

Summer and Extended Learning Opportunities Initiative  
December 12, 2010

## **I. Background**

Vermont youth need innovative and expanded opportunities to develop assets that lead to success in school, career and community citizenship. The Vermont Department of Education (VTDOE) invites interested parties to submit partnership proposals for the purpose of initiating, expanding and/or enhancing summer, before school, weekend, evening or vacation programming for school-aged children. The purpose of this initiative is to address the needs of at-risk children, during times when working families need additional support. These programs should show a measurable, positive effect on student learning and developmental assets. This funding opportunity is also tied to the achievement of the vision of educational transformation. Transformation means focusing on student learning by creating educational environments that respond to the needs of students, provide flexible environments rich with 21st Century tools, and expect students to demonstrate deep understanding through a variety of means.

## **II. Program Goals**

Youth participation in extended learning opportunities initiative will:

1. Build developmental assets.
2. Reduce summer learning loss of core content knowledge.
3. Develop life and career skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## **III. Statewide Program Objectives**

1. By 2014, 100% of students will report a 50% increase in youth asset measures over baseline.
2. By 2014, 50% of regular program attendees (30 days or more) will move up one level on an annual NECAP assessment when comparing two consecutive years.
3. By 2014, 100% of students will demonstrate acquisition of at least one life or career skill.

## **IV. Funding Duration**

Funding will be available from September 1, 2010 through August 30, 2013. Awards will be granted for the time period July 1 - June 30. Refunding of programs will be awarded annually based on an annual assessment toward meeting program objectives and as funds are available.

## **V. Priorities**

The VTDOE will give priority to successful applications that propose new programming that addresses an unmet need or an existing program that can be expanded.

## **VI. Eligible Grantees**

Eligible applicants include local educational agencies (LEAs); community-based organizations (CBOs); other public or private entities, faith-based organizations or a consortium of two or more agencies, organizations or entities. Municipalities may also apply. In addition, eligible communities are those that serve 30% or higher proportion of youth who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Please consult the most recent free and reduced lunch report at: [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_nutrition/school\\_nutrition/resources.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_nutrition/school_nutrition/resources.html) for information to determine which communities are eligible.

## VII. Allowable Uses of Funds

Requests will be considered in the \$10,000 - \$50,000 range per project. Projects proposed over \$25,000 should be mindful of the sustainability challenge over time and proposed only if significant outcomes are achievable. Only full comprehensive programs should be proposed. A list of allowable activities follow:

- Arts and music education activities
- Nutrition and physical activity programs
- Service-learning programs
- Telecommunications and technology education programs
- Expanded library service hours
- Academic enrichment learning programs
- Entrepreneurial education programs
- Tutoring services (including those provided by senior citizen volunteers) and mentoring programs
- Programs that provide activities for limited-English proficient students that emphasize language skills
- Programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy
- Programs that provide assistance to students who have been truant, suspended or expelled
- Drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs and character education programs
- Job and career development programs

## VIII. Proposals

Include a detailed narrative that demonstrates how these funds will assist grantees in meeting/enhancing at least one of the three goals above. Proposals must not exceed five pages of narrative (12-point font, single-spaced) plus a budget. Attachments are limited to five pages. Do not include Letters of Support.

Proposals must address:

**A) Need for the program** (20 points)

In this section applicants should reference local data that establishes specific needs.

**B) Program(s) description(s)** (50 points)

Strong applications will provide a detailed description of the program including: numbers of students to be served, a full schedule showing number of program days, student to staff ratios, comprehensive program components and rationale for the program design.

Applicants should note section V which identifies components of a high-quality program.

**C) Capacity and resources for success** (15 points)

Identify how the organization and partners(s) will provide leadership, high quality staff, space and other resources to achieve its goals.

**D) Budget** (15 points)

Include line items that are reasonable and necessary. Indirect costs may be requested only for LEAs that have approval by the Vermont Department of Education. Equipment costs should not be substantial. Successful applications will be required to fully participate in

this evaluation process established by the Vermont Department of Education and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Prevention.

### **IX. Selection Process**

All proposals will be read and reviewed by a small team of independent readers with experience in programming in the allowable uses. It is estimated that the available amount will be \$500,000 over the three years of the funding duration listed above. All awards will be subject to the availability of federal funds. Grantees will be required to sign a grant award which includes an assurance that grant funds will not supplant other state, local, or federal funds.

### **X. Due Date**

An e-copy of the proposal needs to be e-mailed and **received no later than February 4, 2011** at [andy.snyder@state.vt.us](mailto:andy.snyder@state.vt.us). Decisions will be announced in early March. Hard copies will not be accepted.

For more information contact Andy Snyder at (802) 828-1086.

### **XI. Grant Award Decisions, Requirements, and Disposition of Proposals**

The Vermont Department of Education reserves the right to award in part, to reject any and all proposals in whole or in part, and to waive technical defects, irregularities or omissions if, in its judgment, the best interest of the students would be served. The Vermont Department of Education reserves the right not to award all parts, to negotiate specific grant amounts, and to select certain proposals to meet requirements or State Board of Education priorities. Funding is contingent upon receipt of federal funds. Grantees will be required to submit reports in a manner required by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Prevention and the Vermont Department of Education.

### **XII: Components of a High-Quality Program\***

The Vermont Department of Education identifies nine elements of high-quality programs. In order to be successful in this competition programs should include all of the following:

- Strong and Effective Afterschool Program Leadership
- Linkages to the School Day
- High-Quality Staff
- Safe and Appropriate Environment
- High-Interest Programming
- School Leadership Support
- Attention to Serving Regular Attendees
- Strong Instructional Leadership
- Flexible Structures and Student Choice

\* 'Program' for the purpose of this application means one that occurs in the summer, before school, weekend, evening or vacations for school-aged children.

### **XIII: Web Resources**

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills: <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>
- Search Institute's Youth Developmental Assets:  
<http://www.search-institute.org/developmental-assets>
- Evaluation: <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/~hfrp/>
- Vermont Afterschool Wiki: <http://vermontafterschool.pbworks.com/>