

## YMCA of South Florida, Inc. - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

**3.1. PROJECT ABSTRACT/SUMMARY.** YMCA of South Florida's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program is to provide academic and personal enrichment through afterschool and summer programming to 120 students in kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade attending ***Campbell Drive K-8 Center, Laura C. Saunders Elementary, Mandarin Lakes K-8 Academy and West Homestead K-8 Center*** located in Miami-Dade County. At each site, the programs offers daily high quality programming in a safe environment for participants aimed at increasing literacy, math, science, social skills, and promoting active lifestyles within a project-based learning capsule. Afterschool programs operate Monday-Friday from 1:55pm-6:05pm (3:10pm-6:40pm for Saunders) for 180 days during the school year (10/1/19 – 9/30/20). Summer programming operates at two of the four schools, Saunders and Mandarin Lakes, Monday-Friday from 8am-6pm for 34 days during the summer. Objectives include improvement in English Language Arts, Math and Science performance to satisfactory level or above, in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade promotion rate, in physical fitness, in prosocial behavior, in healthy eating knowledge and in emotional regulation.

**3.2. COMMUNITY NOTICE AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT. 3.2.a. Community Notice.** The YMCA of South Florida (the Y) proactively informed the community about its intent to submit an application for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC in partnership with the identified schools. The notice was placed on the Y's website, posted in the local Miami Herald and Sun-Sentinel newspapers from July 3-12, 2019 and on social media (Facebook and Instagram). Furthermore, the Y gained partnership agreements and sent certified letters to twelve (12) identified private schools located within five-mile radius of the target schools, notifying them of the intent to engage/consult with them through focus groups to design the program so that the needs of eligible participants can be met. Parents, private schools, and other stakeholders were also invited to focus groups to solicit their input. The final submitted application will be made available on the Y's website, thus providing the community access

to the application.

**3.2.b. Needs Assessment.** This proposal was developed as a result of a **comprehensive needs assessment** that began in the 2018-19 school year, where the Y staff began working closely with the four schools to identify the unmet needs and gaps in services of the students and families. The needs assessment consisted of: 1) a series of meetings with school leadership, Miami Dade Public Schools (MDPS) district administrators, teachers and Y Leadership team; 2) review and analysis of the School Improvement Plans (SIP); 3) review and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data from a number of sources including the US Census; Florida Department of Education's (FDOE) EDStats, School Grade Federal Index, School Environment Safety Incident Reports, and School Attendance and Suspension reports; and surveys results from students, parents, and stakeholders; 3) an analysis of affordable afterschool programming currently available to students that offer standards-based academic enrichment; and 4) focus groups with admin, teachers, students and parents of both the district schools and service location and identified neighboring private schools. This led to the decision to apply for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC to enhance current services and address unmet academic and personal enrichment needs of students and families at these targeted schools.

**Involvement of Community and Private Schools:** Each of the twelve (12) identified private schools, within five miles of the program sites, received an invitation via email and US postal service to participate in a series of focus groups to assess their needs following a best practice method to involve private schools in the design of the program. Other important community members, such as the parents of students and community partners, were also invited and were actively engaged for feedback and ideas in developing the program elements. The Y also met with the school's leadership team to develop the plan. At each of the meetings, the Y staff shared briefings about 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC mandates and the focus group's intent to gauge an understanding of community needs to create potential objectives and activities.