

Colorado Dropout Prevention Activity Grant Program

Award Dates: July 1, 2008-June 30, 2011

Overview

The Dropout Prevention Activity Grant program, pursuant to Colo. Rev. Stat. 22-27.5-103, is funded through a voluntary contributions check-off item in the Colorado Individual Income Tax Return. The program provides additional funding for schools to sponsor before and after-school programs and summer programs that encourage positive school attachment and provide greater incentives for some students to stay in school. A focus on the arts exposes students to a wide range of opportunities in music, dance, creative writing, theater, photography and other visual arts. Vocational content assists students in obtaining skills in a wide variety of vocations, enables students to discover their artistic and vocational talents and provides opportunities for workplace skills practice.

Nine schools and their community partners in the current Cohort IV of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) met the criteria set forth in the statute. These qualified schools serve grades six through 12 and received an academic rating of "low" or "unsatisfactory" for the school year preceding the grant award. Community partners are non-profit, nonsectarian, community-based organizations that provide before and after-school, arts-based or vocational activity programs to low-income youth enrolled in grades six through 12.

The nine qualifying school/community partnerships invited to apply are:

- Niver Creek Middle School/Goals Inc (Adams 12 Five Star Schools)
- Alamosa High School/Boys and Girls Clubs (Alamosa School District)
- Aurora Central High School/City of Aurora (Arapahoe County School District 28J)
- Kunsmiller Middle School/Catholic Charities (Denver Public Schools)
- Lamar Middle School/Project Acquire High School (Lamar School District Re-2)
- Centennial and Olathe Middle Schools/Boys and Girls Clubs (Montrose School District Re-1J)
- Sierra High School/YMCA (Harrison School District 2)
- Cortez Middle School/Pinon Project (Montezuma/Cortez School District)

Four school/community partnerships that offer before or after-school programming to middle and high school students were awarded supplemental funding, totaling \$156,152 for three years beginning July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011.

- Alamosa High School/Boys and Girls Clubs (Alamosa School District)- \$60,000 over three years, subject to funds availability
- Kunsmiller Middle School/Catholic Charities (Denver Public Schools)- \$9,209 over three years, subject to funds availability
- Lamar Middle School/Project Acquire High School (Lamar School District Re-2) -\$30,500 over three years, subject to funds availability
- Sierra High School/YMCA (Harrison School District 2)- \$56,443 over 3 years, subject to funds availability.

Grantee Program Descriptions

Alamosa High School/Boys and Girls Clubs

The 2006-07 dropout rate is 3 percent. The number of students graduating from Alamosa High School will increase 10 percent per year beginning in 2009. Up to 250 students will participate in twice weekly after school art classes for 30 weeks. Students who have excessive absences and failing grades will be recruited. A secondary art club will be formed to strengthen student leadership skills. A Summer Art Institute will include a variety of topic areas such as Art Along the Rio Grande. A variety of genres will be offered including dance, guitar, Indian arts, mariachi, jewelry making and a musical production. Art opportunities will be offered in collaboration with the Adams State College art and music departments. Woodworking and other vocational summer classes will continue to be held in collaboration with Trinidad State Junior College.

Kunsmiller Middle School/Catholic Charities

The 2006-07 dropout rate is 4.4 percent. Eighty-five percent of participants will demonstrate an increase in school connectedness, as measured by the Youth Bonding Scale. Up to 120 participants will attend mural art, computer class and art reach. Kunsmiller Beacon Neighborhood Center will partner with a local artist to guide students as they study cultural references while they create school murals. In addition, partnering with Think36, a stellar arts program in Denver, students may choose from hip hop dance, Latin dance, photography, graphic design and other visual and performing arts classes.

Lamar Middle School /Project Acquire High School

The 2006-07 seventh through 12th grade dropout rate is 5.1 percent. Students' positive school attachment journal comments will increase 10 percent from the baseline year's comments. Participation will increase 5 percent each year for the three year grant period. Up to 50 students will attend the Teen Center nine week after school classes, choosing from activities such as percussion, wearable art, dance, guitar, crime scene investigation and auto finishing. At the end of the session, open houses will allow parents and community members to enjoy performances and

exhibitions. In addition, Prowers Medical Center is developing a Teen Hospital Outreach Program.

Sierra High School/YMCA

The 2006-07 dropout rate is 8.9 percent. At least 85 percent of participants will demonstrate progress toward graduation each year, reducing the dropout rate 10 percent by the third year of the grant. A minimum of 90 students will participate each year, choosing classes such as audio recording for radio/music skills, junior achievement for leadership development, video editing/production and art programs. The Hop-Hop Educational Literacy Program builds cultural connections between youth and adults, using Hip Hop music. In addition, the Pikes Peak Workforce Center's Youth Zone will provide career related and life skills programming.