



## Agenda for Change 2011 Investment Opportunities Educational Preparedness Overview

In 2008, the United Way Board of Trustees set two 10-year goals in education:

1. Move kindergarten readiness rates from roughly 50% to higher than 80% in eight key communities.
2. Move high school graduation rates from less than 60% to higher than 80% in thirty high schools with chronically and historically high drop out rates.

Over the last two years, we have partnered with outstanding non-profit organizations and schools to create centers of excellence in the community in early childhood and high schools. This includes the creation of thirty-one Early Learning Communities through partnerships with nine non profits and of ten Turnaround Schools in partnership with four school districts. Our primary goal in 2011 is to foster local partnerships in those communities working on common goals for kindergarten readiness and high school graduation rates.

The funding opportunities highlighted below, and described in more detail on the following pages, are:

1. **Community-Based Partnerships.** This funding is designed to help ELC's and High Schools build and pay for partnerships with smaller non-profits (serving less than 5,000 kids) focused on common goals. Discretionary awards will be given to Early Learning Communities and Turnaround High to pay for services by non profits in their community. This funding process is intended to ensure that ELC's and Turnaround High Schools have the discretionary funds they need to engage in partnerships at the local community level. It is anticipated that the use of grant funds for community partnerships will range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 per ELC or High School. Grants will be made to the ELC's by October 1 of each year and to High Schools by July 1 of each year. Partnerships will be forged, resourced and monitored throughout the year by site-based leadership teams and United Way volunteers.
2. **Regional and National Organizations:** This funding is designed for larger non-profits (serving more than 5,000 kids, locally or nationally) focused on building or sustaining high quality programs in high poverty communities across the tri-county region. It is anticipated that grants will range from \$100,000 to \$200,000. Grants will be made by July 1 of each year.
3. **Innovation:** We are interested in funding bold and new ways of creating social change. This is not designed for a typical grant application couched in terms of "innovation." This is intended to foster and reward unique and exceptional thinking and concept delivery. Decisions on Innovation will be made on an on-going basis.