21,100.00
Utilities/Telephone (please specify)					
phone & internet	500.00				500.00
Equipment					
Insurance	200.00				200.00
Office Supplies	100.00	100.00	in-kind private donors	requested	200.00
Printing/Postage	50.00				50.00
Audit/Accounting	50.00				50.00
Other (please describe)					
Program Supplies	500.00	1,900.00	in-kind private donors	requested	2,400.00
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 35,100.00</b>			<b>\$ 45,100.00</b>