

PROPOSAL FOR PARTNERSHIP INVESTMENT

PROGRAM: Nonpublic After-school Program: Building Capacity through Improved Access and Quality Programs for elementary school children and their families

SCHOOLS: Nonpublic Schools in the City of St. Louis

FUNDING: The Nonpublic After-school Program Committee has secured funds in the amount of \$200,000 and is seeking matching funds from the St. Louis Mental Health Board for each of the two years remaining in the funding cycle.

A partnership established between the St. Louis Mental Health Board and the Nonpublic After-school Program Committee to develop or expand comprehensive after school programs for elementary school children in the City of St. Louis will address the following two investment priorities:

By June 30, 2009, 3000 children will have improved motivation to learn;

By June 30, 2009, at least 4,500 youth will avoid undesirable behavior and their consequences.

BACKGROUND:

Demographic Information

Recent focus by concerned community groups has raised questions regarding the availability of after-school programs that provide both consistent supervision and a quality experience for children of families that live in the City of St. Louis. The 2000 Census reports that there are approximately 46,000 children living in the City of St. Louis between the ages of 5 and 13 years.

- 69% of school age children live in households where both or the single parent are in the workforce (St. Louis for Kids, 2003).
- An estimated 31,000 elementary age children have no parent at home when school dismisses and need after-school supervision of some type (St. Louis for Kids).
- 39.4% (approximately 18,000) live in households with incomes below the poverty level (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003).
- Only 10% of children ages 5 to 13 have access to everyday after-school programs.

Forty nonpublic schools reported to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary education School Improvement / Federal Programs in fall 2005. Of the nonpublic schools reporting to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Federal Programs, it can be determined that nonpublic schools serve both a significant percent of the children within the City of St. Louis and a large number of families who are eligible for free and reduced federal lunch program.

- More than 6000 children or 20% of the youth population educated in the city are educated in nonpublic elementary schools (Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Nonpublic Registration Form).
- 30% of students in nonpublic schools are eligible for the free and reduced federal lunch program.
- Thirteen nonpublic schools have more than 50% of their students eligible for the free and reduced federal lunch program.

This grant will benefit one fifth of the children located throughout the City of St. Louis, including a significant number of children from families that are economically deprived and marginalized.

After-school Accessibility

Nonpublic schools currently offer after-care programs at the school site, convenient for parents. Of the 40 nonpublic schools identified through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary nonpublic federal program survey, 32 responded to a survey sent in fall 2006 regarding their programs. These schools report that consistent and reliable care is offered in all but two schools responding. The majority of schools report that the school is the provider, with only four schools contracting with a third party provider for after-school programs.

- 31 schools (97%) have after-school programs at their site.
- Programs are equitably sited geographically throughout the city and are located at the local school buildings serving the families in the neighborhoods surrounding the school.
- 27 of the after-school programs (88%) provide a consistent and reliable service for parents with a program offered five days per week.
- The programs offer hours of operation that are convenient for parents, with 22 school programs open until 6:00 pm (71%) and an additional 6 programs open until 5:30 pm. (90%).
- 994 children are enrolled in after-school programs, or 16.5% of the student population enrolled in nonpublic schools. This enrollment, however, falls short of the national average of 22%.
- Programs serve low income populations. Of twenty-nine schools submitting data, twenty schools report at least 20% of their population eligible for free and reduced lunch, with thirteen schools reporting over 50% of the school population qualified for economic deprivation.

Although after-school programs are available and accessible, they are not always affordable. 75% of principals surveyed report that additional tuition scholarship would increase enrollment in the after-school program, providing a safe and quality experience for more children. This grant would allow schools to offer scholarships for at least 100 additional children, increasing accessibility to those families that find the program tuition an impediment to using the service. Although the majority of the after-school programs are operated by the school, when the school contracts with a third-party provider, administration of the scholarship funds is the responsibility of the school administrator.

After-school Programming

After-school programs currently provide more than basic supervision. The schools surveyed assessed their present program, using eleven hallmarks of a quality program. Schools reported a variety of opportunities currently available to students in the after-school program.

- The schools provide many opportunities in all categories for students, with the most frequently cited including homework supervision (27), fitness and health experiences (24), fine art experiences (16), social / life skills (12), and enrichment activities (11).

However, every school also reported that many additional desired improvements would be implemented if funding was available. Following a mandated review of the after-school program's individual needs and with the funding available through the partnership grant, individual schools will construct a written plan of action that will include the self-assessment and current need for improvement, outline how the current program will change and how the students will be different after successful implementation of the plan, and indicate a measurement protocol to chart that improvement. In addition to providing professional development for the staff and events for family involvement, some proposed program enhancements as reported in the survey include:

- Science/math exploration and competent use of technology (20)
- Homework supervision and professional tutoring (19)
- Inclusion of fine arts experiences (16)
- Programming for the specific needs of 6th, 7th and 8th grade student (12)
- Enhanced sport, health, wellness and fitness opportunities (9)
- Academic enrichment opportunities for the gifted or highly capable child (8)

The school administrator would use the community resource guide developed by the Incarnate Word Foundation as well as other academic, athletic, fine arts and counseling resources to choose the program enhancements and contract with the appropriate providers. In the event that the school contracts with a third party provider to administer the after-school program, distribution of funds for program enhancement is the responsibility of the school administrator.

Operational costs

All schools responding reported that the after-school program was available at a cost to parents. The four schools that reported no charge to the family were the Nativity / San Miguel middle schools whose program requires late afternoon attendance by students and whose after-school program costs are reflection in the school's tuition. All other schools reported costs ranging from \$3.00 to \$20.00 per three hour day per student. In an attempt to assist families with this cost which they pay in addition to the tuition and fees for the regular school program, schools reported that some modest financial assistance is currently available to families.

- 46% of schools offered a multi-child discount.
- 2% of schools could offer scholarship for after-care service.
- 80% of schools surveyed reported that they would be able to serve more families if additional scholarships or financial help could be available through the Mental Health Board of Directors grant. An estimated 100 additional children could be served with scholarship assistance through this partnership in ten schools to be determined by the Nonpublic After-school Committee.

The lack of financial resources prevents families from using the programs currently available in their local schools. Although some financial help is available to families, twenty-four schools indicate that enrollment in after-school programs will increase if scholarships are available. An additional 100 children could benefit from the grant.

DESCRIPTION OF GRANT:

New Matching Resources

School and community resources are available to match the grant from the MHB

Nonpublic After-school Committee \$10,000

This Committee, comprised of representatives from Catholic, Lutheran, and private schools will review and reward school grant applications; provide oversight for the distribution of funds; construct and review an annual summative report from each school; and submit an annual final report to the Mental Health Board. This in-kind cost represents the professional consultation of the six member board and ongoing administration of the grant.

Today and Tomorrow Foundation \$1,000

The Today and Tomorrow Foundation has provided services for past grants by receiving funds from the MHB and distributing grants to individual schools.

Incarnate Word Foundation \$6500

- a) The Incarnate Word Foundation will provide a published Directory of Resources that will make community resources known to schools, fostering a collaborative relationship between the schools and the cultural, scientific, and educational institutions in the metropolitan area. The directory will feature arts and cultural organizations, sports and recreational programs, youth service providers, and civic groups that offer on-site programs and opportunities for field trips. It will include short program descriptions, appropriate grade level and group size limitations, availability, fees, and contact information. An introductory letter, table of contents, and index will also be provided. The guide will be available in both print and electronic format for ease of use.
- b) These funds will also provide for professional development opportunities for the after-school program caregivers, introducing participants to the knowledge and skills identified as exemplary in the documents, *Quality Standards: A Guide for Non-School-Hour Programs for the St. Louis Metropolitan Region* and *Youth Development Outcomes, Indicators and measurement Protocols*. Workshops and other experiences will allow program caregivers to learn, experience, and incorporate the best practices into their daily programs.

Individual Schools In-kind Contribution \$157,050

The best after-care programs should function as an extension of the regular school day, with continuity in the child's academic, social, emotional, physical, and character development. The child's learning and development that occurs during the school day should be continued and supported by the after-school program, providing a cohesive and supportive growth experience for the child. Coordination of these initiatives between the two programs requires increased levels of communication between the faculty and the after-school staff, with close supervision of curriculum, programs, and projects so as to

extend the development of the whole child from the full day school into the after-care programs.

School administrators will require additional time to facilitate a smooth transition between the full day and the after-care programs. Providing the program enhancements mandated by this grant will also require administrative time to research, plan, identify, and coordinate the community resources that will be used locally.

- The school will provide administrative services to coordinate a seamless transition from the full day school program to the after-school program. Administrative costs are computed at five hours per week for thirty-five weeks at \$30 per hour or \$5,250 per school
- The school will provide the building costs to operate the program on site. The expense is computed at three hours per day for one hundred seventy-four days at \$10 per hour or \$5,220 per school.
- The committee estimates that some applications will require less than full funding, and expects to fund fifteen schools.
- Total amount for fifteen schools is $\$10,470 * 15 = \$157,050$

Pettus Foundation \$20,000

The Pettus Foundation will provide funding for the after-school program enhancements. The cost of scholarships and program enhancements is \$20,000.

Lutheran Foundation \$3,000

The Lutheran Foundation will participate in this partnership. They will provide scholarship funds for children in Lutheran schools to attend after-school programs.

Parent Tuition Contribution \$60,900

This partnership will allow schools to serve an additional 100 children through the scholarship program. Schools generally offer a partial scholarship to defray some of the parent's financial burden, thus generating new tuition monies. Scholarships will allow new children to participate in the program, increasing the income from new tuition fees. Assuming that scholarships of one half of the tuition are offered, it is estimated that 100 additional students paying \$609 (50% of the average reported tuition) annually in new tuition money will generate \$60,900.

Total Resources Available **\$248,450**

Although the figure cited above does not include the fees parents pay for after-school program, it is important to recognize the contribution made by concerned parents seeking a quality program that is affordable and accessible. Parents contribute a substantial amount of money to provide quality and accessible after-school programs for their children at nonpublic school sites. In addition to the school tuition payments assumed by the family, after-school program costs range from \$3.00 to \$20.00 per day per child.

With an average of 994 students served each day at the average charge of \$8.88 per day, after-school tuition amounts to \$10,000 per day or over \$1, 535,450 per year.

GRANT PROPOSAL:

Oversight Committee

The Nonpublic After-school Program Committee will provide oversight for the schools participating in this partnership. The Committee will construct, distribute, and evaluate the schools’ applications. The Committee will further establish the criteria for a successful application, write a scoring rubric, and award the grants. The Committee will receive appropriate reports from the schools and will submit reports to MHB as required.

Funding Awards

Funding can be awarded to eleven schools for a maximum of \$20,000 per school and a total expenditure of \$220,000. Additional funding of \$3000 for scholarship is available through the Lutheran Foundation.

Individual School Funding Award *sample* expenditure:

\$10,000	Scholarship to increase accessibility
\$5, 220	Additional professional staff at \$15 per hour * 2 hours per day * 174 days
<u>\$4,780</u>	Enhanced program services and materials
\$20,000	Total possible award per school

Funding Assumptions

The Nonpublic After-school Program Committee assumes that it is preferable to provide a smaller number of programs with sufficient resources to effect a measurable change than to award a small amount to many schools.

- Application for funding will be open to all nonpublic schools located in the City of St. Louis.
- Consideration will be given to awarding a sufficient amount of funding to make a difference in providing increased accessibility and program enhancement.
- Funding can be adjusted based on the free and reduced lunch poverty count as reported to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education School Improvement / Federal Programs for Nonpublic Schools.
- Consideration can be given to those schools that can identify additional “hard resources” available to the school (neighborhood and community resources, volunteers, grants, etc.)
- Schools receiving monies to provide increased accessibility for families may establish a sliding fee schedule for payment supplemented by scholarship funds.
- A component of the funding rubric will be written that will allow some schools sponsored by partner foundations to benefit and to satisfy any partner’s individual requirements accompanying their financial contribution. The recipient school’s

application must first comply with qualifications for a successful application before this component is applied.

School's Application Process to the Nonpublic After-school Committee

Self-Assessment

1. Using two assessment tools (*Quality Standards: A Guide for Non-School-Hour Programs for the St. Louis Metropolitan Region* and *Youth Development Outcomes, Indicators and measurement Protocols*) the school will assess its current program's ability to provide diverse, integrated quality experiences for children; a seamless transition from full day school to after-school experiences; on-going quality professional development for staff; and resources to assist caregivers.
2. The school will determine the ability of families served by the school to access the after-school program.

Action Plan

The school will write an action plan. The action plan will include components for program enhancement, program accessibility for families, and opportunities for professional development for staff.

1. The action plan will outline how the current program will change and how the students will be different after successful implementation of the plan.
2. The plan will include Goals that address the three target areas: diverse, integrated quality experiences for children; increased enrollment in the after-school program; and on-going quality professional development for staff.
3. The plan will include a Measurement Protocol that will be a method of measuring improvement and identifying data sources.
4. The plan will identify third party providers and neighborhood and community resources proposed to enhance the program.
5. The school will include a detailed budget itemizing expenses for each quality indicator identified. Prospective neighborhood and community resources should be identified.

Program Assessment

The action plan will include an assessment component for each Goal targeted.

The assessment will include:

- Activities to be completed.
- Responsible party identified for each activity
- Timeline for completion for each activity.
- Measurement Protocol to assess the successful implementation of the targeted activity that shows how the children will change as a result of the restructured program.
- Budget considerations

Submission

The school will submit the action plan to the Nonpublic After-school Committee for review and input. After Committee approval, funding will be granted.

School Reporting Requirement

Schools will be required to submit reports throughout the year that contain:

- a) Financial expenditures from the grant
- b) Enrollment figures for scholarship students (to show increased enrollment)
- c) Enrollment figures for entire program (to show benefits from improved programming)

Publication of benefits of the MHB Grant

Recipient schools are asked to publish the recognized benefits of Proposition K:

- a) Through school newsletters
- b) In church bulletins
- c) In the local religious newspapers
- d) With a plaque in the school office

Timeline

May 2007	Principals receive information regarding the application process.
June 2007	Schools submit proposal.
July 2007	Nonpublic After-school Program Committee reviews and awards grants.
June 2008	Report submitted by school, with possibility of renewal of grant.

For questions or further information, please contact

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