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VDOE Announces 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Competition

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is inviting school divisions, nonprofits, local government agencies, faith-based organizations, colleges and universities, and for-profit corporations to apply for 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants.

The federal grant program, authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, supports community-based programs that provide tutoring, enrichment, and counseling during non-school hours — especially for low-income students and students who attend low-performing schools.

VDOE expects to award approximately 30 three-year grants of \$50 thousand to \$200 thousand a year. VDOE will give priority to applications that meet any or all of the following criteria:

- Joint applications between at least one school division and at least one public or private community organization;
- Proposals to serve students in schools that failed to meet state and or federal accountability standards during the 2010-2011 school year;
- Proposals to serve students in middle or high schools; or
- Proposals to serve students who attend schools with free and reduced-price lunch eligibility of 75 percent or greater.

Applicants are encouraged to consult with parents, community organizations, businesses, arts and cultural organizations, and youth development agencies to develop their community learning center proposals.

All 21st CCLC grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Applications must be delivered to VDOE by 4 p.m., Friday, May 6, 2011.

VDOE will conduct technical assistance workshops for potential applicants on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in Richmond and Thursday, April 14, 2011, in Christiansburg.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant application and technical assistance workshop registration information is available on the VDOE website at this address:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/federal_programs/esea/title4/part_b/index.shtml.

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