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14 afterschool programs funded through grant

PIERRE, S.D. – A total of 14 21st Century Community Learning Center grants have been awarded to provide funding for academic enrichment opportunities for students. This year's grant recipients join 24 existing grant recipients to serve a combined total of 54 sites statewide.

Grants range from \$50,000 to \$150,000 a year. These grants support out of school time activities. School districts, along with community-based organizations and faith-based organizations, are eligible to apply. Projects are funded for a period of five years based upon successful implementation and annual reviews. A total of 29 organizations applied for funding this year.

This year's recipients include:

- Action for the Betterment of the Community – Sturgis Area After School Program
- Black Hills Special Services Cooperative
 - Belle Fourche 21st Century Community Learning Center Program, elementary and high school
 - Belle Fourche Middle School Jam
 - Discover the Valley – Rapid Valley/Valley View Elementary Schools, Rapid City
- Boys & Girls Club – Watertown
- Boys & Girls Club of the Missouri River Area (Wagner)
- Dupree School District
- Henry School District
- Huron School District
- Lutheran Social Services (Sioux Falls)
- Mitchell School District
- Volunteers of America – Dakotas (Sioux Falls) – Kid's Campus Program
- Washington Pavilion (Sioux Falls) – Action Arts & Science Program
- YMCA of Rapid City – Youth Institute

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers provide a range of high quality services that support student learning and development. Academic enrichment, tutoring, mentoring, homework help, music, arts, sports and cultural activities are key components of the grants. The learning centers also offer literacy and other educational services to families of participating children.

"21st Century Community Learning Center grant recipients play a vital role in their communities," said Jill Cotton, who oversees the 21st Century Community Learning Center program in South Dakota. "These programs provide engaging, meaningful activities and opportunities for students so that learning and enrichment can continue even after the regular school day is done."

The program is authorized under Title IV, Part B, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.