



Summer  
Advantage USA



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## **The Boston Foundation Awards Grant to Summer Advantage USA to Support High Quality Summer Learning for Children in Boston**

Boston, MA – The Boston Foundation has awarded a \$25,000 grant to Summer Advantage USA, a leading nonprofit provider of summer learning programs, in order to help some of Boston’s most vulnerable children thrive this summer. The grant will enable Summer Advantage USA to provide a high quality summer learning program, called “Summer Advantage,” for children living in low-income communities of Boston’s Dorchester neighborhood.

Children participating in the program will spend their mornings improving their math and reading skills in rigorous academic courses led by a highly qualified teacher and a teacher’s assistant. In the afternoons, children will participate in hands-on enrichment courses to explore their interests in art, music, physical education and science. On Fridays, inspirational guest speakers will expose youth to a wide range of careers, and children will engage with their community by visiting local colleges and universities, leading community service projects, and visiting cultural points of interest in Boston.

Summer Advantage stands out from other summer programs throughout the country in that it uses a model that has been scientifically proven to help children from low-income communities raise their achievement. Since its founding in 2009, Summer Advantage USA has served over 18,000 children across five states. Rather than losing three months of academic skills during the summer, as children from low-income communities traditionally do, children who have participated in Summer Advantage have gained an average of over one month of skills in reading and math each summer. These gains are critical to ensuring that children are able to remain on track to succeed in school.

“All young people deserve to have access to the summer learning opportunities that can help them reach their full potential,” said Earl Martin Phalen, Founder and CEO of Summer Advantage USA. “We are very grateful for the support of the Boston Foundation and are excited to help the city’s children excel this summer.”

The Boston Foundation, Greater Boston’s community foundation, is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the nation, with net assets of some \$1 billion. In 2014, the Foundation and its donors made \$112 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and received gifts of nearly \$112 million. In celebration of its centennial in 2015, the Boston Foundation has launched the Campaign for Boston to strengthen the Permanent Fund for Boston. The Foundation is proud to be a partner in philanthropy, with nearly 1,000 separate charitable funds established by donors either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes.

[www.summeradvantage.org](http://www.summeradvantage.org)





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The Boston Foundation also serves as a major civic leader, provider of information, convener, and sponsor of special initiatives that address the region's most pressing challenges. The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI), an operating unit of the Foundation, designs and implements custom philanthropic strategies for families, foundations and corporations around the globe. Through its consulting and field-advancing efforts, TPI has influenced billions of dollars in giving worldwide. For more information about the Boston Foundation and TPI, visit our website, [www.tbf.org](http://www.tbf.org) or call 617-338-1700.

Discretionary grants from the Boston Foundation are made possible through a family of funds known as the ***Permanent Fund for Boston***, the Boston Foundation's discretionary endowment, which has allowed the Boston Foundation to make critical grants to support Greater Boston for over 90 years. ***The Permanent Fund for Boston*** exists today due to the generosity of donors, often through bequests, enabling the Foundation to meet the most pressing needs of our community.

For more information about the Boston Foundation and its grant making, visit [www.tbf.org](http://www.tbf.org), or call 617-338-1700. For more information about Summer Advantage USA, contact Founder and CEO Earl Martin Phalen at (617) 818-1959 or [emphalen@summeradvantage.org](mailto:emphalen@summeradvantage.org)

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