

# Community And Urban Science Enrichment (CAUSE) Youth Development Program

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*2026 CORE MISSION GRANT*

## *Center for Aquatic Sciences*

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## *Brie Ilenda*

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# Application Form

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## *Introduction*

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Thank you for completing Impact100 South Jersey's Core Mission Grant application.

*The application due date is February 13 2026.*

The application is divided into 4 sections:

1. Organization Overview
2. Organization Operating Information
3. Proposed Project Information
4. Proposed Project Budget

Your responses will automatically save so you can complete the application in stages. However, once you hit SUBMIT you will not be able to edit your responses, even if prior to the application deadline of February 13, 2026. Please be sure to proofread your responses before submitting your application.

Please visit Impact100 South Jersey website to learn more about our Organization and our grant programs.

Thank you for your interest in our grant program and the work you do to improve the quality of life for South Jersey residents. We look forward to reading your proposal.

Questions/problems, please email [grants@impact100sj.org](mailto:grants@impact100sj.org)

## *Section 1: Organization Overview*

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### **In which county is your organization headquartered?**

*Your response to this question is from your previously completed Grant Eligibility Application and cannot be changed.*

Camden County

### **LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS IF OUTSIDE IMPACT100 SJ COUNTIES\***

If your Organization is not headquartered in Burlington, Camden, Cumberland or Gloucester County, please provide address, including county of headquarters. Please state "N/A" if this question does not apply to your Organization.

N/A

## ADDRESS AND COUNTY OF SATELLITE OFFICE\*

If your Organization is not headquartered in Burlington, Camden, Cumberland or Gloucester County, please provide address, including county of satellite office within Impact100 South Jersey's four counties. Please state "N/A" if this question does not apply to your Organization.

N/A

## Which Focus Area is the best fit for your organization's mission (choose up to 2)

Impact100 grants are intended to support community organizations across five broad Focus Areas. To ensure your organization's eligibility, please choose **up to two** Focus Areas that best support your organization's mission.

Education

Environment and Sustainability

## MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT\*

Please state your Organization's Mission Statement and Vision Statement as stated on your public-facing materials, such as website.

**The Center for Aquatic Sciences provides unique learning experiences that empower youth to lead the way in understanding, appreciating, and protecting the environment.**

We believe that investing in young people, strengthening their connection to nature, and positioning them for success is our best hope for creating a better world for future generations.

## TARGET POPULATION OF ORGANIZATION\*

Please briefly explain the demographics of your target population and geographic area where they reside. This is the target population of your Organization and not necessarily specific to the project you are proposing in this grant application.

Fee-based education programming covers the tri-state area (NJ, PA, DE) and includes school outreach programming, after school science programming in Camden and Philadelphia, aquarium summer camp and overnights at Adventure Aquarium, scout workshops, and teen career programming. These programs serve approximately 8,000 learners per year.

Youth development (CAUSE) and Community programming is no-cost and primarily serves Camden City, NJ. These programs include the CAUSE youth development program, kayaking and fishing outdoor programming, family STEM events, and outreach to Camden City summer camp programs. These programs serve 3,500+ youth and families annually (almost exclusively in Camden City). In the CAUSE youth development program, 100% of students are BIPOC. 85%+ meet the guidelines for the free or reduced lunch program.

## ***Section 2: Organization's Operating Information***

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### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TENURE\***

How many years has the Executive Director served in this role at your organization? If less than two years, please state the Executive Director's previous position(s) and employer(s).

Barbara Kelly has served as the Center's President & CEO for 22 months. Prior to assuming the executive position at the Center, Ms. Kelly served as Vice President & COO for 2 years. She was the Center's Director of Institutional Advancement prior to her tenure as Vice President. In her previous role at the Center, she developed a focused fundraising strategy to increase financial support for the Center's various programs, in particular CAUSE. Ms. Kelly has a Master of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Roanoke College in Virginia.

### **FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES\***

**Please list the number of full-time employees.**

If the number of employees varies from time to time, please state the average number throughout the year.

10

### **PART-TIME EMPLOYEES\***

**Please list the number of part-time employees.**

If the number of employees varies from time to time, please state the average throughout the year.

31

### **FLUCTUATION IN NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES**

If the number of full-time or part-time employees varies during the year, please explain. You do not need to explain normal staff turnover.

While the number of part-time staff hours fluctuates seasonally (for instance, CAUSE youth staffers work 35-hour weeks during Summer Science Camp, while averaging 10-15 hours per week the rest of the year), the number of staffers does not change significantly. The Center adds 2 summer fellows each June, who stay on staff through August or September.

### **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION\***

**Please list the number of volunteers at your Organization.**

If the number of volunteers varies from time to time, please state the average throughout the year.

212

### **BOARD/GOVERNING BODY INFORMATION\***

**What is the current number of Board members?**

11

## NUMBER OF BOARD MEETINGS\*

How many times does your Board meet throughout the year?

8

## BOARD MEMBERS' INFORMATION\*

For each Board member, please provide their name, professional affiliation (status) and **number of years served on your Board** using the format in the example.

**Example:**

1. Jane Smith, Boeing engineer (retired), 5 years on Board
2. Robert Jones, Clark High School teacher, 2 years

Brian DuVall President & CEO, Center for Aquatic Sciences (ret.) 4 years served  
 Melinda Johnson, PhD. Principal, Johnson Insight & Leadership 7 years served  
 Peter J McAliney, PhD Director of Professional and Executive Education, Rutgers University School of Business 3 years served  
 Jennifer Miller Client and Employee Experience Manager, PNC Bank 20 years served  
 Stacey Pierce Director of Civic Engagement and Community Outreach, EMR Camden 3 years served  
 Lori Rapuano Senior Counsel, Norton Rose Fulbright Global law firm 2 years served  
 Sulena Robinson-Rivera Redevelopment Coordinator, Camden Redevelopment Agency 2 years served  
 Joey Rodriguez Senior External Affairs Specialist, American Water 5 years served  
 Kim Scarborough Manager, Corporate Citizenship Strategies, PSEG Services Corporation 8 years served  
 Kathleen F. Wagner Consultant, Canopy Strategic Partners 22 years served  
 Alyssa Wilds Director, Corporate & Community Relations , Reworld 1 year served

## 2025 OPERATING BUDGET

*Your response to this question is from your previously completed Grant Eligibility Application and cannot be changed.*

\$1,507,715.00

## 2026 Operating Budget

*Your response to this question is from your previously completed Grant Eligibility Application and cannot be changed.*

\$1,365,520.00

## REVENUE SOURCES\*

Please list your Organization's **five** largest revenue sources for this year and last year. This can include all types of revenue (public/private grants, donations, fee for service, etc.).

**Example:**

**Current Year's Revenue--5 Largest Sources**

- 1. ABC grant, \$50,000
- 2. ABC Foundation, \$30,000
- 3. Donors, \$25,000
- 4. Fundraising \$10,000
- 5. State Grant, \$125,000

**Last Year's Revenue-5 Largest Sources**

- 1. ABC grant, \$50,000
- 2. ABC Foundation, \$100,000
- 3. Donors, \$25,000
- 4. State Grant, \$100,000
- 5. Federal Grant, \$75,000

**Current Year's Revenue--5 Largest Sources**

- 1. Fee for service
- 2. PSEG Foundation, \$40,000
- 3. NJ American Water Foundation, \$40,000
- 4. Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, \$30,000
- 5. South Jersey Charitable Foundation, \$17,500

**Last Year's Revenue-5 Largest Sources**

- 1. Fee for service
- 2. PSEG Foundation, \$40,000
- 3. NJ American Water Foundation, \$40,000
- 4. NJ Office of Faith Based Initiatives, \$40,000
- 5. Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, \$30,000

**DOES ORGANIZATION HAVE A STRATEGIC PLAN\***

No

**STRATEGIC PLAN\***

If your Organization has a Strategic Plan, what year was it adopted and what years does it cover.

If no Strategic Plan, please enter "none"

None. The Center has Board-approved Strategic Goals.

**LONG TERM GOALS/VISION\***

Please describe your Organization's long term goals as stated in the Strategic Plan or your organization's vision (if no Strategic Plan) for the next 3 to 5 years.

Organizational goals include:

- Continuing to expand our presence in Camden by offering more environmental education, on-water recreation, and family STEM opportunities that are accessible to all residents. In particular, focusing on expanding quality programming throughout the city's underserved neighborhoods

- Performing a full audit of programs, including participant feedback to ensure that we continue to meet our mission to provide unique learning experiences that empower youth to lead the way in understanding, appreciating, and protecting the environment. Increase integration of evaluation tools for new programming
- Increasing opportunities and reach by creating new strategic partnerships with other organizations in the city (including schools, community groups, and government entities)

## **ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES\***

In the next 6 to 12 months, do you foresee any significant changes possibly taking place within the Organization. For example a change in leadership, mission direction, funding, staffing, etc. Please provide details.

The Center is in the process of hiring a new manager of Youth and Community. This position, under the Director of Programs, provides day-to-day coordination of the CAUSE Program. The Center will conduct an extensive interview process involving stakeholders, including CAUSE youth, to select a dynamic and inspiring mentor for the program.

## ***Section 3: Proposed Project Information***

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### **What is the name of the proposed project?\***

Community And Urban Science Enrichment (CAUSE) Youth Development Program

### **NEW OR EXISTING PROJECT?\***

**Is the proposed project a new project, an expansion or continuation of an existing project?**

Expansion of existing project

### **What county(ies) will be served by the proposed project?**

Camden County

### **OTHER COUNTIES SERVED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT\***

Please list any counties, other than Burlington, Camden, Cumberland or Gloucester, that the proposed project will serve. State "none" if the project does not serve any counties outside Impact100 South Jersey's service area.

Please keep in mind, the proposed project and Impact100 South Jersey's funding must be primarily used in the counties of Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, and Gloucester.

All CAUSE students are Camden residents. 95% of CAUSE programming serves Camden residents, with a small number of events each year in neighboring counties.

## BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION\*

Please provide a brief, one to two sentence, description of your proposed project.

The CAUSE program is a STEM-based, whole-person model youth development program serving Camden City, NJ. 40 CAUSE youth in grades 7–12 give back to their communities by designing and delivering locally impactful, culturally relevant STEM programming focusing on the understanding and stewardship of local ecosystems. CAUSE youth serve 3,500+ Camden students and their families annually through tabling events, outreach programming, and the beloved annual CAUSE Summer Science Camp.

## STATEMENT OF NEED\*

What is the specific need your proposed project will address? Please provide information regarding:

- target population
- target geographic area
- supporting data. Data, specific to your service area is preferred.

The CAUSE program serves Camden City, where youth face challenges such as below state average high school graduation rates and limited access to advanced educational opportunities. In a community where only 67% of students graduate high school compared to 92% in the surrounding county, CAUSE delivers a systemic solution by infusing STEM enrichment into every layer of programming. In Camden, a community battling issues like gang involvement, crime, substance abuse, and academic disengagement. educational enrichment is not just beneficial; it is imperative. With Camden City's college degree completion rate of only 8% and a burgeoning demand for higher education credentials in local industries, the urgency to cultivate a workforce skilled in 21st-century science and technology has never been greater.

CAUSE serves 35-40 middle and high school students from Camden each year in the full-year (9th – 12th grade) and half-year Explorers (7th – 8th grade) programs. Additionally, CAUSE serves 150 Camden elementary school children through the Summer Science Camps and Camp Outreach, delivered by CAUSE students. CAUSE youth also serve families (3,000+ individuals each year) in Camden through outreach events, like programming in neighborhoods and at community organizations. All the youth we serve come from underserved populations and the large majority are from federally designated low-income households.

## SUMMARY OF PROJECT\*

Please describe the proposed project details. Please be specific and include:

- how the project will be implemented
- how it will work
- how it will meet the stated needs in previous question
- why it is needed now

The CAUSE program is a STEM-based youth development program for Camden City, NJ students grades 7-12, focusing on environmental science and conservation, community programming, and personal and professional skill development. CAUSE students are recruited in cooperation with the Center's 20 partner schools in Camden. CAUSE takes a whole-person approach to youth development, emphasizing academic learning, communication and interpersonal skills, resume building, and college preparation.

CAUSE students perpetuate a cycle of STEM education and mentorship in Camden by using the skills and knowledge they learn in CAUSE to bring accessible, culturally informed STEM opportunities to families in the city. CAUSE students design and staff an annual Summer Science Camp and Outreach and table at events with community partners. In 2024-2025, CAUSE youth served 3,200 Camden children and their families through

CAUSE Summer Science Camp, Summer Outreach, Center on-water programs (fishing and kayaking), and community events including school-sponsored events, health fairs, and community celebrations.

CAUSE has undergone an intense period of growth since 2021, expanding to offer more and varied programming in the communities we serve. Now is a pivotal time, as CAUSE youth prepare to develop and deliver new environmental science programming with a stewardship message and focus on local ecosystems for children and families in Camden City. CAUSE youth have developed Summer Science Camp programming for 30 years now, making culturally relevant, engaging STEM enrichment available to Camden communities.

In 2026-2027, CAUSE youth will create new, unique programming centering around highly local environmental issues, and take that programming to new neighborhoods, venues, and audiences in Camden. CAUSE youth will identify environmental threats and opportunities in their neighborhoods, for example water quality, point source pollution, invasive species, or stormwater management. CAUSE youth will develop hands-on demonstrations, activities, creative skits and artwork, collateral materials, games, and resource guides that can be tailored to various age groups, events, and venues. A concentrated focus on hyper-local environmental stewardship and effort to encourage behavior change to further conservation goals will benefit both the CAUSE youth and their communities, promoting ecological literacy, agency to act, and STEM enrichment opportunities.

## PROJECT GOALS AND IMPACTS\*

Please state up to 3 project goals and impacts you expect the project to have on the target population and the community. For each, please state:

- project goal
- number of individuals and/or households that will be impacted
- anticipated achievement date over two year timeline
- how goal/outcome will be measured or evaluated

*Example: Goal 1: By second quarter, we expect to administer the program to 25 families, enabling them to pay down credit card debt. We will use reduction in amount of debt to measure outcome.*

### **Goal 1 – CAUSE youth will increase their knowledge and understanding of local environmental issues.**

Through research and field observation, CAUSE students will conduct an extensive research project to determine local environmental issues, then they will develop new outreach programming and demonstrations.

This goal will be evaluated utilizing a grading scale for CAUSE youth curriculum design and presentations, and peer and mentor review of new programming.

*40 CAUSE youth will be impacted each of the 2 years.*

### **Goal 2 – New local environmental stewardship programming will provide STEM enrichment opportunities to Camden families and students.**

This goal will be evaluated by the collection of evaluations at CAUSE events and the number of participants reached.

*3,500 children and their family members will be impacted each of the 2 years.*

## PROPOSAL'S IMPACT ON CORE MISSION & LONG TERM GOALS\*

How will implementation of this project improve your Organization's ability to more effectively carry out its core mission and long term goals, as stated in the Organization's Strategic Plan or long term goals and vision?

Locally relevant environmental programming is needed now as threats grow and people are increasingly isolated from the natural world. Programming created by Camden youth for Camden children and families will encourage engagement with local concerns and provide a pipeline for family involvement.

New youth-led, hyper-local environmental programming enables the Center to pursue its mission to promote environmental stewardship and educate families. It also serves our 3–5-year strategic objectives, including expanding community offerings, building partnerships with local groups, and providing relevant, engaging programming that promotes accessible stewardship opportunities in Camden communities.

## PROJECT LEADER/MANAGER\*

Who will manage this project? Please state name, title and anticipated number of hours they will spend on the project. If the person is currently not on staff, please state new hire, anticipated date of hire and anticipated number of hours they will spend on the project.

Kevin D. Impellizeri, PhD

## PROJECT PARTNERS\*

If you will be collaborating with other Organization(s) to carry out this project, please list the Organization name(s) and their contributions to the project. For example, providing funding, staff, materials, etc.

Please state "none" if there are no project partners.

CAUSE has many established, long-term partnerships with schools, other nonprofits, and community organizations. Current partnerships include the Kroc Center Camden, Riverways, the Alliance for Watershed Education of the Delaware River, and 20+ schools in Camden. CAUSE intends to create new partnerships through the development of new programming in 2026-2027, focusing on local environmental stewardship opportunities for children and families.

## PROJECT TASKS AND TIMELINE\*

Please list proposed project tasks and implementation timeline for each task. The timeline must begin on or after July 1, 2026 and be completed by June 30, 2028.

*Example:*

<u>Project Task</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
Hire project manager	Aug '25
Develop curriculum	Sept-Oct '25
Pilot curriculum	Feb '26

Ongoing - CAUSE 9th – 12th students attend 1 weekly cohort meeting (academic curriculum in environmental science) and 1 staff meeting (career topics and topics of special interest) each week, and participate in rap sessions engaging with topics relevant to them including mental health and wellness, organization and time management, and social and family dynamics. The CAUSE Explorers (7th and 8th grade program) meet monthly from January – June for STEM career exploration sessions and topics on the biology of aquatic habitats.

2026 September - CAUSE students identify local environmental concerns and opportunities for new programming

2026 October - December - students research identified topics through written resources, interviews, fieldwork

2027 January - March - students write curriculum, activities, games, skits, create art and promotional materials for programming

2027 January - Onward - CAUSE staff identify new partners and events for partnership/ new programming demonstration

2027 March - April - demonstrations and presentations finalized, students present and receive grades and feedback

2027 April - 2028 October - students present, table, demonstrate at community and school events, with a goal of 24 events, 7,000 individuals reached

## *Section 4: Proposed Project Budget*

### **DOES BUDGET EXCEED \$100,000?\***

Please note, if your budget exceeds \$100,000 you must provide the additional funder/donor information in your budget spreadsheet as described in PART 2 of the question below.

Yes. You must answer PART 2 of the "PROJECT BUDGET" in the question below.

### **PROJECT BUDGET (2 PART QUESTION)\***

**PART 1:** Please **upload a spreadsheet** (Excel or pdf) showing the proposed project's budget . Project expenses must correspond to the tasks listed in the project tasks/timeline question in Section 3. If expenses include staff time, please state percentage of staff member's time to be spent on the project under "additional details" as demonstrated in the example below.

**The total of all expenses must equal the total project budget and must be at least \$100,000.**

*Please use the column headings shown in this example:*

<u>Expense</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Total</u>
Project Mgr	80% of full time	\$50,000
Equipment	Computers	\$30,000
Furniture	Desks, chairs	\$40,000
Curriculum training		\$10,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$130,000</b>

**PART 2:** If the proposed project budget exceeds \$100,000, you must show on the spreadsheet the additional funding sources, dollar amount and date you expect to secure this funding. The additional funding must equal or exceed the total of project expenses exceeding \$100,000.

*Please use following format.*

<u>Funder/Donor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date Expected</u>
ABC Foundation	\$10,000	Oct. '26
Annual Fundraising Gala	\$20,000	Sept. '27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	

FY2026 CAUSE budget.pdf

## ***PRIOR TO SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION***

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Please carefully review your responses prior to submitting your application. You may save the application as a PDF to facilitate proofreading and to ensure the accuracy of your responses. You may edit your application anytime prior to hitting Submit.

**ONCE YOU HIT THE SUBMIT BUTTON YOU MAY NOT EDIT THE APPLICATION EVEN IF PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE.**

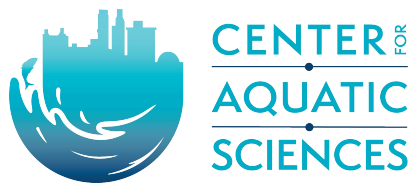
Thank you for completing Impact100 South Jersey's Core Mission Grant application. We look forward to reading your proposal.

## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- FY2026 CAUSE budget.pdf



*\* the majority of the cost of this project is staff time. staff budget represents 100% of staff time, including part-time CAUSE staffers, who are paid for their work with CAUSE starting in their 10th grade year*

*\*\* a new CAUSE budget is Board approved each fiscal year*

The Center for Aquatic Sciences  
FY 2026 CAUSE Program Budget

	FY 2026 Budget
Salaries & Benefits:	
FT Employees	\$ 82,845
PT Employees	167,180
Benefits	35,977
	<u>286,002</u>
Travel:	
Excursion	4,000
Van gas/maintenance	3,250
Parking	531
	<u>7,781</u>
Supplies:	
Program	324
Camp	500
	<u>824</u>
CAUSE for Celebration	4,000
Telephone/Internet	1,260
Total CAUSE Expense	<u><u>\$ 299,867</u></u>

**Additional Funding (secured)**

PSEG Foundation, \$40,000  
 NJ American Water Foundation, \$40,000  
 Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, \$30,000  
 Holman Enterprises \$11,500  
 Camden Education Fund \$10,000  
 NJ Office of Faith Based Initiatives, \$10,000  
 Campbell's Foundation \$5,000  
 Kate Svitek Foundation \$2,500

*Additional CAUSE funding for student salaries comes from grant funding for on-water and community programs, including funding from Riverways and North Camden Community Development grants*