Writing Sample: Karissa St. Pierre

Grant Funder: Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts Flexible Funding Grant

SAMPLE PROPOSAL RESPONSES:

Question 2) Organization's Primary Goals
What are your organization's primary goals for 2026, and what is your capacity to achieve them? (Maximum 2,500 characters)

Our primary goal for 2026 is to continue meeting families where they are—providing flexible financial support and individualized early learning plans that help each child reach developmental milestones while honoring the unique needs of every child and family. Since opening four years ago, we have maintained full enrollment, successfully added a third classroom, and used that expansion to provide more specialized support for our youngest learners. Parent feedback, developmental benchmark data, and input from community partners all confirm the program's success.

Building on this strong foundation, our goals for 2026 include:

1. Increasing outdoor play opportunities:
    We are redesigning the outdoor space adjacent to our classrooms to make it more age-appropriate and engaging for our youngest preschoolers. Plans include adding equipment designed for children ages 2.9–3, removing less suitable structures, and installing shade coverings so learning and play can take place outdoors more consistently. These improvements, driven by parent and teacher feedback, will increase opportunities for exploration and active play.

2. Sustaining and expanding family engagement:
    Family engagement is central to our program's success, supporting both consistent attendance and strong partnerships between families and educators. Last year's events—such as Donuts with Dad, Thanksgiving centerpiece building, and Winter Holiday Happenings—each achieved over 90% caregiver participation, with work

schedules cited as the primary barrier to full attendance. Our most successful event, an apple-picking field trip, reached 98% participation and provided an enriching experience that many families would not otherwise have accessed. In 2026, we will expand both the number and variety of family engagement opportunities and dedicate additional resources to enhance their impact.

With a proven track record of maintaining full enrollment, expanding capacity, and achieving high levels of family participation, our preschool is well-positioned to meet these goals and continue delivering high-quality, inclusive early education and childcare.

Question 9) Loss of Funding
Have you experienced, or are you anticipating, any significant losses or threats to State or Federal funding that could impact your operations or sustainability?

Yes. We are currently experiencing a significant loss in funding that directly impacts our preschool program. For the past three years, we have received support through the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative (CPPI) grant, administered by [Client City] Public Schools. This year, our allocation was reduced from $135,000 to $79,000—a 41% decrease.

These funds previously supported family engagement activities, enrichment programming with external providers (such as puppeteers, Zoo on the Go, and Mad Science), and financial assistance for our most vulnerable families—all of which have been integral to the program's success. With this reduction, these services are now at risk unless additional funding is secured or programming is scaled back.

Flexible funding from the Community Foundation would help bridge this gap, ensuring that families continue to have access to high-quality, reliable preschool care and the supportive services that make participation possible.