

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI-NR 2015-75

Monday, August 31, 2015

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22 sites funded for 2015-16 after-school programs

MADISON — Students in four communities across Wisconsin will, for the first time, have access to new after-school activities that support their learning, funded through the federal 21st Century Learning Center program.

The **Brodhead, Montello, North Fond du Lac, and St. Croix Falls** school districts are among 22 sharing \$1.6 million in 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) funds for new grants or second and third cycle grants for the 2015-16 school year. Wisconsin now has 229 after-school programs funded by the state's CLC grant.

“Keeping kids engaged in academic, leadership, and community service activities after the formal school day contributes to better attendance and classroom learning,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “The skills taught through community learning center programs fortify students’ academic progress and help prepare them to graduate college and career ready.”

Centers, which can be located in elementary or secondary schools or other similarly accessible facilities, provide a range of services to support student learning and development. These may include tutoring and mentoring; homework help; academic enrichment, such as hands-on science or technology programs; community service opportunities; and music, arts, sports, and cultural activities.

Demands for 2015-16 grants far outpaced available funds. The Department of Public Instruction received requests from 112 proposed sites requesting about \$12.3 million in grant funding for the coming school year. The grants are for five years and targeted to centers that will serve schools that have at least 40 percent or more of enrolled students living at or below poverty and a high percentage of students who are struggling academically.

Programming through 21st Century Community Learning Centers is designed to improve student achievement, attendance, and behavior by providing enriching activities for youth during out-of-school hours. Recipients may use funds to support before-school, weekend, and summer activities as well as after-school programs. In addition to academic support, sites provide adult family members with activities that promote engagement in their children’s education and individual skill development such as adult learning and parental skill building. CLC programs are often aligned with the day school activities to further efforts to provide

(more)

comprehensive support in student learning. Students in the program also participate in recreation and a wide range of youth development activities designed to provide experiences and learning opportunities that may not be available otherwise.

According to the most recent data, 42,417 students were served during the 2013-14 school year throughout the state by CLC grant-funded programs. These programs served students an average of 14 hours per week, which equates to approximately 80 additional school days. Of those students who are active in CLC programming, 73 percent demonstrated improvement in academic performance. In addition, students have shown an improved commitment and engagement to school through increased attendance rates and classroom engagement, and decreased behavioral problems. Research also shows that well designed after-school programs help reduce youth crime, rates of teen pregnancy, and other risky behaviors. Community learning center programs also assist parents in providing quality care for their children during non-school hours.

In addition to the services CLC programs provide, the centers serve as a bridge between schools and communities. During the 2013-14 school year, 1,425 community partners worked with schools in support of after-school programs, contributing more than \$3,475,241 million in financial support and services. These partnerships provide valuable resources and opportunities for participants that are often inaccessible under ordinary circumstances.

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NOTES: A list of grants awarded from the 2015-16 competition follows. More information about the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program and a complete list of funded sites can be found at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sspw/clc.html>. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_75.pdf.

21st Century Community Learning Center Grants

2015-16 Competition Results

New Grants

Beloit School District

Fran Fruzen Intermediate School, \$75,000

***Brodhead School District**

Albrecht Elementary School, \$75,000

Green Bay Area Public School District

Doty Elementary School, \$75,000
Lincoln Elementary School, \$75,000

Madison Metropolitan School District

Sennett Middle School, \$75,000
Schenk Elementary School, \$75,000

Milwaukee Public Schools

Richard Kluge Elementary School, \$75,000

***Montello School District**

Forest Lane Community School, \$75,000

***North Fond du Lac School District**

Friendship Learning Elementary, \$75,000

Oshkosh Area School District

Tipler Middle School, \$75,000

Shell Lake School District

Shell Lake Elementary School, \$75,000

***St. Croix Falls School District**

St. Croix Falls Middle School, \$75,000

West Allis-West Milwaukee School District

West Allis-West Milwaukee High School, \$75,000

Second Cycle Grants

Madison Metropolitan School District

Sherman Middle School, \$75,000

Menasha Joint School District

Maplewood Middle School, \$75,000

Ladysmith School District

Ladysmith Elementary School, \$75,000

Sparta Area School District

Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School, \$75,000

Waupun Area School District

Rock River Intermediate School, \$75,000

Wautoma Area School District

Parkside Middle School, \$75,000

West Allis-West Milwaukee School District

West Milwaukee Intermediate School, \$75,000

Third Cycle Grants

Adams-Friendship Area School District

Adams-Friendship Middle School, \$50,000

Milwaukee Public Schools

Auer Avenue Elementary School, \$50,000

NOTES: Districts marked with an asterisk (*) have not previously been awarded a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. For a list of all currently funded programs, visit <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sspw/clc.html>.