



For Immediate Release: January 10, 2026

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The Pro Bono Publico Foundation Announces Grants Totaling More Than \$1.3 Million to Support Greater New Orleans Schools and Education

Since its Inception in 2006, the Foundation Has Made Grants Totaling More Than \$16 Million

(New Orleans, Louisiana) Continuing its ongoing investments in New Orleans public schools and high-quality public education, today, the Pro Bono Publico Foundation (PBPF) announced that, for the eleventh consecutive year, it has awarded grants and fulfillment of installments of multi-year strategic commitments in excess of \$1 million.

This \$1.3 million investment, which is the Foundation's 19th grant cycle, represents the sustained commitment of Rex members in support of Greater New Orleans students and educators. Since its founding in 2006, the Pro Bono Publico Foundation's giving exceeds \$16 million, making the Foundation one of the key local funders of efforts to support and improve our public schools. Today's annual Foundation announcement at the Rex Den on South Claiborne Avenue included representatives from the PBPF's board, schools and organizations receiving grants, and members of the Rex Organization.

Most of the Foundation's giving has been focused on operational grants that serve to support the important work being done in our schools. These grants provide school leaders additional funds to do what they would not otherwise be able to do, allowing them to further enrich their students' experience.

Several years ago, the Foundation created a Strategic Innovation Fund designed to make larger, strategic investments aimed at addressing some of our more pressing challenges and high-leverage opportunities. The Foundation's strategic investments are designed to help New Orleans' school children reach their full educational potential. Examples of the Foundation's larger, strategic, multi-year commitments include grants to New Schools for New Orleans to assure our city's charter schools attract and retain excellent leaders and teachers, Manning Family Children's Hospital/ThriveKids to expand access to behavioral and physical health services across our public schools, and Lift All Boats to train school leaders and to develop sustainable leadership development opportunities.

Merritt Lane, a member of the Foundation's board, said, "The Pro Bono Publico Foundation's donors, as well as other local foundations we partner with, recognize the importance of this investment in our children and our future. We have made tremendous progress, but we recognize there is much work still to do to ensure excellence in all of our schools. Consistent with the Rex Organization's motto *Pro Bono Publico*, for the public good, and for the benefit of New Orleans' school children, we are very pleased this year to make grants and multi-year commitments totaling over \$1.3 million."

Emily Wolff, Vice President for Community Impact at Manning Family Children's said, "The Pro Bono Publico Foundation and Manning Family Children's have a shared vision that in order to build a thriving school system, we need to invest in essential supports that keep our students healthy. With the Foundation's support, we have been able to understand gaps in care and create a roadmap to scale school-based health services and mental health support across all New Orleans Public Schools – ensuring that every student has access to quality care. Manning Family Children's is grateful for the Foundation's strategic investment, and we look forward to our continued collaboration to change the health and academic outcomes of a generation, together."

2025-2026 Grants by the Numbers:

- 77 total grants, consisting of 74 operational grants and three strategic grants to Manning Family Children's Hospital/ThriveKids, New Schools for New Orleans, and Lift All Boats.
- \$1,059,500 will fund 74 annual operational grants.
- \$250,000 will fund three strategic grants: \$50,000 in funding the second year of a two-year \$125,000 strategic grant to Manning Family Children's Hospital/ThriveKids; \$100,000 in funding the first year of a \$300,000 three-year strategic grant to New Schools for New Orleans; and \$100,000 funding the first year of a \$400,000 three-year strategic grant to Lift All Boats (the purpose of each of these strategic grants are described above).
- \$1,309,500 in total 2025-2026 grants.
- More than \$16 million in total giving through 19 grant cycles.
- Eleventh consecutive year of grants totaling more than \$1 million.

A listing of the 77 organizations receiving grants from the Foundation's 2025-2026 giving cycle appears on the following two pages.

About the Pro Bono Publico Foundation

Responding to the community's needs during the difficulties of Reconstruction, the Rex Organization was founded by a group of civic-minded individuals in 1872, over 150 years ago. Responding to the community's needs during the difficulties of recovery from Hurricane Katrina, the Pro Bono Publico Foundation was founded by members of the Rex Organization in 2006. Thanks to the generosity of its donors, the Foundation has been able to make a sustained and meaningful investment in support of our community's public schools and its students. The Foundation's grants and commitments show the determined efforts of Rex members and the Foundation's supporters to ensure all of New Orleans' children can attend excellent schools. These schools, and organizations supporting their important work, have been the focus of the Foundation's investment, as well as the commitment of dozens of Rex members serving on their boards.

Pro Bono Publico Foundation
2025-2026 Grantees

1. 18th Ward
2. Agenda for Children
3. alignED New Orleans
4. Bayou District Foundation (Educare)
5. Belle Chasse Academy (Military)
6. Ben Franklin Elementary/Middle Math & Science School
7. Ben Franklin High School (Advocates for Academic Excellence in Education)
8. Breakthrough NO (Fiscal Agent Isidore Newman)
9. Bricolage Academy
10. Café Reconcile
11. Children's Bureau of New Orleans
12. City Year New Orleans
13. Clover
14. College Beyond New Orleans
15. Collegiate Academies (Sci Academy)
16. Community Academies (Choice/Foundation Prep)
17. Community Works
18. Crescent City Schools
19. Discovery Schools
20. Early Partners
21. Education Pioneers
22. Education Reform Now Louisiana
23. Educators for Quality Alternatives (Bridge School)
24. Elan Academy Charter School
25. FirstLine Schools
26. Foundation for Science & Math Education - High School
27. Greater New Orleans STEM Initiative (dba Core Element)
28. Homer Plessy Community Schools
29. Hynes Charter School Corporation
30. InspireNOLA Charter Schools
31. Institute for Academic Excellence (Sophie B Wright High School)
32. Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academy
33. KID smART
34. KIPP New Orleans Schools
35. LA Association of Public Charter Schools
36. LA Policy Institute for Children
37. Lake Forest Elementary Charter School
38. Lift All Boats
39. Live Oak Wilderness Camp
40. Louisiana Charter School Alliance (GNO Collaborative of Charter Schools)
41. Lycee Francais de la Nouvelle Orleans
42. Manning Family Children's Hospital/ThriveKids
43. Morris Jeff Community School
44. New Harmony High School
45. New Orleans Career Center
46. New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA)
47. New Orleans Military & Maritime Academy (NOMMA-Military)
48. New Orleans Youth Alliance (NOYA)
49. NOCHI
50. NSNO (New Schools for New Orleans)
51. Opportunities Academy
52. Raphael Village
53. ReNEW Charter Mgmt.
54. Rivet School
55. Roots of Music Inc., The
56. Son of a Saint
57. Special Education Leadership Fellowship (SELF)
58. St. Augustine High School
59. St. Mary's Academy
60. St. Michael Special School
61. St. Stephen Catholic School
62. Start the Adventure in Reading (STAIR)
63. STEM Library Lab

- 64. STEM NOLA
- 65. Success Preparatory Academy
- 66. TFA Teach for America - GNO
- 67. The Bright School
- 68. The Chartwell Center
- 69. The Good Shepherd School
- 70. The Posse Foundation, Inc.
- 71. Tulane University Cowen Institute
- 72. Warren Easton Charter High School
- 73. Xavier University of LA
- 74. Young Audiences Charter (YACA-YACS)
- 75. Youth Empowerment Project
- 76. Youth Run NOLA
- 77. YouthForce NOLA