



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 1, 2020

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**TRYING TOGETHER AND PLAYFUL PITTSBURGH COLLABORATIVE
AWARDED GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF LEARNING**

Funded Projects to Include Early Learning League and Recess Advocacy Team, Both to Support Policy Changes

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania - Today, Pittsburgh-based [early childhood nonprofit Trying Together](#) and the [play-based initiative Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative](#) have both been awarded grants through The Grable Foundation and Remake Learning's Tomorrow campaign. As an expert policy resource in western Pennsylvania, Trying Together is a leading advocate for high-quality early care and education in Pennsylvania and a co-founder of the Collaborative and [Recess Advocacy Team](#). With funds from the Tomorrow grant, Trying Together will launch an Early Childhood League and the Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative will expand the Recess Advocacy Team to engage additional youth, families, organizations, and communities as advocates to address early learning constraints in the region.

"Through the Tomorrow grants, we will be able to work with community members that we may not have previously to learn about their early learning priorities for children so we may support them in mobilizing to take action," said Cara Ciminillo, Executive Director at Trying Together.

[A \\$1.4 million dollar investment in organizations throughout the region, the Tomorrow campaign](#) is an effort to #RemakeTomorrow, one where every learner is prepared to "create the future of learning" when everyone combines timeless ideas and new ways to learn. Last spring, the Tomorrow campaign asked [17 nonprofit organizations](#) to boldly imagine what smart risks they might take if they had research and development (R&D) funding – not for covering current activities, but for pursuing experimental ideas, testing new concepts and finding powerful ways to move their field toward the future of learning.

"Each of these projects represents the imagination and resourcefulness not only of the 17 grantees, but also of the many partner organizations who will join them in their efforts," says Kristen Burns, Associate Director of The Grable Foundation. "We hope these grants will provide a spark that will help move the entire field of learning forward in our region."

Trying Together

Tomorrow Campaign Project: Early Childhood League

The Early Childhood League will partner with Trying Together, its advocacy partners, and each other to transform early childhood education conditions in the region. Its members will be composed of selected parents and other caregivers of young children, community organizations, and a large institution to be determined. The League will achieve improvements in local early learning environments by receiving training ([similar to the Early Childhood Advocacy Fellowship](#)) from Trying Together staff and other experts.

Learning topics will include: communications techniques; community organizing strategies; early childhood education principles; and public policy processes. With ongoing programmatic support from Trying Together and the Tomorrow grant, the League will acquire the agency to not only develop, but implement their own advocacy plan to further advance the efforts of existing statewide early childhood policy campaigns including: child care ([Start Strong PA](#)); pre-k ([Pre-K for PA](#)); and home visiting ([Childhood Begins At Home](#)).

[To learn more about the Early Childhood League and how to apply, visit tryingtogether.org.](#) Application details will be available soon.

Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative

Tomorrow Campaign Project: Recess Advocacy Team

The Recess Advocacy Team mission is to educate and advocate for the importance of recess; engage with children, families, and educators on recess experiences; establish a resource for recess-related advocacy, policy, and best practices; and engage stakeholders in recess advocacy efforts.

Through partnership with a regional school district, this funding will support efforts to conduct a needs assessment survey and develop a toolkit for children, parents, and educators who want to serve as recess champions. As part of the toolkit, funding will also support professional development and training related to advocacy as well as topics like: creatively using school space for physical activity; indoor recess ideas; and volunteer recess supervision. While this partnership work will focus on one district, the Team's outcomes and products will be scalable and designed to be replicated with other school districts to best meet their needs.

[To learn more about the Recess Advocacy Team and how to join, visit playfulpittsburgh.org.](#) Additional details will be available soon.

NOTE TO WORKING PRESS: For interviews with Cara Ciminillo, Executive Director at Trying Together, and/or the project managers for the Early Childhood League and Recess Advocacy Team, please contact Maria Pisano, Director of Communications at Trying Together, at 412.657.8544 or maria@tryingtogether.org.

About Trying Together

[Trying Together](#) supports high-quality care and education for young children by providing advocacy, community resources, and professional growth opportunities for the needs and rights of children, their families, and the individuals who interact with them. Trying Together works regionally (in Southwestern Pennsylvania) and takes its expertise and models to statewide and national audiences.

About Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative

[Playful Pittsburgh Collaborative](#) is a group of organizations dedicated to advancing the importance of play in the lives of children, families, and communities in the Pittsburgh region. The Collaborative accomplishes this by: raising awareness that play is a critical element in the lives of people of all ages; educating decision-makers (from parents to legislators) throughout the region so that their choices support access to play for all people; and modeling (and inspiring) through various activities the actions the broader community should take in their daily lives.

About Tomorrow

[Tomorrow](#), powered by [Remake Learning](#), is a campaign of grantmaking, storytelling and events that explore not only how we can do things better for all learners, but how we can do better things -- with equity at the center of the conversation. The campaign is supported by the Grable Foundation, ASTC, Global Minds Initiative, Kidsburgh, KnowledgeWorks, Project Fuel, The Saturday Light Brigade and transformED.

These 17 Tomorrow grants are funded by the [Grable Foundation](#) in an effort to build on the remarkable work of the Pittsburgh region's nonprofits.

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