

Supporting Out-of-School Time Programs in Sioux City, IA

American Rescue Plan Community Profile

June 2022 | Children and Youth



American Rescue Plan Funding

Total Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds in Sioux City: \$38.9 million¹

Amount of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds Featured in This Profile: \$38.9 million

- \$15.6 million to community partner grantees²

Project Summary

Like many school districts at the beginning of the pandemic, Sioux City Community School District quickly adapted to remote learning under highly uncertain conditions. The district concentrated the initial relief funding it received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act on addressing the immediate needs of students and staff. This included maintaining food service for the almost 60% of students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, meeting staff needs, and purchasing one-to-one technology and providing internet access for every student.

After returning to full-time in-person learning, the school district planned how to spend the district's American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds to address learning loss. The district's initial strategy was to hire more learning interventionists and pay educators overtime to tutor students outside of school hours. However, it quickly became apparent that the demand for these services was too great for the school district to meet on its own. School district leaders then turned to their community.

In the fall of 2021, Sioux City Community School District developed a subgrant program for learning recovery

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services funded by \$15.6 million in American Rescue Plan dollars. Since the beginning of the program, the district has partnered with 14 community-based organizations that represent a diverse cross section of the families it serves. This broad partnership has enabled Sioux City Community School District to meet a wide range of students' learning recovery needs through community-based tutoring and mentoring services. Although the district had established relationships with some grantees, many are new partners. The district is pleased with the services provided by grantees so far and believes the grant program has strengthened the district's relationship with its grantees and the broader community.

Age Group Served

Students in the Sioux City Community School District in grades K-12

Funding Stream Used

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds

Key Partners

- Beyond the Bell
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Boost
- Boys and Girls Home and Family Services
- Boys Town Iowa
- Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Sioux City
- Crittenton Center
- Family Access Center
- Family Wellness Associates

- First Tee Siouxland
- The Lodge Counseling and Consulting Service
- Sanford Center
- Siouxland Youth for Christ
- Sioux City Community School District
- Urban Native Center

Local Perspective

Unique Challenges

Even though it has been more than two years since the onset of the pandemic, Sioux City Community School District still has concerns about the future. District leaders can no longer rely on their budget projections from two years ago. Meanwhile, supply chain issues, inflation, COVID-related delays, and high demand for labor have made sourcing materials difficult and more expensive and has extended project timelines. School district leaders are concerned that certain projects they plan to fund with American Rescue Plan dollars will not be completed by the time the spending deadlines for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds arrive.

Ensuring Accountability

The idea to seek project proposals from Sioux City’s community-based organizations was new for the school district. The district modeled its request for proposals and grant program structure on a grant process it completed for the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration several years ago. To prioritize accountability, the school district clearly outlined its expectations for grantees and the services they would provide in the request for proposals. The school district then developed a scoring rubric for selecting proposals and delegated grantee management to administrators at individual schools within the district.³

Lessons Learned

Dr. Kim Buryanek, associate superintendent of Sioux City Community School District, notes that the intentionality and clarity with which the district wrote its request for proposals and structured its grant program were central to the program’s success. Clearly outlining the district’s desired services and outcomes kept the district accountable to itself and

also made the grantee selection process easier. The grant program expanded the district’s roster of “go-to” community partners. As an administrator, Dr. Buryanek recognizes that some district needs are greater than the resources available and describes “community go-tos” as community partners willing to collaborate and lend their unique skills and expertise to meet student needs. The district’s newly expanded roster of “community go-tos” represents invaluable partnerships as the district continues to recover from the pandemic and moves toward the future.⁴

Geographic Region

Midwestern United States

Community Size

- Total population of Sioux City (2020): 85,797⁵
- Total student enrollment in Sioux City Community School District (2019–2020): 15,354⁶

Racial Demographics⁷

- White 80.4%
- Black or African American 4.6%
- American Indian and Alaska Native 2.0%
- Asian 3.1%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 0.5%
- Two or More Races 6.2%
- Hispanic or Latino 20.3%
- White alone, not Hispanic or Latino 66.7%

Socioeconomic Status

- Median annual household income (2016–2020): \$57,750
- Children (enrolled in Sioux City Community School District) living in poverty: 16.1%⁸

Acknowledgment

Thank you to Dr. Kim Buryanek, associate superintendent, Sioux City Community School District, for contributions to this community profile.

To view additional resources and find American Rescue Plan allocations for other communities, visit childrensfundingproject.org/american-rescue-plan.

Endnotes

- ¹ Katie Copple, “ESSER III Funds: A Look at Sioux City Comm. School District’s Allocation of \$38.9 Million,” *Siouxland News*, September 13, 2021, <https://siouxlandnews.com/news/local/esser-iii-funds-a-look-at-sioux-city-comm-school-districts-allocation-of-389-million>.
- ² Caitlin Yamada, “SCCSD Partners with Community Organizations to Address Learning Loss,” *Sioux City Journal*, November 30, 2021, https://siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/education/sccsd-partners-with-community-organizations-to-address-learning-loss/article_37deb126-9167-566e-83c0-b7bfba1d0b00.html.
- ³ Dr. Kim Buryanek, associate superintendent, Sioux City Community School District, personal communication, April 1, 2022.
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, “QuickFacts,” Sioux City, Iowa, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/siouxcityiowa>.
- ⁶ U.S. Department of Education, Education Stabilization Fund Transparency Portal, Sioux City Community School District, <https://covid-relief-data.ed.gov/profile/entity/040912909>.
- ⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, “QuickFacts.”
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Education, ACS School District Profile 2015–19: Sioux City Community School District, IA (National Center for Education Statistics: Washington, DC, 2020), <https://nces.ed.gov/Programs/Edge/ACSDashboard/1926400>.

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