

Minnesota's Federal Education Grants

Minnesota's achievement gap is consistently amongst the largest in the nation:

- 50 percent of Minnesota kindergartners are not ready for school, which means half of Minnesota's students are behind before they even start school.
- Minnesota's achievement gaps between White students and Black and Hispanic students are the highest in the United States at fourth grade, eighth grade and high school graduation.
- Minnesota's average costs for child care for young children are among the highest in the nation, with an overall state average of \$10,000 for infant care and \$8,200 for four year olds.
- Minnesota ranks 38th out of 50 in terms of families' access to preschool.
- Current spending lacks accountability for outcomes and does not reflect current child development science or families' economic realities.

With \$88 million in federal education grants, Minnesota has been presented with an enormous opportunity to implement and expand innovative initiatives that will improve education outcomes for children across the state.

Northside Achievement Zone Promise Neighborhood

- Minnesota's Northside Achievement Zone has received a federal Promise Neighborhood Implementation grant of *\$28 million* for 2012-2016 to support efforts to build a culture of achievement so that all youth within the NAZ area graduate high school ready for college.
- The Promise Neighborhood grant will be implemented within the Northside Achievement Zone in North Minneapolis (a 18 by 13 block square that is severely impacted by crime, violence and poverty.)
- Implementation of the grant will help to build NAZ infrastructure and achieve the organization's goal of supporting more families, promoting academic achievement and creating a culture of success.
- The grant will be used to implement NAZ's "cradle to career pipeline" which moves families and children through a continuum of comprehensive supports from pre-natal to age 18.

Early Learning Challenge Grant

- Minnesota has received a federal Early Learning Challenge grant of *\$45 million* for 2012-2015 to improve results for children and build capacity and accountability into Minnesota's early learning system.
- The Early Learning Challenge grant is designed to help highly committed states provide more children from birth to age 5 from low-income families with access to high-quality early learning and development programs.
- The Early Learning Challenge grant will focus the State's efforts in three key areas aimed at establishing a strong long-term foundation for children's long-term success: an improved governance structure ensuring accountability and decision making, a great early childhood workforce and access to high-quality, accountable programs.

Investing in Innovation Grant

- The Human Capital Research Collaborative (HCRC, a partnership between the University of Minnesota and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis) has been selected by to receive a Investing in Innovation or "i3" grant of *\$15 million* over five years.
- The grant will be used to implement the Child-Parent Center Education Program (CPC), an innovative prekindergarten to third-grade intervention that provides intensive and continuous educational and family-support services primarily for children ages 3 to grade 3 in low-income neighborhoods.
- The i3 grant will expand the program into 33 schools across Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. Minnesota programs will support services to 9,000 children from ages 3 to 9, including more than 1,000 children in Saint Paul and 200 children in Virginia.
- The federal funding is intended to validate the "CPC" model, identifying the key program elements necessary

With these grants, Minnesota has been presented with an opportunity to implement early childhood education program reform, improve school readiness, work to build a culture of achievement in poverty stricken regions and identify and validate the successes of key programs.

Each grant presents a unique opportunity to effect change and reduce challenges plaguing Minnesota's children. It is crucial that these programs be implemented effectively and efficiently to ensure children across the state benefit and that Minnesota feels the highest possible return on these investments.