



**Impact100 Metro Detroit Grant Summary**  
**2017 Grant Finalist: Downtown Boxing Gym**  
**Project: Intensive Literacy Intervention**

**Background:**

Downtown Boxing Gym Youth Program's (DBG) primary focus is education-based youth development. Our academic team tutors students daily, through homework assistance, project guidance and remedial education. They seek out and coordinate additional programs that provide literacy intervention and math workshops. We support our students as they study for tests and prepare for the SAT. Through our efforts around college and career readiness, we schedule college tours, host varied career exposure sessions and assist students with college and financial applications.

**Unmet Need In The Community:**

DBG has partnered with literacy specialists to mitigate the literacy needs of our students. A team of proctors from Beyond Basics, a student-centered, literacy non-profit, assessed our students using the Woodcock Reading Mastery Standardized Test. They tested 97 students, second through twelfth grade, and found that over half of them are at least one full grade behind their appropriate literacy level. Twenty-five students are at least THREE full grades behind. As a pilot, DBG selected six students with the greatest need. The students participated in one- on-one intensive literacy intervention for an average of five hours per week, for six full weeks. Each of the students showed improvement, especially Landon, whose reading ability increased by three full grade levels.

The only way to impact the future success of our students is through intensive intervention. They will not receive the directed instruction they need in their schools. The resources are just not available.

**Project Summary:**

DBG will target students in our program who are reading below grade level, with immediate focus on those who are the furthest behind. Grant funds will allow us to assess all students to best determine those with the greatest need. Our population is comprised of 120 students, from kindergarten to twelfth grade, including 30 girls and 90 boys, though our program continues to grow. Students come from over 50 schools throughout Detroit and are African-American, Arab-American, and Latino.

DBG will partner with Beyond Basics, a student-centered literacy non-profit. They'll provide the Tattum Reading Program's intense one-on-one training. Their professionally trained tutors combine systemic phonics, auditory processing, and literature-based instruction to create a streamlined, multi-sensory program. Since 2002, they have served Detroit public school children from Pre-K through the 12th grade. The program includes reading application with high interest phonetically controlled books

**Outcome:**

The projected outcome for this project is grade-level literacy proficiency for every current student in our program, as well as incoming students who join us as we grow. Grade-level literacy affects a student's academic ability, as well as their confidence level, thereby impacting their interest in school and willingness to participate in classroom activities. The impact of this intervention is LIFELONG!

**Sustainability:**

DBG recently hired a fundraising consultant, with 30 years of experience, to assist with putting strategies into place around future funding. She brings a broadened prospect pool and vast experience with diversifying funding streams for nonprofit organizations. Together with our executive director and development director, the consultant will assist with aggressive cultivation of new donors and help to build new relationships with potential corporate partners and mission-aligned foundations.