



February 19, 2026

BOARD AGENDA ITEM:

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Application for FY2026

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Academy of Hope Public Charter School plans to submit an application to the South Carolina Department of Education for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant in the amount of **\$201,500** per year for four years. If awarded, the grant will be used to support and expand academic enrichment opportunities for students attending this high-poverty school, strengthen their ability to meet state and local academic standards, and open the door to a diverse range of learning experiences that deepen and extend their daily instruction. The funding will also empower families through literacy and educational services that support student success beyond the classroom.

Eligible applicants for this grant include public school districts, individual public schools, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and other public or private entities, as well as partnerships among these groups. Grants may be awarded for up to a **4-year grant period**, and funds may be used to support before-school, after-school, and summer programs designed to strengthen student academic achievement.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

The Interim Principal/Acting Executive Director has reviewed the goals and objectives outlined in this grant opportunity and has determined that they align with the Academy's educational mission, goals, and priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Authorize the submission of the FY2026 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant application for the Academy of Hope.

PREPARED BY:

Dr. Eugene Bellamy, Jr.
Interim Principal/Acting Executive Director
ebellamy@theacademyofhope.org