

Sprockets' Wallace Proposal Overview

Sprockets, Saint Paul's Out-of-School Time system, through a partnership with the City of Saint Paul, is one of 17 cities invited by the Wallace Foundation to compete in their *Building Out-of-School Time Systems* RFP program. Saint Paul will apply for a total of \$1million to advance the Sprockets system building efforts from Jan 2012-Dec 2014. \$750,000 will be funding from the Wallace Foundation and \$250,000 will be a required match. The match will be met through in-kind staff time and private foundation dollars.

The Wallace Foundation defines Out-of-School Time systems as having six building blocks: committed leadership, a public or private coordinating entity, multi-year planning, reliable information, expanding participation and a commitment to quality. Wallace requires that Cities have pieces of each building block in place. Wallace fund must be used to improve or expand either a primary focus of reliable information or a commitment to quality. A City can then select a secondary focus that could include public or private coordinating entity or expanding participation.

Saint Paul's primary focus is **reliable information**. Sprockets is developing a data management system with the Promise Neighborhood initiative. By December 2011, the data system will be able to track youth participation and attendance across at least 10 early adopter organizations. Sprockets is also developing a logic model that lays out community indicators tied to six impact areas including young people becoming successful learners, navigators and contributors and young people's engagement in out-of-school time learning. These indicators will be identified by December 2011.

In order to advance our work on the **reliable information** building block, we will seek funding from Wallace for the following two purposes: 1) to expand the capabilities of a data management information system and 2) to develop our ability to have reliable information on the impact of out-of-school time participation on our identified community indicators.

Saint Paul's secondary focus is **a commitment to quality**. Sprockets has adopted a commitment to quality that focuses on three areas: youth worker expertise, engaged youth and quality program features. Sprockets laid out goals to guide a 3-year out-of-school time quality improvement plan. The specifics of year 1 are complete and include implementing use of the Youth Program Quality Assessment tool across youth-serving organizations and supporting the capacity of partners to create organizational cultures that support quality youth programs.

In order to advance our work on the **commitment to quality** building block, we will seek funding for the following two purposes: 1) to implement new strategies that meet our year goal to connect in-school and out-of-school time learning to ensure the greatest impact across the times and places in which young people learn and 2) to build our network partners capacity to assess program quality and coach peers around quality improvement.