

## **Fact Sheet about Project HOPE—Helping Others Promote Excellence**

### **Funding Source**

United States Department of Education  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program  
Competitive Grant Process

### **Purpose of Grant Proposal**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program provides grants to rural and inner-city public schools or consortia of such schools to enable them—with the assistance of community partners—to plan, implement, or expand projects that benefit the educational, health, social services, cultural, and recreational needs of the community. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers enable school districts to fund public schools as community education centers, keeping children safe in the afterschool hours and providing academic enrichment, homework centers and tutors, and a range of cultural, developmental and recreational opportunities. In addition, lifelong learning activities are available for community members in a local school setting. School-based 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers that have been established around the country are providing safe, drug-free, supervised and cost-effective afterschool, weekend or summer havens for children, youth and their families. The program is designed to target funds to rural and urban communities that have low achieving students and high rates of juvenile crime, school violence, and student drug abuse, but lack the resources to establish afterschool centers.

### **School Districts in the Proposal**

The following school districts joined the consortium in order to be considered in this grant proposal:

Benoit, Choctaw, East Jasper, Greenville, Greenwood, Hancock, Hattiesburg, Hazlehurst, Indianola, Jackson Public, Laurel, Leflore County, Leland, Louisville, Moss Point, Oktibbeha, Pearl River, Petal, Pontotoc, Prentiss County, Quitman County, Rankin, Sunflower, Tupelo, Western Line, Winona, and Yazoo City.

Participating in this consortium does not preclude a local school district from applying directly to the USDOE for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant.

The Mississippi Department of Education is taking the lead in developing the 3-year grant application but, if proposal is awarded, will not receive any of the funds. Tupelo School District will serve as the fiscal agent and coordinating school district for the consortium.

### **About Mississippi's Proposal**

Project HOPE is designed to help students and parents in Mississippi achieve higher standards and secure brighter futures. The goals of Project HOPE match the USDOE's program requirements by providing the following:

Literacy education programs

Senior citizen programs

Children's day care services

Integrated education, health, social service, recreational or cultural programs

Summer and weekend school programs in conjunction with recreational programs

Nutrition and health programs

Expanded library service hours to serve community needs

Telecommunications and technology education programs for individuals of all ages

Parenting skills education programs

Support and training for child day care providers

Employment counseling, training and placement

Services for individuals who leave school before graduating from secondary school, regardless of the age of such individual, and

Services with children with disabilities.

The proposal includes an array of inclusive and supervised services that include expanded learning opportunities (such as enriched instruction, tutoring or homework assistance) for children. It will also focus activities in the areas of arts, academics, athletics, and acclamations of self worth by partnering with community agencies, businesses, and individuals.