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## Leveraging Private Resources

Maximizing funding for afterschool and summer learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Children and youth who participate in high-quality afterschool or summer learning programs perform better in school, gain positive leadership skills, are better prepared to enter the workforce, and are less likely to use alcohol, drugs or be involved violence or crime.

Some of the most powerful programs blend traditional enrichment activities (art, recreation, and career-orientation) with more intentional strategies that respond to a young person's unique developmental and academic needs.

Unfortunately, participation in afterschool or summer programming is often dictated by family and community resources — not need. Consequently, participation is lower among students living in low-income households and resource poor communities.

### LEVERAGING PRIVATE RESOURCES

Shared investments in young people create a sustainable solution to ensuring all children and youth learn, grow and develop beyond the classroom.

Youth Community Connections supports smart and strategic investments that leverage public, private and parent contributions for afterschool and summer learning opportunities.

Youth Community Connections works with businesses and private/community philanthropy to match or leverage state contributions to afterschool and summer learning opportunities. Leveraging private and corporate resources increases the amount of funding available for afterschool and summer learning programs, which assists each community's ability to meet the needs of young people.

### 2009 – 10 CHALLENGE GRANT

This year The McKnight Foundation is offering a challenge grant to the State of Minnesota to support afterschool and summer learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

If the State approves \$5 million annually for two years within the official State budget (rather than one-time funding) to support afterschool or summer learning opportunities beyond the classroom, McKnight will provide the State of Minnesota with \$1 million annually over two years for the same purpose.

Combined, these public and private resources would contribute to afterschool and summer community learning programs — part of a pool of funds available for competitive grants, targeting programs servicing children and youth from disadvantaged circumstances.

Interested in opportunities to leverage each dollar for maximum impact, McKnight has supported summer and afterschool programs for more than two decades, with recent giving of about \$5 million annually. The Foundation focuses on organizations working with youth in the nonschool hours because of both the great needs and the great opportunities they represent.

Such matching grants through private foundations and businesses are powerful strategies to help encourage state contributions to afterschool and summer learning opportunities.