Project Title: Christopher House Charter School Expansion to Include Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grades

Through Christopher House's family of schools in Belmont Cragin, Logan Square and Uptown, more than 4,000 low-income children and families are provided an opportunity for success in school, the workplace, and life. The average household income for our Christopher House families is under $19,000, and 87% of family caregivers have a GED/high school diploma or less. 100% of Christopher House students receive free lunch based on federal policy guidelines, and nearly 60% of our students come from single-parent households. Christopher House effectively closes the opportunity gap for our students through an innovative approach that begins at birth and continues through high school.

Christopher House provides students with a continuum of personalized learning with immersive family support to create stable, self-sufficient families who support the academic, social and emotional development of their children. In an effort to complete our continuum of education at the Christopher House Charter School, rated a Level 1+ School by Chicago Public Schools—only four schools in the city scored higher—and to best prepare our students to attend, and succeed at top-tier Chicago high schools, Christopher House respectfully requests a grant of $1,233,395 to support the expansion of Christopher House Charter School to include sixth through eighth grades.

Christopher House Charter School, located in Belmont Cragin, currently hosts an Infant and Toddler Preschool, K-5 Elementary School, After-School Program and Parent School. Christopher House Parent School enrolls all parents of Christopher House students and engages them in a program model that includes family advocates, parent education, counseling, and other vital resources to develop self-sufficient families. This expansion will support an additional 210 students and their families over the next three years.

Christopher House is committed to measuring outcomes for all programs so that our methods are data-driven and our students and their families receive the highest quality services. We use data to monitor and effectively address academic improvement, social-emotional development, teacher practice development, family involvement levels, family stability against established goals, employee satisfaction, parent satisfaction, and after-school student impact.

For the 2019-2024 school years, Christopher House will continue to track and closely monitor a number of success measurements and intended outcomes. As we expect 100% of Christopher House Charter School eighth grade graduates to enroll in high school, our benchmarks are based on the highest qualifications needed from a selective-enrollment high school in Chicago. We also expect Christopher House Charter School to maintain its Level 1+ rating from Chicago Public Schools, the highest rating possible.

Christopher House’s continuum of education is changing the trajectory for low-income, at-risk children and their families. As our family of schools provide a unique data set for education research and policy, we welcome opportunities to further analyze and share data to best serve the population.