

Franklin-Simpson Educational Excellence Foundation, Inc.

GRANT APPLICATION COVER PAGE

Application must be typed. If you experience difficulty completing, please contact our office at email fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com

Applicant Name & Position: Lucinda Eversman, School Social Worker

School/Organization Involved: Franklin and Lincoln Elementary Schools

Amount Requested: \$8,000

Purpose of Funding: To purchase a trained therapy dog from Deer Creek Labordoodles

Targeted Grade Levels: PreK-K 1-3 4-5 6-8 9-12 Other: _____

Number of Students/Persons Affected by Grant: 800

Academic Area: Reading Language Arts Social Studies Math
Science Fine arts Community Other: Mental Health, Social Emotional Learning

Brief Summary of Project (2 - 3 Sentences):

The purpose of providing a therapy dog into the elementary schools is to support and address the academic and mental health needs of the students, including social emotional learning. There is opportunity for a therapy dog to assist in the improvement of academics, specifically reading, and improve emotional regulation skills.

Address of School/Organization: Lincoln Elementary School 601 John J Johnson Ave Franklin, KY 42134

Contact Person: Lucinda Eversman

Phone: (Day & Evening) 270-586-7133 & 502-229-2788 Fax: 270-586-2045

E-Mail: lucinda.eversman@simpson.kyschools.us

Grant Cycle Submitted: September November February April

Required Signatures

Simpson County Schools:

Principal/Supervisor John Anderson Date _____

Superintendent _____ Date _____

Community Organizations:

Grant Preparer Lucinda Eversman Title Social worker Date 7/13/20

Board Representative _____ Title _____ Date _____

Franklin & Lincoln Elementary Schools
School Social Worker, Lucinda Eversman, CSW
Request for funds of a therapy dog from Deer Creek Labradoodles

If you were to combine Franklin Elementary's and Lincoln Elementary's mission statements, we would be providing a learning environment for students to reach their full potential to lead, excel, and succeed at each level of elementary education. It is my goal as the School Social Worker to support their academic success as they learn by teaching them how to navigate social situations, manage their emotions, and grow as individuals. One resource I'm excited to implement in both school buildings toward this goal is offering the presence and services of a therapy dog. I have witnessed the therapeutic impact on kindergarteners by Laney, therapy dog at Franklin-Simpson High School, when she visits classrooms at Franklin Elementary, and walks the halls of Lincoln Elementary. The opportunity to have a therapy dog present in Franklin and Lincoln Elementary schools each day will improve the overall culture and climate of the buildings as the dog enhances therapeutic opportunities for students, and staff.

A study between 2001-2017 by the US Department of Education found therapy dogs to provide benefits toward "a) increased reading and language skills, b) social, emotional, and humane gains, and c) improved gross motor skills." The study states therapy dogs "provide stability and comfort to children who are living in poverty or abusive homes." In the classroom, therapy dogs impact "students' overall emotional stability, improve students' attitudes toward schools, and facilitate students learning lessons in responsibility, respect and empathy." Therapeutic impacts of a trained dog can change a student's growth in the classroom, hardships within their living environment, and their interpersonal relationships.

The American Psychiatric Association identifies specific mental health diagnoses that can be supported by a trained therapeutic dog including attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism, depression, stress, anxiety, and post traumatic stress disorder. Utilizing the therapy dog with our students who may be living with the identified mental health diagnosis will allow the student to work through their daily challenges, decrease their mental health diagnosis symptoms, and can return to the classroom and continue to learn in the classroom.

My goal is to utilize the therapy dog during individual sessions, small group meetings, and crisis or immediate situations with students during the school day. There are approximately 340-360 students at Franklin Elementary School including kindergarten and pre-school, as well as the opportunity to serve the Community Action Head Start program housed in the FES building. Lincoln Elementary has approximately 450-470 students enrolled throughout the school year, and a combined 120 staff members between both schools. The opportunity for a therapy dog to provide services to approximately 900 individual people will vastly improve the morality, overall well-being, and climate and culture of Franklin and Lincoln Elementary Schools.

Following in the example of Franklin-Simpson High School Social Worker, Jessica Johnson, and upon the approval of a therapy dog and grant application by the Simpson County Board of Education and FSEEF, I will work with Deer Creek Labordoodles. I will pursue a mini or medium

labradoodle that will accommodate and be appropriately sized for our elementary students. DCL offers the trained therapy dogs upon payment, or the ability to train a puppy for the specific needs and goals of the school the dog will be serving. The dog would reside with me, School Social Worker of FES an LES, in my Bowling Green residence, and work daily with me. I will be housed at Lincoln Elementary School and work in the building Monday-Wednesday, and at Franklin Elementary Thursday-Friday. This schedule will be flexible as the needs of each school may change. The dog would have a crate and bed available at school in the event it is not appropriate for the dog to be handled during specific emergencies, or if a student, staff, or school guest is not comfortable with the dog. It is my goal to obtain the services of a therapeutic dog during the 2026-2027 school year as I work with Deer Creek Labradoodles and the Simpson County School District toward this resource.

The total funding for this resource to be implemented at Franklin and Lincoln Elementary is approximately \$10,000. I am requesting \$8,000 from the FSEEF. Support from the Simpson County School District and community partners of Crocker Animal Clinic and Tractor Supply will allow me to provide complete care of the therapy dog, veterinary services, and food or other needs.

Therapy Certified Canine Dog \$8000.00

Canine Good Citizen/Therapy Dog Certification includes AKC S.T.A.R. , Puppy Generalization of Skills , AKC Canine Good Citizen Classes , Boot Camp Refresh , and Testing for Therapy Certification.

Therapy Skills Certification may include Say High, Hug (lay in lap, especially beneficial for special needs students) , and Reading Buddy , and other skills offered by DCL.

Thank you for your consideration in the opportunity to support and improve the academic success, social and emotional needs, and therapeutic services offered to Franklin and Lincoln Elementary Schools.

Resources:

[ed.gov](https://www.ed.gov)

[psychiatry.org](https://www.psychiatry.org)

[deercreeklabradoodles.com](https://www.deercreeklabradoodles.com)



PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CREATE YOUR GRANT APPLICATION.

Writing Guidelines

- 1) Application is complete and follows format outlined below, two to four pages in length, postmarked by deadline, includes **12** copies (one for each director & staff) or digital media and one hard copy including signed cover sheet.*
- 2) Demonstrates innovative and/or program/curriculum or identifiable need.*
- 3) Clearly defines learning goals and offers a meaningful way to measure success.*
- 4) Clearly defines an area of need for students, school, or community.*
- 5) Simpson County Schools applicants **MUST** include signatures of principal & board approval **before submitting to FSEEF.** (See Important Considerations below.)*

A. NARRATIVE: Choose Option I or II depending on organization's status:

I. SIMPSON COUNTY SCHOOLS AND PERSONNEL

Describe Your Request

- 1) Describe the problem(s) or need(s) addressed by this request. Be sure to:
 - a. State your school's mission.
 - b. Clearly describe how this program/project will help your school to carry out its mission
- 2) Describe in detail the specific activities and strategies of this project,
- 3) Incorporate a **timeline** for implementation.
- 4) Describe in detail the expected outcome/goals of your project and how these outcomes will be measured.

OR

II. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Organizational History and Structure

- 1) Briefly describe your organization's purpose, mission, and goals.
- 2) Is your organization tax-exempt?
- 3) Detail your sources of total program funding/ financial support.
- 4) Provide a list of board members and staff as an attachment.

Describe Your Request

- 1) Describe the problem(s) or need(s) addressed by this request.
- 2) Describe the specific activities and strategies of this project.
- 3) Incorporate a **timeline** for implementation.
- 4) Describe the expected outcome/goals of your project. Explain how the outcomes will help meet your organization's mission.

B. EVALUATION

- 1) Please describe the evaluation method you will use to measure the success of your project. What questions will be answered?

C. BUDGET—Must be reasonable for scope of project and number of learners affected.

- 1) Provide a **detailed** budget of how you plan to use the requested funding to ensure the success of your proposed project. Applicants may attach estimates, quotes or data collected online to support budget projections. Attachments DO NOT replace a constructed project budget.
- 2) Please indicate any other sources of funding you are seeking for this project and the amounts anticipated from those sources.

D. APPLICATION SUMMARY—The mission of the Franklin Simpson Educational Excellence Foundation, Inc. is “to supplement existing educational opportunities through funding to educators and community organizations in order to facilitate effective learning.” Applicants should clearly discuss how the proposed project meets not only their school/organization’s mission statement, but also how it meets FSEEF’s mission.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS for completing your proposal:

- FSEEF funds learner-directed projects. Applicants should not submit for travel, training, “bricks and mortar,” or salaries UNLESS it can be **justified clearly and completely** as an integral part of the project.
- Applicants must follow the format outlined in this application packet. A completed cover sheet must be included in addition to the narrative portion which addresses A-D in outline above. Failure to submit a complete application will result in application being returned for revision to meet the established guidelines and will delay consideration until the next cycle.
- Out of fairness to all applicants, FSEEF board members should not be asked to review applications prior to submission.
- Applications will be reviewed in order received. Early submission is encouraged.

Grant applications will be compiled and reviewed on a quarterly basis as indicated below.

<i>2025-2026 FSEEF Meeting Dates for Grant Review</i>	<i>Grant Must Be Submitted by 2:00 p.m on this date</i>
8/24/2026	8/14/2026
9/28/2026	9/18/2026
10/26/2026	10/16/2026
11/23/2026	11/13/2026
12/28/2026	12/18/2026
1/25/2027	1/15/2027
2/22/2027	2/12/2027
3/22/2027	3/12/2027
4/26/2027	4/16/2027

*****Applications submitted by Simpson County Schools personnel MUST have board of education approval PRIOR to submission to FSEEF. Contact the Central Office to have approval of your application included on the board agenda. Central Office will need a copy of your proposal to be signed by the superintendent after board approval. Board of Education meeting dates are subject to change. Applicant is then responsible for submitting the SIGNED proposal to FSEEF.***

Allow a 1-2 week review period. All applicants will be contacted within one week of grant review meeting.

Send completed applications to:
FSEEF Grant Applications, P.O. Box 94, Franklin, KY 42135-0094
or e-mail to fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com