

How to contact us:
PHONE: 612-627-0160

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21st Century Community Learning Centers

Providing quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities

Annually, each young person in Minnesota has about 2,000 hours of discretionary, nonschool time, which is roughly equivalent to a full-time job. How that time is used can shape who they are and who they become. If this time is used intentionally to help them explore their passions and interests, it can lead to great things.

We know that learning doesn't end when the bell rings, but continues with the experiences young people have outside of school. Young people who participate in expanded learning opportunities through afterschool, summer or community programs have better school attendance, better grades, more positive attitudes towards school, and higher aspirations for postsecondary education¹.

21st Century Community Learning (CCLC) Grants

Created in 2001 in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 21st CCLC Grants are federally funded grants through the US Department of Education that State Education Agencies (SEA) administer to school districts and community based organizations that exemplify partnership to provide quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities to children and youth attending high poverty, low performing schools.

In 2008-2009 21st CCLC grants served 20,493 youth across Minnesota². Of those youth:

- 66% were eligible for free or reduced price lunch.
- 70% were students of color (38% Black, 16% Latino, 11% Asian, 5% Native American)
- 27% were English language learners

Of those students who participated regularly (30+ days) in quality afterschool learning opportunities, 75% saw an increase in academic performance. There were also improvements in behavior, attendance, and class participation.

Funding Afterschool and Summer Learning Opportunities

There are a limited number of dedicated funding sources for afterschool, summer or community learning opportunities in Minnesota. A recent study conducted by the Minnesota Department of Education identified four dedicated sources of afterschool and summer learning opportunities, totaling \$28 million³.

These four dedicated funding sources include;

- \$9.5 million comes from 21st CCLC Grants (US Department of Education)
- \$2.5 million comes from YouthBuild (US Department of Labor)
- \$11 million comes from the Greater Twin Cities United Way
- \$5 million comes from the McKnight Foundation

The 21st CCLC Grants make up 34% of the dedicated funding for afterschool and summer learning opportunities in Minnesota. These funds provide critical resources to community organizations and schools to collaboratively support Minnesota's children and youth learning.

1. The Study of Promising Programs, Deborah Vandell, 2004
2. 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Summary Report 2008-2009. Minnesota Department of Education, March 2010.
3. Minnesota Out-Of-School Time Primary Funding Streams-Fiscal Year 2009, Minnesota Department of Education, April 2010.