

## **The Department is Accepting Grant Applications for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers**

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development announces a competitive grant opportunity for funds to support out-of-school-time programs.

The Alaska 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding provides an opportunity for organizations to help students, particularly those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools, to continue to learn new skills and discover new abilities outside of the hours school is in session.

The goal is to raise student academic achievement through the creation and expansion of community learning centers that provide students with academic assistance opportunities and educational enrichment activities designed to complement their regular academic program.

Under this competition, the department intends to make approximately four to six grant awards. If congressional funding is made available to the department, grants ranging between \$50,000 and \$500,000 per year will be awarded.

Award recipients can be organizations, school districts, parochial schools, or other public or private agencies. The department will fund only projects that provide expanded learning opportunities for students, and all applicants must primarily discuss how they will assist students improve academically. In selecting applicants for funding, the department strongly encourages projects jointly submitted by school districts and community organizations with experience in providing out-of-school time services.

The request for applications is attached. Letters of Intent to Apply are encouraged by March 3, 2014. See the RFA for further details. The closing date for this competition is 4 p.m. Alaska standard time on Friday, April 4, 2014. If you have questions, please contact Jessica Paris at [jessica.paris@alaska.gov](mailto:jessica.paris@alaska.gov) or 907-465-8716.