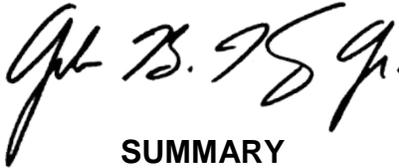




**TO:** P-12 Education Committee  
**FROM:** Ken Slentz   
**SUBJECT:** Community Schools  
**DATE:** June 10, 2013

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

  
**SUMMARY**

### **Issue for Discussion**

The 2012-2013 Enacted budget provides for a \$15 million Community Schools initiative, of the \$75 million NY Education Reform Commission Competitive Grants. The purpose of the grant program is to provide resources for eligible applicants to reconfigure current or integrate existing programs and sources of funding with this new initiative to reach and support at-risk and high-need students and families in their respective communities through enhanced and coordinated service delivery.

### **Background Information**

Under amendments to Education Law, the Commissioner of the State Education Department (SED) is authorized to award competitive grants, "to eligible school districts for plans that target school buildings as "community hubs to deliver co-located or school-linked academic, health, mental health, nutrition, counseling, legal and/or other services to students and their families in a manner that will lead to improved educational and other outcomes."

The 2013-2014 Enacted budget states that Community Schools grants shall be awarded based on a plan developed by the Council on Children and Families (CCF) that includes a request for proposals developed by the CCF in coordination with the Commissioner of the State Department of Education and approved by the Director of the Budget. The Budget requires that the procurement:

- be issued by the Commissioner, to school districts, or in NYC an eligible entity;
- to improve student outcomes through the implementation of community schools programs that use school buildings as community hubs to deliver co-located or school-linked academic, health, mental health, nutrition, counseling, legal and/or other services to students and their families.
- in NYC, eligible entities shall mean the NYC DOE, or not-for-profit organizations, which shall include not-for-profit community-based organizations. An eligible entity that is a not-for-profit may apply for a community school grant provided that it collaborates with the NYC DOE and receives the approval of the chancellor of NYC DOE.

Grants shall be awarded based on factors including, but not limited to:

- measures of school district need;
- measures of the need of students to be served by each of the school districts;
- the school district's proposal to target the highest need schools and students;
- the sustainability of the proposed community schools program, and proposal quality.

To assess proposal quality in order to award such funding, the following factors will be taken into account:

- the extent to which the school district's proposal would provide such community services through partnerships with local governments and non-profit organizations;
- the extent to which the proposal would provide for delivery of such services directly in school buildings;
- the extent to which the proposal articulates how such services would facilitate measurable improvement in student and family outcomes;
- the extent to which the proposal articulates and identifies how existing funding streams and programs would be used to provide such community services; and
- the extent to which the proposal ensures the safety of all students, staff and community members in school buildings used as community hubs.

Finally, the budget directs that the Community Schools grants shall be paid to school districts in installments upon successful implementation of each phase of a school district's approved proposal. Provided, further, that no school district shall receive more than forty percent of the total community schools grant allocation, and that each individual community school site shall be limited to a maximum grant of \$500,000.

### **Next Steps**

- The Commissioner will develop a request for proposal in coordination with the New York State Council on Children and Families.
- Upon approval by the Director of Budget, the Commissioner will issue the request for proposal.