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Afterschool Community Learning Grant Program Talking Points

Overview

- We recognize that success at school increases when students feel connected to their school and community, and when they have the personal skills and goals to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Annually, each young person in Minnesota spends approximately 900-1000 hours in school and has about 2,000 hours of nonschool, or discretionary time – which is roughly the equivalent of a full time job.
- We know that learning doesn't end when the bell rings, but continues with the experiences young people have outside of school.
- Children and youth who participate in high-quality afterschool and/or summer learning programs perform better in school. Their attitude and behavior in the classroom improves, grades improve, ability to stay on task and even test scores (in math) improve.
- Additional benefits include gaining positive leadership skills, being better prepared to enter the workforce, and being less likely to use alcohol, drugs or be involved in violence or crime.
- Some of the most powerful programs blend traditional enrichment activities (art, recreation, and career-orientation) with more intentional strategies that respond to a young person's unique developmental and academic needs.
- Unfortunately, participation in afterschool or summer programming is often dictated by family and community resources — not need. Consequently, participation is lower among students living in low income households and resource poor communities.
- Providing children and youth access to summer learning programs is a proven method for reducing the achievement gap.
- We believe it is essential to look at the full picture of educating our children and youth. If we start early and prepare them for Kindergarten, provide them quality

classroom instruction and access to high-quality out-of-school time learning opportunities, we will see more and more young people prepared to enter post-secondary education and the workforce. The cumulative effect of these critical learning opportunities is essential as children and youth prepare for their futures and become our community leaders.

Current Afterschool Grantees

- There are 21 grantees. Less than 10% of requests were funded. The state had \$5.2 million for grants but nearly \$60 million in requests (see [MDE Year One](#) report, page 2, for list of grantees).
- 9 grantees operate in the metropolitan area and 12 operate in greater Minnesota.
- Children and youth are served in grades K-12.
 - 41% were in grades K-5
 - 26% in grades 6-8
 - 23% in grades 9-12
 - 10% unknown
- A total of 8,757 youth were served by grantees and 32% regularly participated in these programs.
- Of the 8,757 participants, approximately 50% were youth of color and 50% were female.
- The average cost per participant, based on total dollars spent and total number of children and youth served, is just under \$300.
- The average amount of community resources leveraged by programs per participant is \$200.

Challenge Grant

- Youth Community Connections – Minnesota's Afterschool Alliance worked with The McKnight Foundation to secure a Challenge Grant for Afterschool Funding in Minnesota.

Challenge Grant (continued)

- We believe shared investments by families as well as the public and private sectors make these critical learning opportunities sustainable in communities across the state.
- The Challenge is this...If the State approves \$5 *million annually*, within the official State budget (rather than one-time funding), for afterschool and/or summer learning opportunities beyond the classroom, McKnight will provide the State of Minnesota \$1 *million annually* over *two years* for the same purpose.
- The McKnight Foundation is interested in opportunities to leverage each dollar for maximum impact. Currently, their annual giving in afterschool and summer learning programs is \$4-5 million.
- If the State of Minnesota meets this challenge – they will be matching dollar for dollar the investment made by The McKnight Foundation.

Funding Afterschool and Summer Learning Opportunities during the Recession

- Afterschool and summer learning opportunities are essential to the learning, growth and development of young people. If we do not fund these programs at this time we will continue to allow low-income students and students of color to fall further and further behind their peers academically.
- There is no federal stimulus money being directed at afterschool or summer learning opportunities. However, 18% of the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds can be spent on critical needs beyond education in the classroom. This may be a potential source of revenue in this biennium while the Legislature looks for long-term budget solutions in the future.